

**On the Treatment of Brood Mares**

We are of opinion that a few remarks on the above subject at this time of the year, may not be out of place. A mare is capable of breeding at three or four years old; some have injudiciously commenced at two years old, before her form or strength is sufficiently developed, and with the development of which this early breeding will materially interfere. If a mare does little more than farm work, she may continue to be bred from until she is nearly twenty; but if she has been hardly worked and bears the marks of it, let her have been what she will in her youth, she will deceive the expectations of the breeder in her old age. From the time of covering to within a couple or three weeks of the expected period of foaling, the mare may be kept at moderate labor, not only without injury, but with decided advantage. Indeed the writer of this, in the old country, has seen a mare left out from the plough to have her foal, and although by no means recommending this step, yet he knew of no drawback against it. But it is prudent to release her from work about the above mentioned time, and keep her near home, and under the frequent inspection of some careful person.

When nearly half the time of pregnancy has elapsed, the mare should have a little better food; she should be allowed one or two feeds of oats a day. This is about the period when they are accustomed to slink their foals, or when abortion occurs. The eye of the owner should therefore be frequently upon them. Good feeding and moderate exercise will be the best preventative of these mishaps. The mare that has once aborted, is liable to a repetition of the accident, and therefore should never be suffered to be with other mares between the 4th and 5th months, for such is the power of imagination or of sympathy in the mare, that if one suffers abortion, others in the same pasture will too often share the same fate. Farmers wash and paint and tar their stables to prevent some supposed infection; the infection lies in the imagination.

The thorough bred mare, the stock being intended for sporting purposes, should be kept quiet and apart from other horses. After the first four or five months, when the period of parturition is drawing near, she should be watched and shut up during the night in a safe yard or horse box. If the mare whether of the fine or common breed, be thus taken care of and be in good health while in foal, little danger will attend the act of parturition or bringing forth. If there is a false presentation of the fetus or difficulty in producing it, it will be better to have recourse to a well-informed practitioner than to injure the mother by the violent and injurious attempts that are often made to relieve her.

The foaling being over, the mare should

be turned into some well-sheltered pasture, with a hovel or shed to run into when she pleases, and, as supposing she has foaled in April, the grass is scanty, she should have a couple of feeds of grain daily. The breeder may depend upon it, that nothing is gained by starving the mother and stinting the foal at this time. It is the most important period of the life of the horse, and if from false economy his growth is arrested, his puny form and want of endurance will ever afterwards testify to the error that has been committed. The grain should be given in a trough on the ground, that the foal may partake of it with the mother. When the new grass is plentiful, the quantity of grain may be gradually diminished.

The mare will be usually found at heat again, at or before the expiration of a month from the time of foaling, when, if she is principally kept for breeding purposes, she may be put again to the horse. At the same time, also, if she is used for agricultural purposes, she may be put again to the horse. The foal should at first be shut in the stable during the hours of work, but as soon as it requires sufficient strength to waddle after the mare and especially when she is at slow work it will be better for the foal and the dam that they should be together; the work will contribute to the health of the mother. The foal will more frequently draw the milk and thrive better, and will be hardy, tractable and gradually familiarized with the objects among which it is afterwards to live. While the mother, however, is thus worked, she and foal should be well fed, and two feeds of grain at least should be added to the green food, which they get when turned out after the work, and at night.

In five or six months, according to the growth of the foal, it may be weaned. It should then be housed for three weeks or a month, or turned into some distant rick-yard. There can be no better place for the foal than the latter, as affording, and that without trouble, both food and shelter. The mother should be put to harder work and have drier food; one or two urine balls or a physic ball will be useful if the milk should be troublesome or she should pine after her foal. There is no principle of greater importance than the liberal feeding of the foal during the whole of the growth, and at this time in particular. Bruised oats and bran should form a considerable part of his daily provender. The farmer may be assured that the money is well laid out which is expended on the liberal nourishment of the growing colt, yet while he is well-fed, he should not be rendered delicate by excessive care.

**FANCY FARMERS.**

There exists to a great extent a species of disrespect for this class of farmers. Practical men are apt to sneer at their worth, and reject their

opinions as valueless. This is wrong, and practical husbandry is deeply indebted to this class for many improvements. They are the men who test and prove implements and seeds. They are the men who introduce the most valuable breeds of stock. It is true that often they fail, but still they prove much to be good and their neighbors adapt it. Farming requires thought and experiment. Experiment costs money and fancy farmers are generally men who possess means above the produce of the soil. We had intended to enlarge on this point, but prefer to close the article by a terse written selection from the "Carolina Farmer."

"Many farmers are prejudiced against what they call 'book farming.' Ask one of them to subscribe for an agricultural periodical and you are met by some such reply as this, 'I never knew one of your scientific men to make anything at farming.' Now the fact is that hundreds of scientific or 'book' farmers throughout the country are eminently successful in their agricultural operations. Our narrow-minded friend may not and probably does not know this, but that is his misfortune and not the fault of science. A farmer who does not read agricultural books and papers cuts himself off from the means of obtaining much valuable information from the most intelligent men of his own calling. He thereby does himself an injury. If he be a man of family the evil does not stop there. The prejudices of the father are infused into the minds of the children, thereby working injury to them.

This absurd prejudice against the application of science to agricultural pursuits, was once wide spread; but those who wish to see their country and its people progressive and prosperous may take consolation in the thought that it is fast wearing out. In those sections of country where agriculture is most profitably conducted the greatest interest is felt and evinced in the scientific aspects of agriculture, and the man who would openly avow hostility to scientific agriculture would be considered in such a community an unqualified ignoramus."

**SHEEP SOLD.**

Middlesex county was visited during the past month by Mr. Charles Cressman, from Salt Lake City, who purchased a number of fine sheep which are now on their way to Utah. Canadian stock holds a high position on this continent, and it is a subject for just pride that they should be purchased by parties from so great a distance. Farmers should strive to preserve the purity of flocks and to improve their worth. If this is done, there is no fear but what buyers will readily be found and willing to pay remunerative prices.

Mr. Cressman bought of Chris. Walker, 15 ewes and lambs for \$1,000; from T. Friendship, 10 ewes and 9 lambs for \$500; from Joseph Charlton, 10 ewes and 14 lambs for \$600; and from John Robson, 5 ewes, 4 lambs and 2 rams for \$500.

**Wool Growers and Sheep Breeders Association.**

The following is a list of office bearers of the above Association for the present year for the County of Lenoix:

Donald Fraser, President; William Dawson, first Vice President; John Sharpe second Vice President; Francis Van De Bogart, Secretary, and John Dunbar, Treasurer.