

rowing does little harm to the maize plants. A bright day should be selected as the plants are soft and brittle on a cloudy, cool day, or early in the morning, but are quite tough and supple in the heat of the day. The harrow should be kept free from clogging rubbish, which would cause many plants to be torn out. Such a harrowing saves a great amount of expensive cultivation and hand-hoeing, as it destroys a big crop of young weeds and paspalum which may become troublesome later.

The inter-row horse cultivator or scarifier should be used every week or ten days for as long as it is possible to drive the horse and cultivator between the rows. If no light harrowing has been given, it will be necessary to hand-hoe between the plants within the rows. This removes weeds not reached by the horse hoe, and if the crop is too thick, surplus plants are removed at this time.

The depth of the cultivation should be regulated according to the height of the crop; as maize plants grow in height, their roots more nearly approach the surface. During the early stages of growth cultivation may be given to a depth of 4 to 5 inches, but this must later be reduced to 2 or 3 inches, and must be kept away from the plants themselves, or else a large number of valuable feeding roots will be destroyed.

The question is often asked, "Should the suckers be removed, with the idea of increasing the yield and incidentally providing a little green fodder for stock, especially pigs confined to pens?" Many a crop yielding exceedingly well has been found to have an abundance of suckers, but trials carried out overseas indicate that the value of the suckers is offset by the cost of their removal, and that the yield of the crop is reduced by de-suckering.

Harvesting The Crop

If part of the crop is required for the immediate feeding to pigs, picking may begin during April or May. The remainder should be left until the cobs are ripened, but not long enough into the winter to allow the grain to rot because of frequent rains. A crop is usually fit to pull when about 80 per cent. of the stalks are quite yellow. The cobs are snapped off by hand, husks removed, and they are then carted to the maize crib to store and dry until required for use.

Slaughtering of Stock

THE following returns of slaughtering of stock at meat-export slaughter-houses and abattoirs for the two months, May and June, 1941, have been compiled by the Livestock Division:—

District	Cattle	Calves	Sheep	Of which Ewes were	Lambs	Swine
North Island.						
Meat Export Slaughterhouses—						
Auckland	61,212	14,290	26,088	10,263	104,789	62,653
Poverty Bay-Hawke's Bay	23,399	538	29,243	2,974	184,052	6,562
Taranaki-Manawatu ..	33,242	1,456	9,973	1,271	133,264	30,523
Wairarapa-Wellington ..	19,954	519	17,309	3,189	121,749	5,821
Totals	137,807	16,803	82,613	17,697	543,854	105,559
Abattoirs	20,897	6,224	80,993	40,969	10,707	21,211
North Island Totals ..	158,704	23,027	163,606	58,666	554,561	126,770
South Island.						
Meat Export Slaughterhouses—						
Nelson-Marlborough ..	313	11	5,361	2,101	62,764	2,981
Canterbury	2,885	2,045	149,293	119,404	383,769	6,099
Otago-Southland	2,630	3	137,969	128,172	466,846	1,542
Totals	5,828	2,059	292,623	249,677	913,379	10,622
Abattoirs	9,960	2,230	47,985	27,456	5,573	8,221
South Island Totals ..	15,788	4,289	340,608	277,133	918,952	18,843
Dominion.						
Meat-expt. Slaughterhouses	143,635	18,862	375,236	267,374	1,457,233	116,181
Abattoirs	30,857	8,454	128,978	68,425	16,280	29,432
Grand Totals	174,492	27,316	504,214	335,799	1,473,513	145,613
Same Period, 1940—						
Meat Export Slaughterhouses and Abattoirs ..	229,058	35,974	789,319	528,670	1,394,099	150,477
Same Period, 1939—						
Meat Export Slaughterhouses and Abattoirs ..	157,309	42,792	507,775	274,931	1,415,167	105,705

Slaughtering of Pigs

The 36,947 pigs slaughtered in meat export slaughterhouses and abattoirs during June were distributed in weight ranges approximately as follows:—

Under 60 lb.	1,565
60-120 lb.	27,882
121-160 lb.	4,144
161-180 lb.	446
Over 180 lb.	961
Sundries	1,949

The grading of porkers is 86 per cent. first quality and 14 per cent. second quality, and of baconers 77 per cent., 18 per cent., and 5 per cent. of prime 1's, prime 2's and second quality respectively.

In the different weight ranges of baconers, the quality is as follows:—
 121-160 lb. 79%, 17%, 4% of P1, P2 and 2nds.
 161-180 lb. 60%, 31%, 9% of P1, P2 and 2nds.

If an acre of maize is grown every year for wintering pigs it will pay to construct a permanent crib, which need not be elaborate. The floor is best constructed of close boards, and the sides and ends, including doors, of 3in. by 1in. battens spaced 1½ inches apart. The gable roof of iron is best carried well over the sides. The whole crib should be up off the ground on piles, the tops of which are fitted with tin rat shields. A suitable-sized crib for a small crop of one acre yielding 60 bushels per acre would require the following internal measurements:—5ft. wide, 6ft. long, and 6ft. high to the

eaves. The size required for larger areas can easily be calculated from these measurements.

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