

EXPERIMENTAL TECHNIQUE.

Three series of group-feeding trials involving 106 Tamworth-Berkshire cross pigs were conducted over a period of three years. Detailed description of the technique, feeding, and economy aspects of these trials have already been reported in this journal(9).

Briefly, the appetite of the pigs governed the quantity of buttermilk fed to all groups. With the supplemented groups a grain-meal mixture was fed on a per 100 lb. live-weight per day basis, the actual quantity varying between the different groups. Thus in Series A and B the control group received buttermilk only, and the respective supplemented groups an addition to the daily ration of from $\frac{3}{4}$ lb. to 2 lb. of meal per 100 lb. live-weight. In each case in these series, supplementing extended over the whole fattening-period. (Table VII.)

On the other hand, Series C was designed to fill in the experimental gaps in A and B by studying in particular the stage of growth at which—if at all—it is beneficial from both the quality and economy viewpoints to supplement buttermilk with concentrate feeds. Accordingly, meal was fed with buttermilk at varying rates and over different growth stages during the fattening-period, which extended from weaning to bacon weights. Thus meal was fed during the early stages from weaning to pork weights, during the late stages from pork to bacon weights, throughout the whole fattening-period, and at a heavier rate during the early stage than during the late. The pigs received buttermilk only during the non-supplemented stages. (See Table VII and Reference 9.)

All pigs were slaughtered as they reached 200 lb. live-weight, and were handled at and after slaughter as described in Part I of this paper, being shipped to London for examination after examination as carcasses at the New Zealand end. For special reasons a few carcasses were not exported, but the data relating to these was recorded in New Zealand.

The results reported are based largely upon the measurements taken by and the opinions of the New Zealand Pig Carcass Evaluation Committee, and the author takes this opportunity of thanking Messrs. H. R. Davidson, John Hammond, J. B. Swain, and N. L. Wright for their careful and detailed work.

INFLUENCE OF DIET ON THICKNESS AND QUALITY OF STREAK AND THICKNESS OF BELLIES.

Data based upon actual measurements only are reported, partly for reasons of space and partly because effects were noticeable only in respect to "internal" quality characters.

A convenient summary of the group results is obtained by examining the average value obtained for each character, expressed on a percentage basis, the standard of comparison being that of the Committee(1).

The general picture presented by these results (Table VII) clearly indicates that the addition of concentrate supplements to the buttermilk ration produced no measureable improvement in the bellies of bacon pigs. Within Series A and B, where the quality of the streak was assessed by measurement on the loin-cut (at last rib) the respective groups are equally efficient. In Series C where evaluation was made by comparison with standard photographs, the efficiency differences existing are in favour of the groups receiving little or no meal.