

V. — ECONOMICS

**Supply of pigs in France
(1954-1972)**

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On account of the persistant fluctuations on the pig market and of the statement of our deficit, an attempt was made in this study to define more accurately, on the one hand, the mechanism according to which the producers respond to the prices and, on the other, to compare the evolution of this behaviour with the structural changes of the branch during the period in question. The main results of the analysis were the following :

- sales of pigs during one month depend on the prices of the previous 18 months ;
- decisions at the beginning of the period may be corrected during the months close to the sales ;
- sales are more sensitive to prices than the production itself ;
- contrarily to a wide-spread opinion, structural changes have led to an increased reaction of the farmers to the prices ;
- a stabilization cannot be expected only on the basis of modernized structures.

**Adjustment of the supply to the demand of pigs
and production structures**

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On account of the aleatory character of the supply and demand of pigs, it is obvious that the importance of the part played by the different categories of production units cannot be estimated only according to the margin obtained by animal or according to the size of these units. Other factors are involved, in particular the contribution of each category to the adjustment of the supply to the demand. In the searching for such a balance, rather small sized units play a counter