

Anent the Winter Care of Colts

Is it advisable, provided a colt is given good feed and care, to groom and blanket it the first winter, or is it better to let it rough it? The colt is a Standard-bred, strong and will be in fairly warm quarters—Subsister, Martintown, Ont.

The advisability of blanketing and grooming a colt during its first winter so far as the blanket is concerned (provided the stable is reasonably warm) is a matter of indifference. The only use of a blanket would be to keep the coat shorter and sleeker and the animal more in show condition than would otherwise be the case. The colt

stand at night are well ventilated and barring accidents you need have no fear of your colts not coming out in first-class condition in the spring.—Dr. H. G. Reed, Halton Co., Ont.

Experience in Wintering Ewes

J. H. Brown, Grey Co., Ont.

Warm and expensive buildings for wintering breeding ewes are not only unnecessary, but are positively injurious to the health and constitution of the stock. Dryness and good ventilation



No. 1.—Some Remarkable Results Have Been Secured from Commercial Fertilizers on Muck Soils in Lanark Co., Ont.

will do as well and be just as vigorous and thrifty without the blanket as with it.

SHALL WE GROOM THE COLT

The matter of grooming is of more importance. Any animal is the better for being groomed daily. Grooming keeps the skin more active and healthy and tends towards the general health of the animal. And yet after all there are not many colts that are groomed and they seem to get along all right without it; but there is no doubt that any person who is willing to take the time and trouble to do it is doing a good thing for his animal.

The most important feature in wintering colts is to see that they get plenty of suitable food and regular exercise. All the well-cured clover hay that they will eat is necessary. Clover is much better than timothy because it contains far more of the ingredients necessary for tissue building than does timothy, besides being more easily digested. Oats with a little bran added to each feed is the best grain ration. A well grown colt should have a quart of oats three times a day with a little bran added as an extra each meal.

GIVE EXERCISE

I believe there is no point in which the average colt is so much neglected during the winter months as in the matter of exercise. A young horse cannot properly develop without it. Exercise is necessary for the building up of a robust vigorous frame and unless a colt gets it regularly he is not given a fair chance to do his best. In our cold country, the winters are long and the opportunities for exercise too often very limited. Colts should be turned out every day in a large paddock for several hours where they could run about and develop their systems in nature's own way. No matter how cold or stormy the day, turn them out. They will enjoy the outing and be all the better for it. The only exception as to the weather will be in the case of rain; during a cold rain in the winter a colt might better be in the barn.

The trees should be kept cut off to a natural shortness when a tendency to overgrowth is noticed. Stand the colt on a plank floor and with a chisel and mallet cut the toes to a natural length. Where colts are running in a large paddock on the frozen ground this condition is not at all likely to develop as the friction of the hard ground will wear off the foot as fast as it grows.

See to it further that the stables in which colts

are the main requisites in the first-class sheep barn. The sheep barn which we have at present has given us excellent satisfaction; it cost very little. It accommodates 20 ewes and is 12 by 27 feet with an A-shaped roof, the loft of which is used for straw. The north and west sides are double boarded with building paper between to keep out winds.

For feeding we have an elevated rack along one side which the ewes can reach quite readily. Grain is fed in shallow, flat troughs. As we feed quite a large quantity of turnips no special provision is made for watering. They can get water in a trough in the yard at almost any time; however the sheep are free to come in and out as they like all through the winter.



No. 2.—This Oat Crop Grew on the Same Kind of Soil and in the Same Season as the Oat Crop Illustrated in No. 1. There are 9,000 acres of swamp and slash land in Lanark Co., Ont. Much of this has been cleared at great expense, and after being cleared proved to be almost useless for crop production. The County Representative, E. S. Hamer, B.S.A., of the Ontario Department of Agriculture, has undertaken experiments with commercial fertilizers on these muck soils and has secured some very interesting results. The only difference between the soils that grew the crops as shown in cuts Nos. 1 and 2 was that No. 2 was fertilized with muriate of potash, 135 lbs., and superphosphate, 360 pounds to the acre. Fuller information is given in the adjoining article.

In addition to all the clover hay which they will eat and a good feed of pulped turnips once a day, we plan to feed one-half pound of grain a day to each ewe. This grain consists of a mixture of crushed oats and bran or middlings. No corn is fed to the breeding stock as it tends to make them too fat. Fed in this way, in cool, dry quarters, the ewes are in the very best of health and just in proper condition to give birth to good, strong lambs.

Fertilizers Benefit Muck Soils

One of the problems confronting many farmers in Lanark Co., Ont., is how to make swamp or muck soil, of which they have considerable, productive. There is said to be some 90,000 acres of swamp and slash land in the County. Much of this land has been brought under cultivation by municipal drains and these who benefited thereby have of course been taxed accordingly. Notwithstanding the fact that a considerable area of this land has been brought under cultivation, much of it is given over to the growth of golden-rod and red top. The land proved to be non-productive with ordinary grain crops.

In order to discover some means of making these soils productive, R. S. Hamer, B.S.A., the Lanark county representative of the Ontario Department of Agriculture, has, during the past two years, undertaken experiments, right out on these non-productive soils, with commercial fertilizers. He has secured some very interesting and remarkable results as may be seen from the photos reproduced on this page. The crops shown are Early Daubeney oats. Both plots were sown on June 3rd and photographed September 3rd. Both plots are on Mr. P. S. McLaren's farm, on the same kind of soil and adjoining each other. The plot shown in cut No. 1 was not fertilized. The plot as shown in cut No. 2 was fertilized with muriate of potash, 120 pounds, and superphosphate, 360 pounds to the acre. An editor of Farm and Dairy who was in Lanark County recently, learned that the increased yield on the fertilized plot paid for the fertilizer the first year. In experiments carried over into the second year, it figured out a profit from \$1.00 to \$5.00 an acre, over and above the cost of the commercial fertilizer.

Just how important these experiments are to those farmers of the County who have muck soils, may be learned from the fact that on one farm over 80 acres of this kind of soil some years ago were cleared and ditched at a cost somewhere between \$10 and \$50 an acre. After being brought under cultivation it grew a few good crops and then became useless. Much of this cleared swamp land has not given a profit from cultivation in recent years and has lately been growing golden-

rod and red top. On some of this soil, it is a difficult proposition to grow any kind of crop owing to the character of the subsoil, it being sandy. On such soils it is not possible to grow good profitable crops even with the aid of fertilizers.

Any farm where clover can be raised can double and treble its returns from corn.—J. D. Truesdell, Leeds Co., Ont.