

question of (a) crops and grass used for pig-feed, (b) ways of feeding meal, (c) the best means of getting value out of meals as it applies to very young pigs, (d) when sows farrow, how well the pigs are done from weaning to four months old, (e) having on hand pigs big enough to utilise the milk in the flush of the season.

Housing

When the discussion turns to the subject of housing and accommodation, especially where new equipment has been provided, interested enquiry is made regarding costs and capital invested. Where equipment wants replacing, the Supervisor will suggest the adoption of what he has already seen on the best places. He provides the farmer with the Department of Agriculture's free bulletin on "Housing and Construction of Modern Piggeries," making suggestions with regard to a lay-out suitable to the particular farm in question. If difficulties have been experienced in obtaining the necessary material, here again the Supervisor can help, because the Building Controller has agreed to release building materials for piggeries, when application is made through the local District Pig Council, and recommended by that Council, to the local Building Controller.

The Supervisor does not seek to force his views on to the farmer regarding the type of piggery he should build, but rather to help him utilise the material he has to the best advantage, even to the extent of assisting him manually with its erection.

Lay-out of Piggeries

He will point out the advantages and disadvantages of certain kinds of lay-out. Dispersed or open-air units, for instance, have the advantage of requiring less cleaning, and they provide fresh grass, if properly handled, at all times of the year. How they are usually ruined by over-stocking is pointed out. They have the disadvantage of inconvenience, and often hard work in feeding, especially in wet weather, and are therefore not altogether suitable for wet climates. On the other hand, units under one roof, with water laid on and proper drainage facilities, have the advantage of ease and quickness of feeding, and ability to control the pigs and their conditions. More time is required to keep them clean, but time so spent gives satisfaction.

Centralised units can, however, become just as objectionable under bad management conditions as any open-air lay-out similarly treated. Supervisors sometimes find fair to bad conditions and equipment associated with good to excellent returns; hence they know the importance of not judging any outfit on appearance only.

Farmers are entitled to the assistance and advice of the District Pig Council Supervisors. Pig producers have provided the funds to enable these Councils to be set up, and all farmers are urged to take every advantage of these facilities. Applications for assistance should be made to the Department of Agriculture or to District Supervisors as follows:—Whangarei (Box 131); Pukekohe (Box 32); Whakatane (Box 12); Gisborne (Box 316); New Plymouth (Box 131); Palmerston North (Box 80); Dunedin (Box 693); Christchurch (Box 639); Hamilton, care Department of Agriculture.

SUPERVISOR'S STANDARD OF EXCELLENCE.

1. Gross sales of pigs equal to 3d. per lb. butterfat.
2. Expenses (feed)—10/- to 15/- per cow.
3. Twelve pigs sold per sow.
4. Value of gross sales in pence equal to or greater than the total gallons of milk or pounds of feed used.
5. Sows farrow two litters a year; the first reaches bacon weight through the peak of milk supply; the second sells as pork or light bacon in mid-May.

6. At least one-quarter of an acre of roots per sow for winter and stand-by feed.

It is dependent upon the farmer's willingness to discuss pigs with the Supervisor, and it may be necessary to have many discussions, as to how and in what direction the services of the District Pig Council can be used. The National Pig Industry Council, through District Councils, endeavours to give the farmer the benefit of its Supervisors' experience and practical knowledge gleaned from and by their associations with other farmers.

The Supervisor's aim is not that of spending the farmer's money on unnecessary equipment, as sometimes claimed, but to improve the conditions for pigs generally, and in so doing increase production along sound lines. He is not interested in where pigs are sold, or who buys them, nor is he permitted to accept commission or payment for any service rendered.

For these reasons alone, if for no other, operators, agents, curers, meat-exporters and auctioneers give full support to the work of the National Pig Industry Council, and their farmer clients are recommended to make full use of this service by contacting their District Pig Council or the local office of the Department of Agriculture.



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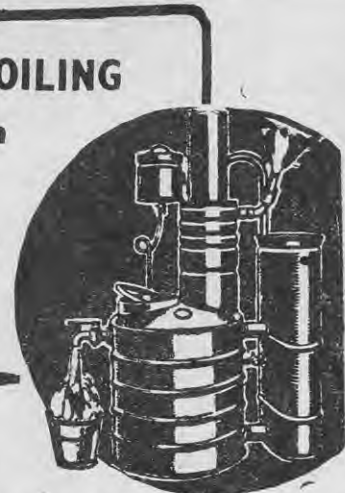


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