

Live Stock

MANITOBA DAIRY ASSOCIATION MEETINGS

The annual meeting of the Manitoba Dairy Association will be held on Wednesday and Thursday, February 17 and 18.

An evening meeting will be held in the board room of the Industrial Bureau, Winnipeg, at 8 o'clock on Wednesday, while the Thursday meeting will be held in the dairy building at the Agricultural College, the morning session opening at 10 o'clock sharp.

IDLE HORSES AND DISEASE

Azoturia, a disease quite common in cold weather among work horses, may be prevented.

The method recommended by F. B. Hadley, of the Veterinary Department of the University of Wisconsin, and others familiar with the ailment consists simply in reducing the grain ration about one-third when horses are idle and in substituting bran mashes for oats on Saturday nights or during periods of idleness, and above all, in giving daily exercise.

The symptoms of the disease are these:

The affected horse starts away from its stable in particularly good spirits. Suddenly he lags, sweats profusely and gets lame in one or both hind legs which knuckle over at the ankles. Soon he is unable to stand and may fall, in which event he attempts to rise, but is only partly successful or fails. Once down he rapidly becomes worse and the symptoms are aggravating. The muscles of the loins and thighs are swollen and very hard. The lining membrane of the eye-lids is congested; the nostrils are dilated, the pulse, at first bounding, later becomes weak and fast.

It is estimated that from 20 to 40 per cent. of the cases die or the usefulness of the afflicted animal is more or less permanently impaired from atrophy or "sweney" of the involved muscles.

In treating a case of the disease it is important that the horse be stopped as soon as any of the symptoms are noticed. Driving even a short distance further is likely to result in more serious trouble and to lead to paralysis. Prompt rest is essential to recovery. The harness should be removed and the horse blanketed. It is not wise to try to lead him at once to the nearest barn. If he is down the front shoes should be immediately removed to prevent injury to the body when the animal rolls or violently throws himself.

Many different drugs have been employed in treating azoturia, but none have proven entirely satisfactory. The attending veterinarian should be relied upon to administer the treatment which in his judgment appears to be best. Good nursing with proper provisions for a soft bed to prevent injury while the patient is down actually play a more important part than do medicines.

CONSERVE THE BREEDING STOCK

John Bright, Dominion livestock commissioner, in a letter to The Guide says:

"Everyone knows that trade conditions and commercial enterprise have suffered a very serious and unexpected upheaval during the past year. To this situation the war has, of course, largely contributed; but other causes, including the general financial depression throughout the country, have been operative for some months past. The agricultural industry has, naturally, been very widely affected by these changing conditions and by the varying situation with respect to demand and supply. The rise in the price of grain, together with the corresponding fall in grain production, represents, without doubt, the most outstanding feature of the direction which has been given to agricultural activity.

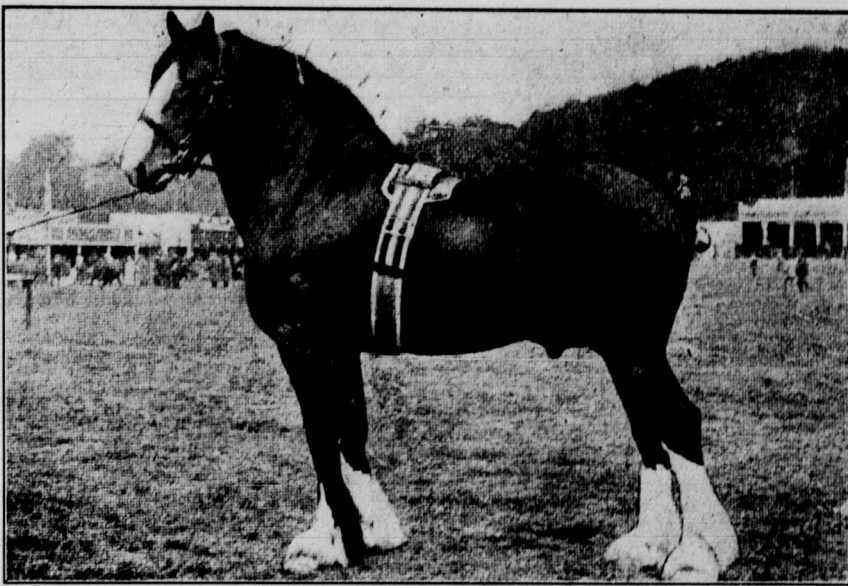
"We need, perhaps above all things else, sane, level judgment in the conduct of our agricultural affairs during the coming year. It is to be expected that grain production will be largely increased. The raw products of the soil are, and will be, in demand at remunerative prices. What then is to be said, what course is to be followed, with respect to the breeding of livestock?

