

for breeding sows. The liberal use of pasture or green feed in summer, and of roots or clover or alfalfa hay in winter, as described under the feeding of the boar, is always in order, and will help to ameliorate the injurious effects of corn feeding. When sows are fed outdoors in cold weather, it is better to feed the meal dry. They will require very little water outside of that supplied by the roots. If roots are not available, water must be supplied, and the meal may be soaked before feeding if desired. In warm weather an abundant supply of water is very important.

When the sow goes into the warm farrowing pen, it is advisable to feed the meal in the form of a thick slop, and a moderate ration of roots should be continued if she has been receiving roots before she is taken in. This system tends to prevent constipation, and a more or less fevered condition, which may result from changing from outdoor life to confinement. A small amount of oil cake or ground flaxseed added to the ration is also helpful in preventing constipation. After the sow farrows, there should be no hurry about feeding her. If she lies quiet for ten or twelve hours, so much the better. At first she should have little more than a drink. A bran and one part of middlings, given in small quantities, will answer very well. If the weather is cold, tepid water should be used. The food should be gradually increased, and in the course of a week or ten days she will be on full feed. A good mother with a large litter requires very liberal feeding. If the litter is small, it may be necessary to reduce the feed.

Many different rations are used for nursing sows. A very good ration can be made by mixing two parts of finely ground oats with one part of bran and one part of middlings, and allowing the food to soak between feeds. A few roots are beneficial, and sweet skim milk is good. The heavier grains should be used sparingly, and should be largely diluted with such foods as bran, middlings or ground oats.

After the pigs are weaned, the food should be cut down to check the secretion of milk. Dry oats are a safe food for the sow for a few days after the pigs are weaned. If the udder gets very full, it is a good plan to turn the sow in with the pigs once a day for a few days.—From "Swine," by Prof. G. E. Day.

The Drafter of Half a Century Ago

The following extract from a letter by Geo. E. Brown, of Aurora, Ill., on the introduction of Shires into America, will no doubt be of interest to many farmers and stockmen, among whom there is perhaps some tendency to depreciate the results of their own efforts. Speaking of the draft horses seen on the streets of American cities of fifty years ago, particularly of the city of Boston, which at that time, and for many years afterwards, enjoyed the reputation of owning the best class of draft horses in the country, particularly Shire and Clydesdale grades, many of which were bred in Canada, he says: "They were very uniform in color, build and size, standing on an average, not over 16 hands, on short, clean, cordy legs, devoid of long hair, with some of excellent quality and proportioned to their weight. At that time it required less scale to constitute a draft horse than now, the average being about 1,250 pounds."

It is possible that we are all a trifle

prone to magnify in memory the things of long ago, and it is only when the actual figures are brought into comparison that we realize the difference between the big horses of our youth and the horses that we are prone to class as "a trifle light" today. That a great stride has been made in the improvement of the quality in our heavy horses all are ready to admit. But all have never admitted that sufficient advancement has been made in increasing the scale of the work horse. One would look for a long time in our cities for horses of no more scale than 1,250 pounds used for anything heavier than an express or a delivery wagon nowadays.

Very Old Horses

What is the "record" age of a horse? The "Field" says that a representative lately saw an animal twenty-eight years old running near leader in a provincial coach. It was not once touched with the whip. A correspondent, Vice-Admiral Woolcombe, caps this, however, with an account of a horse of his brother's which does light work, including a seven miles out and seven miles back trip a week in a very hilly country, at the age of 34 or 35. He "makes nothing of this work," and shows a "most friendly disposition." This case will clearly take some beating.

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