



Baconers grazing in a paddock. Litters born in May require a regular run-out on good pasture as they are carried on to baconer weights.

**Not many overweight pigs need be sent away for the loss to equal the cost of a set of scales.**

### November Litters

After the New Year, when all the spring litters have been sent away as baconers, the November litters are weaned and for the next 5 or 6 weeks have a plentiful supply of food in an average dairy season, because milk production does not drop very rapidly at first unless, as occasionally happens, drought conditions set in in January.

From the end of February, however, dairy production starts to drop fairly rapidly, but by that time the earliest

of the November litters are between 60 and 80lb. carcass weight, and these should be sent away, the number of pigs on hand being reduced as the food supply falls. This policy is continued, a few pigs, perhaps only one or two, being sent away each week or fortnight as they are ready.

### Home-grown Crops

The provision of home-grown crops can increase the supply of food available for the pigs and reduce the amount that must be bought in autumn. If barley has been grown, some of it can be used to advantage at this time of year.

Lucerne can be fed as greenfeed in the pens, or pigs that are running can be turned out to graze in the lucerne paddock for a short period each day. A pig's appetite for lucerne is 8 to 10lb. daily at the most. Some people say that pigs will not eat green lucerne, only making a mess of their pens with it, but that is because they are given far too much and, having eaten all they require, they make a mess with the rest.

Rape is another useful green crop that costs nothing to harvest, as the pigs can be turned out to graze on it.

Early pumpkins are also valuable; some of the earliest-maturing varieties are among the squashes, Hubbard's squash and Golden Warren being two of them. If a really early crop of them is obtained, a consignment can profitably be sent to the city markets and the rest used for the pigs.

### Aim of Management

The aim of management in autumn should be to have all pigs except the breeding stock away to the works by the end of the dairy season. That can be accomplished by arranging the farrowing dates of sows to fit in with the supply of dairy by-products during the season and by ensuring that pigs are comfortably housed, well fed up to the age of 4 months and not overfed after that age, and sent away at the correct weights, whether as porkers or baconers.

Pigs should be taken to bacon weights during the first half of the dairy season, and porker production should be concentrated on during the second half, though right at the end a few pigs may be taken to bacon weights with the aid of home-grown supplementary food. The farmer who carries out this programme will find that, at present prices, his pigs are returning him a handsome profit.

**A** TRACTOR working on the flat is not likely to tip sideways, but on hills there is a real danger of that occurring. Track-laying tractors do not tip as readily as wheeled models because they have a lower centre of gravity and usually travel more slowly.

The factors affecting tipping are gravity, the grades being worked on, speed, centrifugal action, and loads pushing, pulling, or twisting on the drawbar. A stationary tractor is stable if the centre of gravity passes to the ground inside the lower wheels or tracks. Stability is disturbed by surface irregularities and tractor movement, and higher speeds mean greater danger.



The effect of gravity is downward, while centrifugal action pushes outward, especially in an uphill turn where the outer wheels or track run on a lower level, the resultant forces tending to roll the tractor over sideways, as is shown by the tracks of a tractor and trailer in the lower illustration.

An operator can best avoid tipping by:—

- Throttling down when necessary, and especially to take corners or cross rabbit warrens or when grips are extended in sloping ground which contains rocks or stumps.
- Changing to a lower gear to prevent implements taking charge.
- Attempting to work only country on which he knows the tractor can operate in reasonable safety.
- Taking extra care where surface irregularities occur.
- Keeping well clear of cave-ins, riverbanks, and gullies.
- Extending the wheels on the axles to the outer limits where possible.

—J. N. M. WHYTE, *Farm Machinery Instructor, Department of Agriculture, Dunedin*