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An invitation is extended to all those involved in the field of animal production to apply for membership of the New Zealand Society of Animal Production at our website www.nzsap.org.nz

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CHAIRMAN'S OPENING REMARKS.

In his opening remarks to the New Zealand Society of Animal Production, the Chairman, Professor C.P. McMeekan, referred to the criticism both from within and without the Society, of the decision to hold an Annual Conference under existing conditions. Such criticism had ranged from extreme condemnation on the one hand to expressions of mild surprise on the other. Such opinions which were based on the assumption that members could be engaged in more useful war work than debating problems of mutual interest ignored one elementary and overriding fact; the fact that, in common with everyone in New Zealand, agricultural scientists were today conscripts of the State. The fact that the State had seen fit to hold them in their professional occupations so far, and had in many cases specifically directed that this should be the case, surely imposed a responsibility upon them - a responsibility to carry out their work to the best of their ability. Food production with which the members of the Society were intimately associated was of very definite war winning importance. Many individual members were directly engaged in research and production work with a direct bearing upon the war. To the greatest possible degree all had directed their energies in research to questions related to war and post-war problems. Most of the papers to be presented at the Conference would provide ample testimony to this. If there existed a need a year ago to form the Society surely that need was even greater today that it should live. No further justification was required for the organisation of a meeting, even under present different conditions, where men engaged in work of national importance could exchange views and discuss mutual problems. The presence of over forty members testified to the courage of the executive in deciding to face up to its responsibilities and hold the Conference.

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