



["New Zealand Farmer"  
Laying coke breeze (shown above) or other well-insulated sleeping floors will pay good dividends.

with free access to grass and drinking water should be provided.

If available pasture is of poor quality, other green or root feed should be provided in controlled quantities at up to 20lb. per day. This amount of fodder beet together with 2lb. of bran or pollard per day with a gallon or so of milk, if available, will be an adequate daily ration for a few days before farrowing. On the day of farrowing and for 24 hours after all solid food should be withdrawn unless a light bran mash is available. Plenty of clean drinking water should be offered.

#### Watch on Sow

Careful observation of the sow to ensure that no complications occur is essential. Milk fever, if it occurs, usually develops suddenly and an early injection under the loose skin of elbow and flank of calcium boro-gluconate may be necessary to save the sow. Milk fever may usually be distinguished from other conditions which may sometimes be confused with it by the fact that the sow's temperature is normal (102.5 degrees F.) or slightly subnormal.

Abortion may occur and if it appears that this has not been due to accident, sudden change of diet, or sickness of

the sow, professional assistance should be sought to diagnose whether some specific infection is responsible and if so, to advise on the best method of dealing with the problem.

If the afterbirth is not properly expelled, a full dose of opening medicine should be given and if this is not effective, veterinary assistance should be summoned to clear up the trouble and avoid infection of the womb. This organ may occasionally be everted as a result of straining after farrowing due to pains or constipation or through the attached afterbirth being trampled on. This is a serious accident which usually ends in death unless the organ is promptly replaced. The sow must be suspended by the hind legs and the everted womb thoroughly cleaned before it is returned to its normal position. Two or three tape stitches should be inserted and after the organ has had a chance to contract and become more comfortable, in say  $\frac{1}{2}$  hour, the sow may be released. Unless considerable delay would be entailed it is advisable to secure a veterinarian for this operation.

Mastitis may occur after farrowing. Close examination is warranted if the udder appears tender and the sow refuses to allow the pigs to suckle, and

veterinary treatment should be given without delay. As the sow does not have a single teat canal, it is not possible to inject penicillin direct as is done in the treatment of mastitis in cows.

Gradual swelling of one or more quarters may be due to actinomycosis or tuberculosis and a veterinary diagnosis should be obtained.

Sows which are fat at farrowing but which draw on this fat in feeding their litters may develop a disorder known as acidosis. An affected sow becomes dull, loses appetite, becomes constipated, and "fades away", becoming very sluggish. As soon as the first symptoms appear and the litter are evidently not getting their reasonable amount of feed from the sow 2lb. of molasses should be included in the sow's daily ration and the amount of concentrate, particularly maize or other grain, should be increased. If this does not effect early improvement, veterinary advice should be sought without delay.

### High-altitude Snow Tussock Grassland in the South Island

THE Tussock Grassland Research Committee published in the December 1954 issue of the Agricultural Section of the Journal of Science and Technology its review of the high-altitude snow tussock grassland of the South Island. This review summarises what is known of the scientific aspects of high-altitude snow tussock grassland.

The review has been reprinted and free copies are available on request from the Department of Scientific and Industrial Research, Wellington, and from the offices of the Department of Agriculture at Blenheim, Christchurch, Ashburton, Timaru, and Dunedin.

### Radio Broadcasts to Farmers

RADIO broadcasts to farmers will be given from Station 2XA Wanganui during May at 8 p.m. as follows:—

5 May—"For the Countrywoman", by Mary MacDonald.

12 May—"The Radio Vet.", by S. Jamleson, Veterinarian, Department of Agriculture, Wanganui.

19 May—"The Feeding of Crops to Pigs", by C. M. Bailey, Supervisor, Taranaki District Pig Council.

26 May—"Y.F.C. Activities in Wanganui District", by A. K. Booth, Instructor in Agriculture, Department of Agriculture, Wanganui.

### Winter Show Dates

\*31 May, 1, 2, 3, 4, 6, and 7 June—Waikato A. and P. at Hamilton.

\*3, 4, 6, 7, and 8 June—Otago A. and P. at Dunedin.

8, 9, 10, and 11 June—Whakatane A. and P. at Whakatane.

\*15, 16, 17, and 18 June—Taranaki A. and P. at New Plymouth.

16, 17, and 18 June—Te Kuiti and District A. and P. at Te Kuiti.

\* The Department of Agriculture exhibit will be staged at this show.