

## JUDGING OF NEW ZEALAND PIG CARCASSES

for baconers and more lenient for porkers than the Smithfield system. As New Zealand baconers tend to be too short and fat for their weight, it is necessary to set an exacting standard for competition purposes which will serve to separate those which are superior in this character from the entries which are only average. It must be emphasised that such criticism as is made of the New Zealand system is based on the claim that the ultimate judgment of bacon quality can be made only on the cut side, as is done in the Smithfield system. Under this system 60 per cent. of the points are awarded on the cut side, 20 per cent. for fat, 28 per cent. for eye of meat, and 12 per cent. for streak.

It is impracticable under New Zealand conditions to cut the sides, and the baconer-judging standards committee has been faced with the task of devising a system which will pick out the best baconers as far as can be judged at the carcass stage. That it is successful in this is indicated by the Smithfield judges' remark in the early part of the report on the high general level of quality of the prize-winning baconers. No effort will be spared to improve the system still further if research and experience prove this to be possible.

Because of the factors outlined in the foregoing no attempt is made to rationalise the differences in the comparison table forwarded by the English authorities. A further reason for this is that the English judges examined only 16 pigs out of a total of about 4000 entered in the competition. Presumably because of the trade loss which would be incurred, the English judges were able to cut only 16 pigs. These 16 pigs were selected on the basis of the highest and lowest scoring groups, but they have been compared only for eye-

muscle development and backfat. Neither of these characters influenced these groups' placings in New Zealand, but characters such as length, hams, balance of side, etc., did.

### Aim of Expert Report

It would appear that little useful purpose is served by continuing to forward competition pigs to Britain for examination under existing conditions. The aim of sending carcasses to Britain for expert report should be clearly understood and defined. If it is to determine the suitability (for the British market) of pigs classified in New Zealand as of high merit, the system of judging used in Britain should be that used commercially in Britain or at most that employed in pig-improvement work there. If the object is to determine the efficiency of the New Zealand judging system as a carcass-evaluation system, a complete examination of all carcasses must be made, and the placings of the English judges of all carcasses should be reported back to New Zealand for comparison with those awarded under the New Zealand system. It is clear that the present methods are informative on neither count.

New Zealand pigs on the whole fail in length, balance of side (heavy fore-end), hams, and in degree of finish more than in fullness of meat, and much can be done to improve them in these respects with the help of the present judging standards, which mainly cover these points as they can be judged in the carcass. Furthermore, in judging groups of pigs emphasis is placed on uniformity and suitability of weight for normal market requirements. These are all points of immediate practical importance.

The comment in the report that there is a change in the type of porker and the question raised as to whether

this is a change in the right direction require careful thought. The reduction in pig population in recent years has been accompanied by an increase in average weight of both porkers and baconers slaughtered. This has increased the emphasis on the later-maturing baconer type of pig, and as New Zealand feed conditions largely dictate that porkers and baconers must be produced from the same breeding stock, producers will have to ensure that none of the desirable qualities of porkers, particularly hams and fullness of meat, is lost.

However, the system which picked out group 219 as champion porkers has much to commend it, and provided continuous study is given to the system, only good can come from its use. The criticism and suggestions of the Smithfield judges are appreciated as a great help in this respect.

## Pig Broadcasts

UNDER the auspices of District Pig Councils broadcasts will be delivered in June as under:—

Auckland—1YA, on June 22, at 12.35 p.m., "Winter Farrowing will Mean Greater Pig Production," by H. Preston, Supervisor, Northland District Pig Council.

Napier—2YH, on June 11, at 7.15 p.m., "Litter Production," by H. Hopkins, Supervisor, Tairāwhiti District Pig Council.

Palmerston North—2ZA, on June 18 at 7 p.m., "What Crops shall we Grow? A clear Plan Necessary," by L. L. Marsdon, Supervisor, Wellington District Pig Council.

Dunedin—4YA, on June 14, at 7.15 p.m., "Why this Wastage?" by N. Macdonald, Supervisor, Otago and Southland District Pig Council.

## Seed Potato Certification

EXAMINATION of reports on field inspection of potato crops for seed certification in the 1947-48 season is now completed and information about crops which have been provisionally certified may be obtained from local offices of the Department of Agriculture.

The fact that a crop has been provisionally certified does not mean that the produce from it will automatically be regarded as Certified seed. The graded tubers must

MOTHER SEED

Ag.—F.61.]

NEW ZEALAND

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE  
FIELDS DIVISION

### CERTIFIED SEED - POTATOES

THIS is to certify that the grower to whom this tag is issued has grown an area of potatoes of the variety mentioned below which was inspected in the field and found sufficiently vigorous and free from foreign varieties, pests, and serious disease as to warrant the issue of a provisional certificate.

On the date indicated below the graded tubers, which the grower guarantees to be the produce of the certified area, were inspected and found to be practically free from diseased or seriously injured tubers and graded in accordance with the figures indicated below.

Variety: **KING EDWARD.**

Reg. No. \_\_\_\_\_ Grade: \_\_\_\_\_ Group No. \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_ Instructor: \_\_\_\_\_

### CERTIFIED SEED - POTATOES

I GUARANTEE that the sack to which I attach this tag contains no tubers other than those harvested from an area of **KING EDWARD** potatoes provisionally certified in the field by an officer of the Department of Agriculture, and that the graded tubers have been inspected and passed in accordance with the statement on the other side of this tag.

Date: \_\_\_\_\_ Signed: \_\_\_\_\_  
Grower.

The original purchasers of certified seed-potatoes are requested to examine their potatoes at once and lodge any complaints forthwith. After being kept in storage for any length of time, no guarantee can be given as to their quality.

first be inspected by a Departmental officer to determine that the produce complies with the necessary standards of freedom from tuber-borne diseases and is in other respects also reasonably well graded.

Certification tags are issued for attachment to sacks of seed potatoes which have passed this tuber inspection, but before these can be regarded as valid the guarantee on the reverse side of the tag must be signed by the person in whose name the crop from which the produce was obtained was provisionally certified.