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### How English Farmers Feed Horses.

Maria Montescori

We are getting to that period of the year when, in England, Scotland and Wales, chiefly, breeders of horses are rapidly preparing their stock for the London Spring Shows, those events at Islington which are jointly run by private enterprise and Governmental assistance. The latter 13, nowadays, spreading to all breeds of horses and ponics, and exc.lent work is being done in scuring as an absolute certainty, the use of nothing else among farmers' mares but sound stallions, free from all disease.

The solicitude of the Board of Agriculture to-day is little less than remarkable, compared with what it was twenty years ago. The Minister of Agriculture -the llon. Walter Runciman-is particularly keen upon the using of nothing but the best stallions, bulls, and boars, in England and Wales, and the same in Scotland, with the addition there of rams. All the money necessary to ensure this comes out of the Development Fund, and, compared with other days, Mr. Runciman has only to wave the magician's wand and out roll the dollars. The Board is doing a lot of useful work in spreading the gospel of correct feeding. We don't have demonstration trains over here, but we do make the most of our fairs (shows) and other meeting places for the distribution of knowledge. Suitable rations for horses will always be a problem in which locality will play a part as much as anything, but the Board tells us that a heavy farm horse at ordinary work will require a ration supplying about 25 to 30 pounds total dry matter, with a starch equivalent of about 14 or 15 pounds, including about 11 pounds digestible albuminoids. The following is probably the simplest example of a daily ration for a farm horse: 20 lbs. hay and 12 lbs. oats. As a rule, however, a simple diet like this is not the most serviceable. Occasional changes of food are advantageous. With a more complex diet, the animals will be found to thrive better, and in many cases the expense is reduced also.

A mixture of corn and beans in the proportion of 23 of the former to 1 of the latter, gives about the same albuminoid ratio as oats, and it will be found that 15 pounds of the corn-beans mixture affords the equivalent amount of nourishment to 19 pounds of oats.

The following are examples of suitable daily rations for farm horses at average

Eighteen pounds hay; 8 pounds corn or partly barley; 2 pounds bran, and 11 pounds beans.

straw; 6 pounds oats; 5 pounds corn, and 2 pounds beans.

Eighteen pounds hay; 8 pounds corn or and 11 pounds beans.

A full ration for a heavy horse at the busiest time of the year would be: 9 pounds oat straw; 6 pounds hay; 12 pounds oats; 3 pounds beans or peas,

and 11 pounds linseed. Farm horses fed on oat straw and oats alone-a plan followed in many northern and western districts of England and Scotland during the short days of winter-require a very variable quantity of oats, depending upon the character of the straw, which in some localities has a high nutritive value, whilst in others its quality is very low. In any case, the oat straw is given ad libitum, and the quantity of oats required to supplement is will vary from 14 to 24 pounds, according to the quality of the straw, the quality of the oats, the size of the horse, and the character of the work to be

In feeding horses it is essential to remember that, compared with cattlei the horse has only a very small stomach, which acts most efficiently when about two-thirds full. The horse is thus not well adapted for dealing with bulky food, and should receive i's food at regular short intervals.

The ration of the working horse must hence contain a large proportion of concentrated foods, the most suitable being oats, barley, corn. beans, and peas. A ration composed exclusively of concentrated foods will not prove satisfactory, but must be blended with a certain amount of bu'ky food. This latter should consist of hay or good s'row. G. T. BURROWS. London, Eng.

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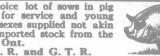
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