

At that time it was recommended that meat-meal should be used with skim-milk at a rate not exceeding half-a-pound per pig daily, and with whey at a rate not exceeding 1½ lb. daily, whatever the weight of the pig. This advice is still the soundest that can be offered.

Those who do not want to believe this will think of many reasons for disagreeing with these findings. It

might so happen that the lower returns of those who use no meat-meal could be due to the use of either excessive or minimum quantities of total meal. A glance at the previous table disproves this contention. There is evidence, however, that those who use no meat-meal do use too large a quantity of grown crops which, in the absence of meat-meal, are not as satisfactory as they might be.

There is approximately 8,000 tons of meat-meal produced annually in New Zealand, and the amount used locally is approximately 5,000 tons. The remainder is exported. We could with advantage increase consumption till there is no surplus for export.

When Are Bought Meals Used Most Profitably?

A good deal of meal is used along with skim-milk just for the satisfaction of seeing pigs grow rapidly. The greater part of it, however, is used more intelligently in the off-season along with roots, when no milk is available. In order to compare the profitability of different practices, the farm returns for 1933-39 were grouped according to the number of pigs carried at the end of the season:—

A.—Those with three stores for every 40 cows. (95 farms.)

B.—Those with 20 stores for every 40 cows. (106 farms.)

C.—Those with 70 stores for every 40 cows. (82 farms.)

The nett returns on a per cow basis for pigs, after paying for meals used and other crops grown, were as follows:—

A. group, 34s 2d.

B. group, 37s 6d.

C. group, 51s 8d.

Meal used for pig feed was 50 lb., 68 lb., and 162 lb.; "other" feeds used were 1/7th of a ton, ¼ of a ton, and 1½ tons per cow milked for A, B, and C. respectively in both cases.

Summary

By translating these figures into words, the situation can be summed up as follows:—

Those who carry many pigs through the winter use as pig feed about two acres of roots or grazing for every 40 cows milked; they use three tons of meal, and get a return of 51s 8d per cow after paying for the extra feed used. Those who carry few pigs through the winter use as pig feed 1/10th of an acre of roots or grazing; they use one ton of meal, and get a return of 34s per cow after paying for the feed used.

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