

# Apples As A Pig Feed

## Under Proper Management Pigs Will Turn Waste or Reject Apples Into Clear Profit

M. J. SCOTT, Superintendent of the Pig Industry, Wellington.

The utilisation of waste or reject apples as pig feed has been investigated in Motueka and Christchurch, and it has been shown that if adequate supplementary feed is also provided and the pigs are kept under good conditions a profit of from 6d. to 1s. a case may be expected from this class of apple.

the apples fed to pigs return 1s per case after all outgoings are met. This return is above the average expected return quoted above, probably because in this instance the all-the-year-round feeding has not been allowed for. There will be months when no apples are available, such as November, December, and January at least. Other feed will have to be provided to carry store pigs during this period.

### *Supplementary Feed*

It will be necessary to provide supplementary feed with the apples. The main source of this supply, required in October, November, December, January, and February, could be readily provided from lucerne, clover, grass, or other grown crop. If sows were farrowed in June and December both litters could be turned off as bacon in the flush of the apple season.

AS a result of trials recently conducted in Motueka and Christchurch, it can be safely said that waste and reject apples return a clear profit of from 6d to 1s per case when fed to pigs which are turned off as bacon.

Apples contain approximately 18 to 20 per cent. of dry matter, so that 4lb of apples are equivalent to 1lb of feed of barley quality. Under reasonably careful feeding conditions—that is, by never allowing pigs to be starved, and by keeping them free from parasites and illness through reasonable housing and attention—1lb of pig-meat (carcass) can be produced for 6lb of feed. The average for New Zealand is nearer 7lb of feed, although many farmers produce it for 5lb. The theoretical minimum is 4lb of feed for 1lb of meat.

On the basis that 1lb of meat is produced for 24lb of apples, the earning capacity of apples is approximately 10d per case of 40lb. On a conservative basis, and making allowance for purchased meat-meal, which must be used at the average rate of at least 1lb per pig daily, the value per case is at least 8d.

In an actual trial conducted recently at Motueka it has been shown that

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