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WEEDING OUT THE FLOCK

Continued from Page 11

the males kept for breeding. Here change of blood is essential and desirable, especially if the hens are of a mongrel type. The shortcomings of the male bird are nearly always reproduced in the offspring, and therefore it is false economy to go in for cheap or impure male birds. New blood to remedy defects must be infused in the poultry yard, as well as in the stable, the sheep cot, or the byre. In buying stock for the poultry yard the breeder has to use caution in case of disease being imported by strange birds. This has quite frequently led to many a prize breed being entirely extirpated, to the disgust and discouragement of the breeder. The golden rule in buying stock can't be too emphatically repeated—"Buy good cockerels, and mate them with the survival of the fittest only"—and the money and the time so devoted will not prove ill-spent.

FEEDING DRAFT FOALS

A great deal of experimental work is being carried on by the various agricultural departments in the United States, the results of which can be directly made use of in this country. In a recent publication from the Wisconsin Experiment Station, amongst other things the "Feeding of Draft Foals" is dealt with as follows:

As draft foals are capable of making about half their growth during the first year, to develop pure-bred or high grade draft foals into horses that will bring the highest market prices at maturity, all reasonable means should be taken to make the foal grow as much as possible during this time.

During the winters of 1911-12 and 1912-13, feeding trials were conducted with a total of eleven pure-bred draft foals to study their rate of growth, character of development, and the cost of feed. The foals were fed all they would clean up of a mixture of 60 per cent. ground oats, 15 per cent. corn meal, 10 per cent. bran, and 15 per cent. alfalfa hay, consuming on the average 16.5 pounds per day. At the beginning of the first trial uncut alfalfa hay was offered in addition, but the foals consumed very little. It was found that on this ration the foals could be made to reach weights of 1,000 to 1,200 pounds at the age of one year. During the feeding periods, which ranged from 140 to 223 days, the foals make gains averaging 2.1 pounds per day, at an average daily feed cost of 18 cents. The estimated average cost of feed for the foals for the entire first year was \$51 66.

Such a system of feeding cannot be recommended for poor foals of inferior breeding, but it is believed that it will pay to force pure-bred or good grade draft foals on a ration similar to this.

CARE OF THE EWE AND LAMB

The Livestock Branch of the Department of Agriculture at Ottawa has issued a very practical bulletin on "The Care of the Ewe and Lamb." It constitutes a shepherd's presentation of the details of management of the breeding flock, more particularly during the winter and spring months. It takes up, among other things, parturition, feeding, docking, castration, the raising of pet lambs, and the simple and more serious ailments and accidents met with in the ordinary flock, concluding with a series of paragraphs termed "Leaves from the note-book of a successful Shepherd."

The bulletin, which is helpfully illustrated, was prepared by T. Reginald Arkell, who has charge of the Sheep and Goat Division of the Livestock Branch. It is designated as Pamphlet No. 5 of the Livestock Branch. Copies areavailable to those who apply for them to the Publications Branch, Department of Agriculture, Ottawa.

GAS ENGINE ECONOMY

An experiment has been carried out in the Agricultural Engineering Department in the University of Wisconsin to determine the relative economy of engines of various sizes under different loads. It was found that the larger engines are just as economical in the use of fuel on a small load as are the smaller engines when carrying the same load. This factor is an exceedingly important one to bear in mind when selecting an engine.

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