



# Increased Pig Production needed

## to meet Pacific requirements

The Pacific Armed Forces look to New Zealand for pig-meat. Our target for 1945-1946 is 50,000 tons and, to achieve this, killings will have to increase by 150,000 pigs. More pigs will need to be wintered next year and, in the absence of imported stock-feeds, farm crops will be the basis of increased production.

Make preparations for next season's crops now. Grow a quarter of an acre of roots per sow and make provision for an extra acre of grain crop to winter pigs next year.

Make every effort to bring the pigs you have through this winter without loss. Mate all available sows, and aim at increasing the average output per sow from 8 to 10 pigs.

These ways of increasing production will not seriously disrupt usual farming practice.

**FREE BULLETIN.** Call at, or write to, your local office of the Dept. of Agriculture for free copy of Bulletin 212 Pigs for Profit.

## FOOD IS THE FARMERS' RESPONSIBILITY

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In the South Island the position is rather different because of the limited cattle country typical of the North Island. As a whole run cattle are not essential for pasture control in the South, where the ewes can take care of most of the rough grass. Cattle from inland stations are fattened for local consumption on the wetter areas, Banks Peninsula being prominent in this respect. There are also forward sales of weaners from Southland and parts of Otago to the warmer bush country, especially the Palmerston district. These cattle are held there to 2½ years or older, and are sold to the plains country for topping off on turnips. During August and September grazing is paid at the rate of 7/6 per head per week, and a heavy fat beast will return £21 to £24 on the local market.

This year in the North Island chiller cattle are weighing heavier than usual, a 3½-year beast killing out close to 750lb., worth £15 at the works, first quality. The average return is therefore about £14 at the farm gate. On this basis 2½-year to 3-year store cattle are worth £11 to £11 15s. according to condition, showing a return of £2 odd to the farmer.

The prices of 2½-year store steers at autumn sales in the Waikato and Poverty Bay over a 10-year period are shown below:—

**TABLE LXXXI—PRICES FOR 2½-YEAR STEERS.**

Season.	Waikato.		Poverty Bay.	
	£	s. d.	£	s. d.
1935 .. ..	4	15 0	4	5 0
1936 .. ..	6	15 0	5	10 0
1937 .. ..	8	10 0	Not available	
1938 .. ..	7	15 0	8	10 0
1939 .. ..	7	15 0	7	5 0
1940 .. ..	7	10 0	6	15 0
1941 .. ..	8	5 0	7	0 0
1942 .. ..	8	15 0	8	15 0
1943 .. ..	9	10 0	8	0 0
1944 .. ..	9	10 0	9	5 0
1945 .. ..	10	10 0	Not available	

## Dairy Cattle Sales

The requirements of those dairy farmers whose policy is to buy their replacement stock rather than breed it, and the necessities of others who are forced to go to the market to fill the gaps in their herds due to unexpected spring losses from calving troubles and disease, constitute the heavy demand for springing calving cows and heifers at the commencement of the production season. This demand has led to the growth of a sideline enterprise to provide the market with 2-year-old in-calf heifers, and this has proved lucrative in the past few seasons with quality heifers fetching £11 to £14 on the drop, though late calvers or less attractive stock sell at a discount. Dairy cows in milk are normally marketed as surplus to requirements and not as a special trade. Unless some guarantee of soundness can be given by a vendor, a cow in milk or in calf does