

Management and Care of Stallions.

What I have learned by thirty years of experience, relative to the care and management of stallions, I am willing others should know, and should it prove of service to any one, I shall feel well paid for the trouble I have taken.

A few things that I consider of great importance are, first, before using the stallion to mares let him get some age. No colt will breed as well as an old horse, from eight to sixteen years old, provided the horse has been properly taken care of. Next, avoid all pampering, both as to care and feed. Feed and work him as you would any horse, not overheating or overexerting him. If not situated so you can work or drive him, have a good roomy yard where he can run and exercise at his own free will. There are three things that should be remembered that are not conducive to fertility in the stallion, or to soundness, strength or longevity in his progeny, viz.: Idleness, pampering with unhealthy food, and putting him to service when too young. If these matters are observed, and you will limit your horse to the proper number of mares, you will get good results.

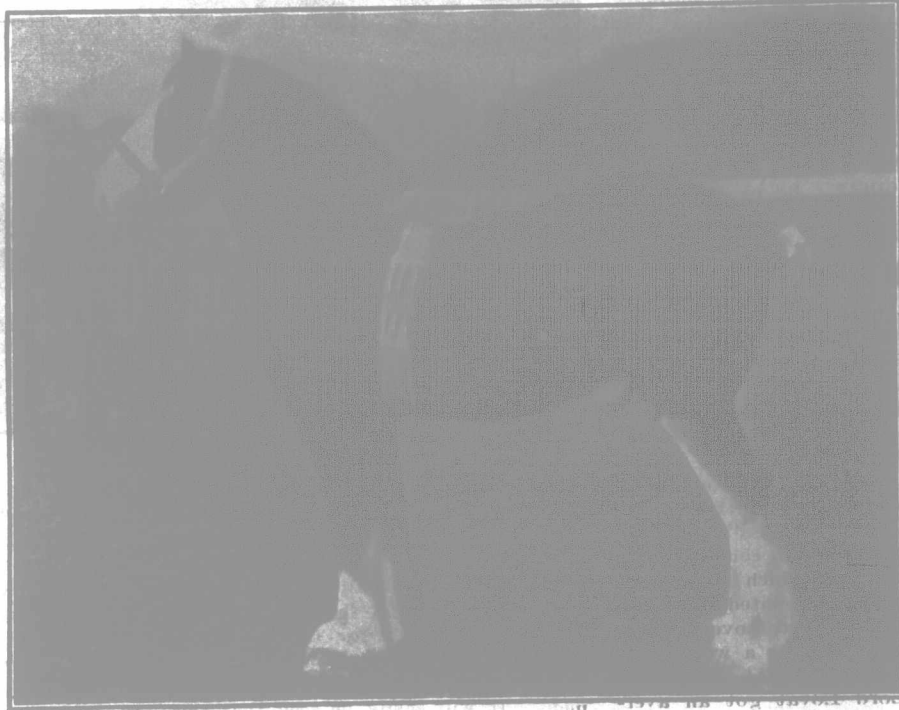
As to feed, we would give him a liberal quantity of oats and bran, two parts oats and one of bran, twice a day, and once daily through the mare season a good feed of boiled barley, with a little flaxseed cooked with it; mix with bran, and feed hot at night. This, with good timothy hay and sufficient grass to keep the bowels open, should constitute his daily feed, with perhaps a few ears of corn occasionally. Avoid feeding hay in the morning and giving large quantities of water, for, by observation, you will soon learn that no horse serves well when his belly is distended with hay and water. To prove and demonstrate this, take your horse out and let him serve a mare before feeding him; then, the next morning give him all he can eat and drink, and note the difference. This may not appear upon the face of it like a matter of great importance, but I maintain it is, as it saves the horse a good many services and extra labor. By following these few simple rules you will have as good results as though you had read all the books written on this subject. Remember this one important matter, keep your horse healthy and as near a natural condition as possible. To do this, you must feed and exercise him properly. This must be continued all through the year. The man who keeps his horse right just through mare season, and then confines and keeps him in an unhealthy state all the rest of the year, will find himself with an unprofitable stallion in a short time.—(F. C. Warren, in Wis. Exp. Station Bulletin.)

