

Feed for Idle Horses

The idle horse does not require the same ration as the horse that has to work hard every day; in fact, it is often detrimental to crowd a ration into an idle horse. There must, therefore, be a considerable reduction in the ration after the horses go into winter quarters; say a reduction of 50 per cent. in the grain ration, leaving the roughage as it is.

While this reduction may be made on the first day the horses are idle, we believe it better to gradually reduce the grain feed during the last three or four days when the horses are at work, in such a manner that on the last day's work the horses receive about what is intended for them during the winter.

We would not undertake to decide on a definite quantity of feed to be given, but would be largely guided by the appearance of the animals. The variations in the behavior of different animals under the same regime are so great as to laugh at all definite formulas. The old saying about "the eye of the master fattening the cattle" is based on the soundest kind of commonsense, while we may smile scornfully at the scientific building up of feed rations, the eye of the master, after all is the controlling factor.

The Pregnant Mare

There are thousands of mares on Canadian farms now carrying foals. The treatment given from now on has much to do with the health of the mare and the vigor of the foal when it arrives. So far, the foetus has not required much food. From now on it will demand more. The mare is feeding two, rather than one. If she is asked to subsist largely on filler—out straw, timothy hay, etc.—she will literally starve. William Hiss, a noted horseman, gives the following good advice on the handling of the mare at this time:

"The mare should be 'humored' in her feeding at this time. The fullness of the abdominal cavity calls for concentrated feeds, rather than bulky ones, and brings out the importance of feeding three times a day instead of twice, which may be all right for idle horses. Good, bright alfalfa or heavy mixed clover and timothy hay, with oats, bran, and oil meal, fed in the proportion by weight of six, three, one, make a most desirable ration. Protein is highly essential during the latter part of the gestation period, while bran will tend to prevent constipation in the mare.

"A quiet but roomy box stall that is well bedded and free from draughts should be provided for the act of foaling. The loss of a few hours' sleep in assisting the mare to foal, if necessary, is but a trifle; so be on hand when the critical time arrives."

Successful Growers Write on Small Fruit Culture

(Continued from page 5)

minimum. The only part of the whole garden receiving regular cultivation is the first year strawberry plants. All of the bush fruits are kept heavily mulched with wheat straw. This straw keeps down the weeds, conserves moisture as cultivation never could, and with the exception of the addition of a little straw each fall, no labor whatever is required under this system. Of course, shoots that come up between the rows have to be cut off with a sharp hoe, and the old canes removed each summer after the fruiting season. This does not represent more than a couple of hours' work, and how abundantly we are repaid!

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