

TWO EXAMPLES OF MAORI FARMING



▲ Timber trees planted on a rocky outcrop unsuitable for grass on Mr Haeata's farm.

▼ Mr Haeata's property of 133 acres is being developed along sound lines and when the well planned layout is completed the farm will be very easy to handle.



A first-class Jersey herd of 67 cows is milked and 11 yearlings and 20 calves are also run. During the past four years production has been as follows:

Year	Total butterfat lb	Number of cows	Average per cow lb	Average per acre lb
1954-55	17,505	74	236	131
1955-56	15,418	75	206	116
1956-57	18,292	71	258	137
1957-58	19,555	67	292	160

Mr Haeata has recently built a new piggery in which are run 10 breeding sows. In the 1957-58 season the returns from pigs worked out at slightly over

£5 per cow milked. On the other hand a profit of over £200 was made by buying in store lambs in January and selling them in autumn.

Excellent provision is made for wintering the dairy herd: 1,365 bales of hay were cut on the property and 430 bales were obtained by Mr Haeata in payment for work he did off the farm. All except 500 bales were saved in excellent barns, the balance being in a very well made stack. In addition 12 acres of grass was conserved as silage and 6 acres of white-fleshed turnips were grown for supplementary feed for autumn and early winter.

The home on the farm is neat and well kept and the lawns and garden well laid out. A full range of out-buildings is in excellent repair.

Mr Haeata has built himself a small office in which all records plus a plan of the farm were readily available. His system of keeping records could well be copied by most farmers, both Maori and European.

The work Mr Haeata has put into his property has been of a very high standard. Today he has a farm that has an assured future and that can stand comparison with any other property at a similar stage of development.

Mr W. J. Swinton's Farm at Whangamata, North of Waihi

THE property of 108 acres at Whangamata, about 18 miles north of Waihi, farmed by Mr W. J. Swinton was originally developed by the Maori Affairs Department out of fern and scrub after the Second World War and was settled by Mr Swinton, a returned serviceman, five and a half years ago.

The country is undulating to hilly. Cows are milked on 80 acres, while the balance, formerly grazed by his dairy stock, is now to be stocked with sheep. Pastures are somewhat variable in quality. Those at the front of the farm are very good, but the back paddocks have tended to revert to Yorkshire fog and weeds owing to difficulty of access and of management.

Only recently Mr Swinton decided to give up trying to run cows on the whole of the farm, and the introduction of sheep to the higher back pastures should result in a marked improvement in their quality.

Two years ago many of the pastures were badly damaged by grass grub and DDT superphosphate was applied to bring this pest under control.

Fifteen acres of dairy pasture were sod seeded with good results in the autumn of 1958.

When the property was taken over by Mr Swinton there were many large patches of blackberry in the gullies and on several sidelings. These have

been cleaned up by the intelligent use of stock during winter, hay being fed out on the areas, which were later topdressed. Though ragwort is a serious weed on some farms in this district, it is kept well under control on this farm.

Sixty acres were closed for autumn-saved pasture. The topdressing programme consists of 4 cwt per acre of 15 per cent potassic superphosphate yearly on the dairy pastures and 3 cwt of serpentine superphosphate per acre on the higher country.

The property is subdivided into 18 paddocks, of which 16 are on the dairy country. The two sheep paddocks have since each been halved. Fences and gates are in splendid condition, and there is a central farm race on the dairy portion in spite of the hilly country.