Foaling Time.

As the foaling season is now approaching, pregnant mares should receive a little special attention. It should not be forgotten that a mare in the advanced stages of pregnancy has, in addition to sustaining herself, a nearly matured foetus to sustain, and as this calls largely upon her resources, she should be fed and cared for accordingly. Her food should be plentiful, of first-class quality, and of an easily-digested nature. She should be fed liberally on bran, with a reasonable percentage of chopped or crushed oats, in addition to good hay. A cupful of linseed meal and a carrot or two daily, tend to aid digestion and prevent constipation, and, at the same time, are relished. The too-common practice of feeding solely on dry hay and oats, while giving good results in working horses, is not by any means the best for breeding mares. The bran and succulent food mentioned tends to keep the digestive organs normal, and also stimulates the lacteal apparatus to the desired activity. While pregnant mares should receive some special care, they should not be pampered and kept in idleness, from the too-common idea that sustaining themselves and foetuses is sufficient labor. They should have regular but gentle exercise. Ordinary light farm work is much better than idleness. Of course, they should not be required to perform heavy labor that will entail excessive muscular or respiratory exertion, as there is danger of such producing abortion; but the mare that is kept in fair condition and regularly exercised or kept at light work will, with few exceptions, produce a stronger foal than her sister that has been pampered and kept in idleness during the whole or greater part of her period of gestation. This applies particularly to the last few months of gestation. If it is not practicable to give her exercise in harness; she should be turned out in a yard or paddock for at least a few hours every fine day, when the ground is not too slippery. Care should be taken to not turn her out with strange or vicious horses that might worry or kick her, but some safe means of forcing regular exercise should be observed, and continued until she shows signs of approaching parturition. As the period of gestation is variable in different animals, and even in the same animal in different years, we cannot tell with reasonable certainty when the parturition will take place. In round figures, we may say that 11 months is the average

period, but observation teaches us that this is by no means constant, and that the period varies from ten to thirteen months, and, in rare cases, we may notice a greater variation. Hence it is wise to be prepared for the event at any time after the tenth month. When in the stable, she could be kept in a large, comfortable box stall that contains no boxes or mangers in which the foal may drop in case she stands, as sometimes mares do during parturition. It is unsafe to allow a mare to foal while tied in a stall, as she is unable to give the foal the necessary attention, and it may perish from this cause, or, if it be a strong one, and is able to get up and walk around without any attention from either dam or man, it is as likely to walk into the stall of another horse as that of its dam's, and, in its endeavor to get nourishment, is liable to be injured or killed. The box in which the mare is kept should be cleaned out regularly, and a liberal supply of short dry straw given daily. It is a mistake to allow manure, both solid and liquid, to accumulate, as it heats and vitiates the air, as well as favors the multiplication of microbes of different kinds. In support of this practice, it is claimed that the presence of manure upon the floor prevents it becoming slippery, and thereby avoids accident to the mare from this cause, but we find that if the stall be thoroughly cleaned out daily, and especially if a little slacked lime be scattered over the floor regularly, it will not become dangerous in this respect. The lime performs a twofold function—it keeps the floor dry, destroys and prevents the formation of odors, and destroys microbes, which, if present, may cause trouble in the foal. The most dangerous of these microbes, present in stalls which have not been properly looked after, is that form which gains entrance through the umbilical opening of the foal, and causes that serious and usually incurable disease known as navel-ill or joint-ill. When the usual symptoms of approaching parturition, with which all breeders are familiar, appear, the mare should be carefully watched. There are many reasons why a mare about to bring forth young should be watched. We will discuss these in a future issue.

"WHIP."



Revelante (11876).
Clydesdale stallion; brown; foaled July, 1901; sire
Winner of first prize in the open class for aged
Show, Glasgow, 1906

LIVE STOCK.

Shall the Farmer Grow More Live Stock?

