

meat formation of the carcass has passed its optimum and the aim is to reduce fat deposition to a minimum, while allowing maximum meat formation even at the reduced rate. With bulky foods such as roots and other winter foods, all comparatively rich in fat-forming nutrients, this is a difficult job, as every farmer who has tried it realises, and the only possible way of gaining any measure of success is by the use of a high protein supplement such as pea-meal or meat-meal.

### *Influence of Sex*

Nearly 40 per cent. of the pigs comprising the winners of the first three places in each district were females. Mr. Cope's winning entry were all females, as were Mr. H. E. Johnson's winning entry last year. The second place in the championship was also comprised of females. In general sows kill out on the average better than barrows. The advantage is seen in the points awarded for fat at shoulder and loin, the sows gaining on the average somewhat better points for this character. That this should be so is in line with research work on carcass quality, and is a point which could be borne in mind in future entries.

### *Summary*

The results of this competition can be of value to the individual farmer and to the industry as a whole if the weaknesses shown by the exhibits are recognised and an endeavour made to improve on them. In particular, attention should be paid to selection

for length, but balance of side must also be kept in mind, and, if greater length is achieved, it must not be accompanied by a deepening of the chest if a general improvement is to be made.

Shoulder and loin fat marking were good, and especially so when the feeding difficulties are taken into consideration. Loin or fullness of meat was rather poor, and efforts should be made to improve this character. Emphasis should be placed upon rate of growth up to about 180lb., which should enable greater meat development to be made in this area. Again the feeding difficulties at the time of the year made proper control difficult.

Every effort should be made to house animals and keep them free from mud and temperature extremes, not only from a general management point of view, but also to enable entries to show less coarseness of skin texture and less retention of bristle.

In general, for a competition of this kind a little more care in feeding should be taken, so that greater uniformity is achieved among pigs in the same entry. It is suggested that starting with pigs of uniform weight and age as rapid a growth rate as possible to 180lb. should be aimed at and a restriction and individual attention from this stage on to smooth out any weight differences.

Sex differences tend to be in favour of the female, especially in regard to loin and shoulder fat.

Briefly, the entries showed that while the standard for some characters was low, such characters can be improved, and that the better animals showed that they had the

qualities lacking in the mass. That such features as length, depth of fat, etc., are capable of substantial improvement is shown by the advances made in respect to these points by such countries as Denmark.

## **Pig Industry Broadcasts**

UNDER the auspices of District Pig Councils broadcasts will be delivered in October as follows:—

Auckland—1YA, on October 17, at 7.15 p.m., "Bacon Competitions and What is Behind Them," by H. Preston, Supervisor, Northland District Pig Council.

Dunedin—4YA, on October 8, at 7.15 p.m., "Avoiding Losses in Pig Production," by N. McDonald, Supervisor, Otago and Southland District Pig Council.

Napier—2YH, on October 11, at 7.15 p.m., "Questions and Answers," by H. Hopkins, Supervisor, Tairāwhiti District Pig Council.

Palmerston North—2ZA, on October 19, at 7 p.m., "Feeds and Feeding—Garbage, Roots, Grain, and Dairy By-products," by L. Marsdon, Supervisor, Wellington District Pig Council.

## **NEW BACON JUDGING STANDARDS.**

New standards for judging baconer pigs have now been finalised. All pig raisers should study the information in Bulletin No. 243, "New Bacon Judging Standards," which is available free from offices of the Department of Agriculture.

**This Season Use**

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