

The Brood Mare

SELECTING.

The most profitable animal on the farm today is the brood mare. If properly handled she may do practically a full season's work and raise as good a colt as if she ran idle in the pasture. Perhaps it would not be wise for every farmer in Manitoba to breed every mare of a productive age that he has on his farm, but many of them should be bred that are not. In choosing the mares to breed it must be remembered that the chances of the colts resembling their dams are just about as strong as the chances of their resembling their sires, and that the better the mare and the nearer to purity her breeding the stronger will be the chances that the colt will resemble her. Therefore, to the mare owner the necessity of selecting a sound mare possessing good size for the type she represents and good individuality is just as important as to get the right type of stallion.

Two characteristics should be given special consideration. As differing from the masculine appearance of the stallion, the mare should have a feminine appearance about the head and neck, yet should possess a good active disposition, these being indications that she will be a regular breeder. In form she should possess what is termed a roomy conformation, not only a large abdomen but a wide spring of rib, deep body and fair length of body.

MATING.

Some difficulty is occasionally experienced in getting mares to breed, but usually mares that are properly fed and exercised through the winter will come in season in the spring of the year. If a mare does not come in season there is some good reason for it and the only way to ever get her in foal is