

performance that most pigs can do, and an ideal at which most bacon producers aim. The heavyweight pigs are usually produced when there is plenty of feed, and in the last stages get an opportunity of making up for lost time. On the other hand, light pigs are sold when the feed supply is failing, and do not get any opportunity of making up for the store period they have come through. These circumstances are unavoidable.

### Influence of Month of Birth

When pigs are arranged in groups by the month in which they are born a most unexpected result is obtained. Pigs born in January, February, and March are 60 days older than schedule; born in April, May, June, 23 days older; born in July, August, September, 29 days older; and born in November, December, January, they are only 10 days older than schedule in reaching average bacon weights of 140 lb. This result is in close agreement with the findings published in the "Journal" in December, 1940, that for bacon production the best use could be made of feed when sows farrowed in May, June, July, and again in November, December, January.

If the influence of month of birth on rate of growth can be established beyond doubt—and that is possible only by the examination of a very large number of pigs—then at least six weeks can be cut off the life of many baconers merely by changing the month of farrowing. The value of such a saving to the industry will bear thinking about. In the past, all

## Slaughterings of Stock

THE following returns of slaughterings of stock at meat-export slaughterhouses and abattoirs for the four months, May-August, 1941, have been compiled by the Livestock Division:—

District	Cattle	Calves	Sheep	Of which Ewes were	Lambs	Swine
<b>North Island.</b>						
Meat Export Slaughterhouses—						
Auckland .. .. .	75,449	351,427	37,240	14,865	140,761	69,841
Poverty Bay-Hawke's Bay	29,748	28,376	34,780	5,384	218,373	7,882
Taranaki-Manawatu .. .	38,217	126,213	10,679	1,440	144,705	33,882
Waikarapa-Wellington ..	22,860	14,032	22,402	4,664	128,467	6,580
Totals .. .. .	166,274	520,048	105,101	26,353	632,306	117,185
Abattoirs .. .. .	41,661	14,768	169,914	86,237	18,538	89,051
North Island Totals .. .	207,935	534,816	275,015	112,590	650,844	156,236
<b>South Island.</b>						
Meat Export Slaughterhouses—						
Nelson-Marlborough .. .	681	3,024	11,214	5,937	70,906	3,490
Canterbury .. .. .	4,476	8,743	158,577	125,427	387,758	9,107
Otago-Southland .. .. .	3,582	1,935	139,120	129,060	467,204	2,268
Totals .. .. .	8,739	13,702	308,911	260,424	925,868	14,955
Abattoirs .. .. .	19,233	4,058	91,400	51,304	8,754	15,277
South Island Totals .. .	27,972	17,760	400,311	311,728	934,622	30,232
<b>Dominion.</b>						
Meat-expt. Slaughterhouses	175,013	533,750	414,012	286,777	1,558,174	132,140
Abattoirs .. .. .	60,894	18,826	261,314	137,541	27,292	54,828
Grand Totals .. .. .	235,907	552,576	675,326	424,318	1,585,466	186,468
Same Period, 1940—						
Meat Export Slaughterhouses and Abattoirs ..	283,857	536,480	944,108	605,275	1,439,235	176,687
Same Period, 1939—						
Meat Export Slaughterhouses and Abattoirs ..	221,226	534,095	678,554	362,642	1,496,955	129,954

### Slaughterings of Pigs

The 21,890 pigs slaughtered in meat-export slaughterhouses and abattoirs during August were distributed in weight ranges approximately as follows:—

Under 60 lb. .. .	305
60-120 lb. .. .	14,524
121-160 lb. .. .	4,011
161-180 lb. .. .	466
Over 180 lb. .. .	715
Sundries .. .. .	1,809

The grading of porkers is 80 per cent. of first quality and 14 per cent. of second quality, and the grading of baconers is 75 per cent. of prime 1's, 20 per cent. of prime 2's, and 5 per cent. of second quality.

In the different weight ranges of baconers, the grading is as follows:—  
 121-160 lb. .. . 76%, 19%, 5% of P1, P2, and 2nds respectively.  
 161-180 lb. .. . 59%, 28%, 13% of P1, P2, and 2nds respectively.

the attention has been given to getting longer pigs and pigs that will grade better, improvements for which the farmer gets an indirect and almost invisible advantage. Attention given to rate of growth provides a benefit in which no one but the owner participates; the reward is in keeping with the effort spent. Having feed at the right time and proper attention are still the most important factors in getting rapid growth and maximum returns from pigs.

After a sufficiently large number of pigs has been examined it will be possible to give definite information on the points discussed above and reliable answers to many questions now asked

by farmers. Only by the active co-operation of farmers will it be possible to get the number of pigs required. Farmers are asked to get in touch with supervisors and have their baconers, whatever the breed or strain, tattooed for carcass evaluation. The service costs nothing, and the only obligation on the farmer is to supply the correct date of birth and the breed of sire and dam used. These two pieces of information are the foundations on which the scheme is built. Neither the age nor breed of a pig can be ascertained from an examination of the carcass; otherwise it would be possible to get all the pigs required in a couple of months at any export slaughterhouse.

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