

in 1945-46 was high, but again it was the dry summer weather which was the chief factor leading to increased slaughterings. The production of meat, butterfat, and wool during the immediate pre-war years, the war years, and for the past and present seasons is set out in the following table :—

LIVE-STOCK PRODUCTION
(In long tons)

—	Butterfat : Year ended 31st July.	Meat : Year ended 30th September.	Wool : Year ended 30th June.
Average of five seasons, 1934-39 ..	189,900	470,000* (Three seasons only)	134,000
Average of six seasons, 1939-45 ..	191,600	528,000	151,000
1945-46 season	164,400 (Interim)	540,800†	163,200
1946-47 season (forecast)	175,000	520,000	155,000

* Years ended 30th June. † Farm killings collected by Government Statistician for first time since 1942 show considerable decrease. Had killings been allowed at the same level as in 1944-45, the 1945-46 total would have been 547,100 tons.

Cereal-production has declined during the past two seasons, and the present shortage is one of our most pressing problems. The 140,000 acres of wheat sown in 1946-47 is the lowest since the 1919-20 season and was chiefly caused by unfavourable weather at seeding-time. The areas under the chief cash crops for periods similar to that shown for live-stock products are set out in the following table :—

CASH CROPS : AREAS IN CROP

—	Areas threshed.					Commercial Areas outside Boroughs.		
	Wheat.	Oats.	Barley.	Maize.	Peas and Beans.	Potatoes.	Onions.	Total.
Average of five seasons, 1935-39	211,200	63,400	22,400	6,900	19,100	21,900	800	348,700
Average of six seasons, 1939-45	243,900	61,000	31,200	8,200	35,100	22,200	1,100	402,700
1945-46 season ..	161,000	57,300	48,600	7,000	34,800	23,200	1,400	333,300

PROGRAMME FOR THE 1947-48 SEASON

As world cereal-supplies are expected to be adequate in 1948, the Dominion should aim at increasing meat and butterfat production to the maximum, for it is in live-stock farming that New Zealand possesses very definite natural advantages.

Dairy and meat production should be assisted by increased fertilizer-supplies during the coming season. New Zealand's allocation of rock phosphate for the manufacture of superphosphate has been raised from 300,000 tons to 420,000 tons for the 1947-48 rationing year, and arrangements have been made to import approximately 50,000 tons of basic slag and North African phosphate.

The increased fertilizer-supplies will be most effective in improving production if their application for top-dressing is accompanied by closer attention to the provision of greater supplies of hay, silage, and fodder crops for winter feeding. More adequate winter feeding is the one single factor which would most rapidly increase butterfat-production, and in meat-production more winter feed would greatly lessen the frequently high winter mortality rate, especially of breeding-ewes.