Selling Breeding Stock

"The high price of feed, on the one hand, and relatively low prices for market stock, on the other, have resulted in very heavy marketing thruout Canada, particularly in the western provinces, of female stock, suitable for breeding purposes. Perhaps this was inevitable, but will these conditions continue? Feed grain will, without doubt, be high in price, but it must never be overlooked that the country can maintain very large numbers of livestock on the enormous quantity of rough fodder which it can produce. To waste this, for the sake of the grain which can be grown, would, under the present circumstances, be criminal neglect. It is clear, then, that the country should conserve its breeding stock. If grain is to be grown for sale it is recommended that plans should be carefully thought out as to the manner in which the greatest quantity of rough fodder may become available for feeding purposes and as to the means by which this otherwise waste product, together with the screenings and unsaleable grain, may be utilized to the best possible advantage. In other words, eliminate waste. Do it by feeding livestock.

Better Prices Sure

"The present low prices for stock cannot last long. A careful review of the world situation makes it clear that there will



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be a shortage next year. Europe is becoming seriously depleted in both breeding and feeding stock. The United States, for ten months of the current year, at its leading markets is short 746,045 cattle, 208,000 sheep and 1,894,939 hogs. Canada has, as before stated, heavily liquidated her breeding animals and, while it may possibly maintain its quota next year of cattle and sheep, it is doubtful if more than seventy-five per cent. of the number of hogs will find their way to market in 1915, as compared with the current year. It is, therefore, a time for livestock men to stay with their trade. The present tendency is, of course, all the other way. A safe harvest is likely to be reaped by those who have stock for sale next year. Even bankers and business men are of this opinion.

Wrong Time to Market

"One word of advice is to be given. Avoid marketing so far as it is at all possible to do so during the period of October fifteenth to December fifteenth. This is a time of the year when everybody else has stock for sale. It is a period when packers know that they can fill their cellars with cheap meat. These are the months when the surplus of the whole country finds its way to the packing centres. It is invariably the period of low prices, uncertain markets and disappointing returns to the producers. Breed, therefore, to have your stock available for sale at some other time of the year. Take care to provide sufficient winter feed that you may not be forced to sell when the cold weather comes. Above all, conserve your breeding stock."

FEED WARMERS

In the early days the idea was prevalent that "raw food is not in condition to be approximated to the tissues of animal life." In other words, boiling food made it ever so much more digestible than when in its raw state. This idea was, however, upset when, after nine years of careful experiment, the Maine Agricultural College published a report concerning this matter. It was found that instead of increasing the feeding value of food, cooking lessened it to quite an appreciable extent. It was plainly shown that 89.9 pounds of raw corn meal was equal to 100 pounds of cooked corn meal for fattening hogs. Since then a large number of experiments have been conducted along this line and it has been amply demonstrated that no actual advantage as to increased feeding value is to be obtained by cooking food. There is, however, another factor which enters into the question, and it is that of palatability. It is not natural to suppose that pigs would prefer icy, lumpy swill to feed which at least had the chill taken off it. The same is true of horse food, boiled oats occasionally being a very welcome and beneficial change to the horses. In the old country, in large stables there is always a feed boiler and warmer to be found in the feed room, and, when the horses are working steadily all week, every Saturday night they all get some bran mash or boiled flaxseed mixed in with their ordinary grain ration. Sunday's feed, of course, being cut down by fully one-third. So that, altho experiment has shown that

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REASONS FOR KEEPING LIVESTOCK

The following are a few reasons, as outlined by a Wisconsin shepherd and stockman, for the keeping of good livestock:

Raising superior stock is the best and easiest way of keeping up the fertility of our soils.

The larger profits obtained from the raising of productive livestock enables the farmer to equip his place with better machinery, which in turn, lightens heavy tasks and makes farm life more pleasant.

A steadily growing population will continue to supply an excellent market for more and better livestock and livestock products.

There is more pleasure in caring for good than poor livestock.

Livestock raising tends to encourage boys and girls to remain on the farm.

Well bred livestock furnishes the best possible market for the farmer's roughage and grain.

Better help may be secured and kept upon a farm upon which profit producing animals are raised.

All things being equal, the production and value of a livestock farm steadily increases.