



Sows should start to farrow two and a half months before half the dairy herd will have calved, and farrowing should be spread over four to six weeks.

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If the dairy herd calves from the beginning of July onward, sows should begin to farrow at the end of April or the beginning of May. They will then farrow their next litters from the end of October. To take full advantage of farrowing sows at these times it is necessary that both baconers and porkers should be produced. The progress of these litters from farrowing to slaughter is as follows:

Litters farrowed during May are being suckled by the sow during the two winter months when the dairy herd is not being milked.

A sow and litter require less food than the same number of store pigs and are much easier to care for.

If good farrowing accommodation is used, losses will be small.

Far less labour is involved in cleaning out than

with bigger pigs, and a self-feeder for meal in the creep area reduces the time spent in feeding to a minimum.

The earliest of the litters will be reaching the weaning stage when the dairy herd begins to calve, but, of course, will not require very large quantities of skim milk.

However, as calves being reared for replacements will have been saved

from the early calvers, there will not be a very great quantity of skim milk available for the pigs and they will be quite capable of dealing with it.

As the litters grow during spring the supply of skim milk grows with them, so that they can be taken up to bacon weight without any shortage of feed.

There are likely to be a few pigs in these litters, however, that will be of

the early maturing type, and that, taken to bacon weight, will be over fat. These should be disposed of at pork weights.

Most of them, provided the right breeding stock is used, can be taken to bacon weight, which they will reach at six and a half to seven months old, that is, from mid November to the beginning of January.

After weaning in July the sows will have been mated again and will far-

## Development of Pig Industry

THE introduction of cream separators on farms in the early years of this century solved the problem of cartage of whole milk to the dairy factory, but left the farmer with the problem of how to dispose of the skim milk, and the only answer in those days was to feed it to pigs. And fed it was, with no particular thought given to either the quality or quantity of pig meat produced. Skim milk was used as the only food for the pigs, apart from a little meal, generally pollard, that was fed in winter when the cows were dry.

From these primitive beginnings the pig industry has progressed and today more and more dairy farmers are realising that the production of pig meat from skim milk is a very profitable sideline and that pigs, when properly kept and fed, are easy and pleasant animals to manage.

Dairy farmers who keep pigs comprise two broad groups. By far the larger group produce pig meat to obtain the greatest net return from the skim milk with the lowest possible expenditure on purchased or home-grown supplementary food. The other and much smaller group consists of farmers who are pig enthusiasts and who milk cows only to enable them to keep pigs. In this group are the pedigree breeders to whom the industry looks for constantly improved breeding stock that will produce a better-quality carcass more economically.