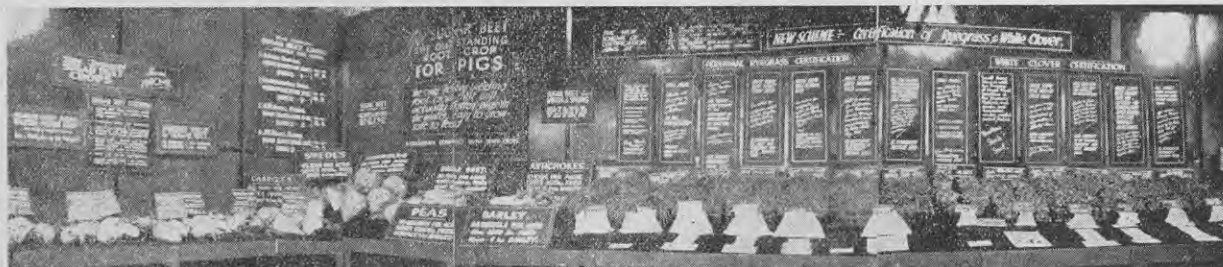


# Farm Practice and Management

## Fields Division Exhibit at Winter Show



MUCH interest was displayed at the New Plymouth Winter Show in the exhibit of the Department of Agriculture. The Fields Division exhibit dealt with the growing of sugar beet for pig feeding and its comparative values to all other farm-grown crops, and also featured a number of sugar beet crops grown this season in Taranaki. Another feature of the exhibit was the new scheme for the certification of ryegrass and white clover, the stages from foundation stock right through being explained by suitable show cards and illustrated by turfs and by samples of seed.

### Value of Sugar Beet

In North and Central Taranaki, at least, sugar beet is a comparatively new farm crop, and its wholesale introduction was brought about by the drive for increased production and the demand for bacon by the British Government in its war effort. At the 1940 Winter Show a similar exhibit displayed crops grown in South Taranaki, explained the preparation for, and the sowing of, the crop, and compared its food value with other farm crops.

From that display and through a great deal of publicity in the "Journal of Agriculture," the local Press, and other papers, many farmers have successfully grown the crop this season, and in every case they are enthusiastic as to its value as a pig food. Although the season has been favourable in every way, it is certain that sugar beet can be grown with success in the district. Its introduction has, indeed, created a considerable impression, and it is felt certain that many farmers will continue to grow the crop.

Seven crops grown in Taranaki this season were featured in the show exhibit, the details of weights being as follows:—

Name of Grower.	Weight per acre of crop.	Weight of Roots alone.	Weight of Leaves alone.
G. H. Bell, Oakura .. .. .	52 tons 1 cwt.	32 tons 2 cwt.	19 tons 19 cwt.
W. J. Bridgman, Okato .. .	45 tons 5 cwt.	28 tons 2 cwt.	17 tons 3 cwt.
O. Stockwell, Tarurutangi ..	49 tons 16 cwt.	26 tons 16 cwt.	23 tons 0 cwt.
H. C. Taylor, Ngaere .. .	55 tons 1 cwt.	24 tons 5 cwt.	30 tons 16 cwt.
Dem. Farm, Stratford .. .	38 tons 14 cwt.	16 tons 9 cwt.	22 tons 5 cwt.
Dem. Farm, Manaia .. .	65 tons 17 cwt.	36 tons 4 cwt.	29 tons 13 cwt.
C. J. Preston, Normanby .. .	62 tons 6 cwt.	33 tons 2 cwt.	29 tons 4 cwt.

From the weights of the above crops it will be seen that the leaves weigh very heavily, and that in two cases the leaves are heavier than the roots. Being of high feeding value, the leaves form a valuable part of the crop, and can be pulled and fed to pigs while the crop is still growing. Mr. W. J.

Bridgman, Okato, has pulled and fed leaves to sows with very good results since January of this year.

### Seed Certification

Most farmers in New Zealand realise the value of certified seeds for pasture sowing, and to demonstrate the new

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