

Britain Wants More Bacon

RRANGEMENTS have now been finalised with Great Britain to purchase 11,000 tons of baconers for the year ending September, 1942. Some time ago it was announced that Great Britain would purchase 5,090 tons. These 5,000 tons are now included in the 11,000. All carcasses are to be shipped as Wiltshire sides, made from pigs of 111 to 160 lb. carcass. The 11,000 tons represents the slaughtering of 210,000 baconers for export, and these, along with the 250,000 baconers for local use, mean that for the next twelve months more than half the pigs slaughtered will have to be taken to bacon weights. The Marketing Department will continue purchasing baconers throughout the season.

In addition to the 11,000 tons of baconers, there will be a certain amount of porkers for export. Although the absence of any prospect for the export of bacon during the last six months turned the attention of many producers to pork, a number of circumstances, particularly the increase in the manufacture of cheese, have caused a reduction in the number of pigs now on hand.

The whole of our production for the year ending September, 1942, is limited to the pigs already born or due to be born before the end of this month. There is little possibility of increasing the number of pigs killed during the next year by mating sows from now onwards. It is estimated that for the

year ending September, 1942, the killings of all pigs will be about 800,000, and on this basis there will be about 150,000 porkers for export. As in the past two years, the killing of porkers for export should be deferred as much as possible to the latter part of the season, as otherwise the requisite tonnage of baconers may not be realised.

In view of the fact that producers are now asked to turn more pigs into bacon, there will be requests for further supplies of meal. Copra has given satisfactory results over the last year, and the Government is making every effort to have further supplies available. Because of transport difficulties, it is impossible to give any definite assurance that supplies of copra will

be available, and producers are advised to make full use of meat-meal, maize, and the copra-meal, which is being imported from Australia, if and when extra meals are required to bring pigs to bacon weights.

Collection of Ergot

A BIG drive is being made this year for the collection of ergot, and it is hoped that a large quantity will be collected.

The campaign will be directed by an executive committee consisting of Messrs. R. B. Tennent, Director of the Fields Division (chairman); O. G. Thomas, New Zealand Farmers' Union; H. B. Martin, secretary of the New Zealand Grain and Seed Merchants' Association; S. G. Phillips, Wright, Stephenson, and Co., Ltd.; W. M. Hamilton, Department of Scientific and Industrial Research; and J. E. Bell, Land Utilisation Officer, Department of Agriculture.

A conference has been held of representatives of organisations which are able to assist in the drive for the collection of ergot, and it is pointed out that while various organisations can do much in obtaining an unprecedented quantity of this valuable drug, the campaign can be a real success only if every individual in a position to do so makes a special effort to collect as much ergot as possible.

Among the organisations whose support has been enlisted are the Farmers' Union, the Women's Division of the Farmers' Union, the Women's Institute, the District Councils of Primary Production, the Young Farmers' Clubs, the Boy Scouts, the Girl Guides, and the grain and seed merchants.

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Agents in N.Z.: All Branches of the Farmers' Co-op. Companies and Associations. In Hawke's Bay obtainable from Williams & Kettle Ltd.

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