At occasional intervals the complaint reaches us that "The Farmer's Advocate" devotes an undue proportion of attention, by articles and by illustration, to the pure-bred live-stock interests of the country. But right on the heels of an observation of this kind comes a reverse assurance from a man who travels from one end of Canada to the other, and whose opportunities to judge are as good as they are wide, that our plan of campaign has been the correct one, and that it has resulted in very marked improvements. With out the blood of the pure-bred, progress would speedily become retrogression. Well-bred stock costs no more to raise than inferior stuff, while the returns in satisfaction and cash are vastly greater. Furthermore, the rearing and feeding of live stock on the farm, while it requires a decidedly higher grade of farming in order to succeed, still it enables the farmer to obtain a better price for his coarse grains sold in the form of meat or other products, and, at the same time,

the manure remains to enrich the fields. Cases are cited, by way of example, where men have received more than twice as much per bushel for their barley, plus the manure, when sold in the form of hogs, than if sold on the ordinary market in bags.

IMPORTANT QUESTIONS.

But will the demand for animals and animal products continue? Can increases be reasonably expected? Should farmers generally still devote their chief attention in this direction. We are satisfied that affirmative answers to these questions are logically correct. Our export trade to Great Britain in animal food products has been steadily increasing, and we see no good reason why it should not continue, with the intelligence and resources at our command. Competition there is keen, but Canada ought to be able to hold her own in that conflict. With the turn of population and industry Canada-wide, the home consumption is bound to increase enormously.

WHAT THE MARKETS SHOW.

Our readers are familiar with our output of live cattle and of bacon to Great Britain. As another illustration, let us look at the trade done last year on the Western Cattle Market, Toronto.

[Note.—The market days here are Tuesday, Thursday and Friday, but so little business is transacted on the latter that it may be left out of account. The lessee of this market is Mr. Wm. Hunter, who pays the city a rental of \$36,000 for the year.]

The receipts for 1905 were reported as follows: Cattle, 147,476 head; sheep, 150,186 head; hogs, 128,475 head; calves, 16,619 head.

These figures give very little idea of the number of hogs handled in Toronto, because under modern conditions they have been going direct to such establishments as the Wm. Davies Packing Co., and Park, Blackwell & Co. (the latter handling a proportion of beef, as well as their staple, hogs). The Harris Abattoir Co. last year dressed for the Wm. Davies Co., who have some 50 meat stores in Toronto, besides many others scattered throughout the Province, some 80,000 cattle, 40,000 sheep, and 5,000 calves. Then there are the Wm. Le-

vack and Puddy Bros' establishments, besides, perhaps, a score of smaller ones. In the matter of hogs, it is estimated that not over ten per cent. of those dressed in Toronto now go through the market. With regard to the bacon-hog supply question, it might be remarked, parenthetically, that there appears to be keen competition for supplies, but the records of one of the large concerns referred to indicated a very steady decline in the percentage of the top class of their four bacon grades since last November. At a recent date those in the best grade had declined to about 30 per cent. of the hogs dressed in the week while the lower grades increased. The manager attributed this to a result of breeding a different type of hogs, as probably ninety per cent. of those looking in were more or less of Yorkshire blood. Any change of breeding policy on the part of farmers was not yet apparent to him, but we fear it will be felt later on. However, this is on the side.

NEW MARKET DEVELOPMENTS.

Out at Toronto Junction there is accumulating evidence of the faith of business men in the possibilities of Ontario to produce raw materials to feed humanity. The new Union Stock yards, equipped after the most up-to-date fashion, with covered areas and brick floors, can, if necessary, handle daily some 4,500 cattle, as many sheep, and some 3,000 hogs, and the company have land, so that these facilities can be almost indefinitely increased. They have excellent railway facilities, both by the C. N. R. and C. P. R. These yards began business under very considerable handicaps in the summer of 1903, and not taking into account calves, the business of the past two years has been as follows:

Cattle 122,444 head, value \$1,104,000
Sheep 142,118 head, value \$1,121,180
Hogs 128,475 head, value \$1,121,180