

over fed on the cheapest foods, but fed on the kind of food from which the best results can be obtained. Of course they should be supplied with plenty of grit and pure water, and I see no reason why fowls should not lay during the winter months.

If the farmers to-day would pay more attention to their fowls, using economy in feeding, and keeping only the breeds best adapted to their different conditions, I believe the better bred the stock is the better will be the results obtainable. If our farmers would give the poultry business a fair trial they would find that no other stock kept on the farm will bring them such satisfactory results for the amount of money invested.



Storing Potatoes

The common advice is to dig potatoes as soon as they are ripe. It is considered by some good practice, however, to dig them as soon as the leaves turn yellow, instead of waiting until the vines die. When the vines die the roots leading from them to the potatoes decay, and tend to give the potatoes a bad flavor. In digging, precautions should be taken not to bruise or cut the potatoes. The field is a good place to sort potatoes, unless time is more valuable than it would be later on. If sorted when being gathered, once handling over is saved. A very good plan, if potatoes are to be put into a cellar, is to have a rack made about eighteen inches wide and about ten feet long with sides six or eight inches high. Have the slats in the rack about one and a half inch apart, so that the small potatoes and dirt will fall through. By placing this rack from the wagon into the cellar window, and allowing the potatoes to pass over it, the smaller ones will be separated from the larger ones without much difficulty. Potatoes should not be allowed to be exposed to the sun long after they are dry, as the sun-burning effect injures the quality of the crop.

Potatoes will keep best at a low temperature, a little above freezing. Many potatoes are spoiled by being kept in too warm a place during the early fall and late spring. They should be kept in a dry place. If it will keep dry, a deep cellar is preferable for the reason that it is more likely to have a low uniform temperature, and will not be reduced to freezing temperature so readily as more shallow ones. The bins in a potato cellar should not be too large. A 300-bushel bin should be the largest size used. Smaller ones would suit better. Slatted floors for the bins and slatted walls between the bins, which allow the air to pass around them, are better than close walls or floors. The circulation of air which they allow keeps the potatoes dry and prevents heating.

It is not a good plan to put potatoes in the cellar as soon as they are dug. It is better to put them in pits in the field until the weather gets cold enough to freeze the ground a few inches deep. In pitting them temporarily, if the ground is wet, put the potatoes in a conical pile on the surface, but, if the ground is dry, dig a shallow pit for them and use the dirt out of it for covering. After the potatoes have been placed in an even conical pile cover them with a layer of pea or other straw about four inches thick and then cover with from three to five inches of dirt. In such a pit potatoes will keep well through a pretty severe frost.



Sore Shoulders on Horses

With many sore shoulders seem to be a necessary evil when working horses. In nine cases out of ten, however, they come from the carelessness of the man working the team. Sometimes the collar does not fit, or it has been allowed to get rough with dirt, or the line of draught is not properly adjusted, and bruises are formed or the skin worn off, and painful sores that are hard to heal while working the animal result. Galled or bruised shoulders on horses are therefore almost entirely needless, except in cases of

emergency where hard work is necessary after a period of idleness.

The collar of each horse should be fitted to his neck by some capable person such as a competent harnessmaker, and no other horse should wear it. The collar should be kept clean by rubbing it smooth every time it is used and prevent the packing from forming in lumps inside the collar with a light stick until it is elastic and smooth to the touch. The skin on the shoulder of the horse should be kept free from dirt, and the hames should be so adjusted that the draught pulls the collar square against the whole length of the shoulder. When a team is being severely worked it is a good plan to lift the collar away from the shoulder each time there is a stop so as to let the shoulders cool off a little. After a hard day's work it is a good plan to bathe the shoulders with cold water, as it will prevent bruising and soreness. Sometimes a very little bruise will cause a horse to flinch in such a way as to cause a sore spot at some other place on the shoulder. Attention to all these little things will prevent a great deal of the misery which many working horses are in because of sore shoulders. There is no need whatever for half the sore shoulders on horses there are.



Veterinary Inspection of Horses

There is some agitation in the United States in reference to the establishment of a system of veterinary inspection of horses, and especially of stallions, used for breeding purposes. One of the objections to the plan put forward is that the veterinary surgeons appointed by the Government for this purpose might be incompetent. In this connection it is pointed out by a writer in the *Western Agriculturist* that such officers might be selected because of their political leanings and not because of their ability to perform the work satisfactorily. There is a possibility of this being done under the political system existing in the United States. But there would be no ground for this objection under Canadian laws should such a system be adopted here.

Regarding the merits of the plan, there are many things in its favor. Especially would it be beneficial in preventing the use of unsound or diseased animals for breeding purposes. One of the chief reasons for so many unsound and blemished young colts in the country is because of the unsoundness of the stallions used for breeding purposes, and, therefore, some system of inspection that would serve to weed out all inferior and unsound animals should serve to remedy this evil to a large extent. Such a system might be extended to the examination of brood mares also with advantage. France to-day has the largest percentage of sound horses in the world, and her position in this regard has been attained by a system of veterinary inspection somewhat similar to that being discussed on the other side of the line.

CORRESPONDENCE

The Ten Days' Milking Competition.

To the Editor of FARMING :

In reply to yours of the 11th inst. I would say that a ten days' milking competition is the very thing that is required, but I would make it a five days' instead of a ten days' test, so that competitors could take their cows with them and get them home along with the rest of their show stock. The cow making the most money for feed consumed should be given the prize. Allow nothing for weight or time calved; make it a straight business, money for money. All cows should be kept in one stable, and fed under the supervision of men appointed by each of the breeds represented, and all feed should be kept in stables along with the cattle. If this is done I think that it would be satisfactory to all concerned. Hoping this will meet with your favor,

I am yours truly,

JAMES BODEN,

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