

## FORUM ON SOW NUTRITION

FIVE principal speakers each made a short contribution on the overall theme of providing general advice on sow nutrition, and these were followed by a general discussion. It was concluded that no useful purpose would be served by collecting together a consensus view and publishing it as a set of BSAP standards.

*Dr D. J. A. Cole (University of Nottingham)* reviewed research findings on the effects of nutrition on age at puberty, ovulation rate, and embryo survival for gilts up to the time of first lactation.

*Professor F. W. H. Elsley (Edinburgh School of Agriculture)* then considered our knowledge of the effects of energy and protein intake during lactation, post-weaning and during pregnancy.

*Mr M. H. Stranks (ADAS Nutrition Chemist)* discussed aspects of the dissemination of advice to farmers and the advice currently given by ADAS staff.

*Dr D. L. Frape (Spillers Ltd)* presented the results of a survey conducted among 186 pig herds in Britain which was designed to discover farmers' attitudes to sow nutrition.

*Mr A. M. Pearson (J. S. R. Farms Ltd)* discussed the sources of advice used by farmers, and illustrated this by tracing the development of the system of sow nutrition used with more than 1000 sows in the four herds which he manages.