

Pig Management

The National Pig Industry Council

Incredible as it may seem, there are still farmers unaware of the activities of the National Pig Industry Council, established in New Zealand seven years ago. It is timely, therefore, that an outline of the work of this organization through its District Pig Councils and their supervisors should be stressed.

THE National Pig Industry Council has been closely associated with all the major improvements in the pig industry. This movement has been, and still is, essentially valuable, for the reason that it creates an organisation that can speak with one voice on the needs of the industry, though

— By —

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within the movement there are many who came in merely for personal advantage. Others stay out, because they fail to see any immediate advantage to themselves. Both miss the importance of united effort. In the industry there are fifty thousand producers, and if the progress made by some were common to all, the industry would be perfect within a year.

The facilities that the National Pig Industry Council provides through its District Pig Councils, utilised on even the smallest farms, bring about improvements. Even if they are only commonplace improvements, they are possible for all.

Competitions

Not the least of the Council's activities are the bacon carcass competi-

tions, such as those recently held at Westfield, Patea, Hastings, and Gisborne, at which no fewer than 3,000 carcasses were exhibited. These competitions can be said to have been the biggest of their kind ever held in the Southern Hemisphere.

The organisation of these competitions was undertaken by the National Pig Industry Council, in conjunction with a commercial export firm, which generously provided the facilities and the prize money. The exhibits were of outstanding merit and of great educational value.

One of the objects of these competitions is the demonstration of the possibilities of profitable carrying of pigs through the winter months. With the disappearance of the milk supply in May, those who still have pigs on hand are faced with the difficulty of

getting through the winter months. There are many different ways of meeting the winter feed shortage. One is to avoid pigs in winter by selling weaners and stores before the end of May at sacrificial prices. Those who get rid of their winter responsibility make difficulties for themselves in October, November, and December, when young pigs are unable to cope with the abundant milk supply. After seeing the results of the "Tomoana" baconer competitions it is hard to believe those who claim that it does not pay to winter home-grown pigs on home-grown crops, plus a foundation of bought meal.

Another advantage of these competitions is that they give opportunities to Supervisors of District Pig Councils to make new contacts and to bring before farmers in many different districts the results that have come to light in these competitions—results that might not be picked up by a farmer reading a report of them, but which are apparent to him when he talks them over on his farm with a man who, like himself, has a practical working knowledge of pigs.

Duties of Supervisors

The Supervisor's approach to the subject of pigs is to discover quickly whether or not pigs are run efficiently on the farm that he visits. A reason-



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