

market. Vast areas of land in Western Canada have yet to be brought under cultivation, and work horses are one of the first needs of the settlers. This will prove an outlet for the average class of horses, while our growing cities and the export trade will afford a sure market for the best.

Cost of Raising Colt.

Editor "The Farmer's Advocate":

The cost of raising colts is a problem which may well interest stockmen and farmers in general. There are few, if any, farmers within twenty miles of a city who do not at some time engage in the business.

It may be difficult, or impossible, to give a definite idea as to cost, as conditions and localities differ so widely; that which would suit one farm might not suit another. Stock-raising is not generally considered profitable near a city, where produce of farm can be marketed, and equivalent in manure returned to farm, so will suppose farm to be not less than twenty or thirty miles from city.

In calculating the cost of raising a colt, will suppose the farm to contain 150 acres, of light clay loam, worth, say, \$50 per acre. One acre of such land should be sufficient to pasture a two or three year old colt, if in a high state of cultivation, with favorable weather conditions; but weather conditions are not always favorable, either summer or winter. Probably two acres would be a fair average needed, and even with that amount it may be sometimes necessary to supplement it in the month of August, when the grass becomes dry.

Heavy-draft horses are usually looked upon as the most profitable for farmers to raise, as they are easier to handle, and there are fewer misfits, and they also find a readier market. In Canada, Clydesdales predominate, but Shires and Percherons are good horses. Will endeavor to show the average cost of raising a colt of the ordinary heavy-draft class, up to three years of age.

FIRST YEAR'S COST.

Value of dam at four years, \$200.00.	
Service fee, \$10, and interest on same and value of dam for six months, at 5%.....	\$ 15.25
Food for dam, say 3 weeks before grass, 3 lbs. bran and 10 lbs. oats per day, at 1½c. per lbs.	3.42
Hay, 13 lbs. per day, at \$10 per ton.....	1.36
Two acres of pasture for mare and foal..	5.00
Supplement, month of August, cut grass, oats and vetches, or silage	5.00
Aftermath, say 3 acres	5.00
Winter—Clover hay, 7 lbs. per day, six months, at \$10 per ton	6.30
Bran, 1 lb., 5 lbs. oats per day, 1½ cents per lb.	13.50
Carrots, 3 lbs. per day, boiled, mixed with bran, at 20 cents per bushel ..	1.80
One ton cut straw for litter	4.00
Total, first year	\$ 60.63

SECOND YEAR'S COST.

Interest on service fee	\$.50
One acre of pasture	2.50
Supplement, month of August, cut grass or oats and vetches	2.00
Aftermath, say 2 acres	3.32
Winter—Nine lbs. good clover hay per day, at \$10 per ton	8.10
Oats, 8 lbs., bran, 2 lbs., per day, at 1½ cents per lb.	22.50
Carrots, 5 lbs. per day, at 20c. per bush.	3.00
Cut straw for litter	5.00
Total second year	\$ 46.92

THIRD YEAR'S COST.

Interest on service fee	\$.50
Pasture, 2 acres	5.00
Supplement to pasture, August, cut grass or oats and vetches	5.00
Aftermath, say 3 acres	5.00
Winter—Hay, 14 lbs. per day, at \$10 per ton; 10 lbs. oats, at 1½c. per lb.....	35.00
Carrots or other roots, 6 lbs. per day.....	3.60
Two pounds bran per day, 1½c. per lb.....	4.50
Cut straw for litter	5.00
Total third year	\$ 63.60
Second year	46.92
First year	60.63
Annual depreciation of mare	10.00
Mortality of foals	5.00
Breaking colt	10.00
Total at three years	\$196.15

In estimating the cost of raising colt, there are many other foods grown on the farm which may be fed, as well as those mentioned, perhaps with economy, as seasons differ. The foods, as given, are valued at a price which should allow a profit

to the farmer producing them, so that the farmer has not only the colt to look to for remuneration. Have allowed \$10 for annual depreciation of mare, as mare should be worth, at 12 or 13 years of age, or at the end of her breeding career, \$100 or \$120, if well taken care of, and should be good for four or five years in city or lumber camp. In my opinion, it is wise to breed the mare at four years of age. If the mare is strong, robust, and well developed, it may be advisable to breed her at three years, as it gives an opportunity to ascertain if she is going to be good at the stud while she is young. If not a success in two or three years, she should be turned off as a worker, when she is at her highest market value. Although mares differ as to the number of foals they produce, yet six or seven is a fair average. Unless the mare is good as a breeder, I do not think it wise to keep her after 12 or 13 years of age, as she depreciates more rapidly after that age, and, if her feet are good, may be very useful for city work for four or five years.

Have allowed \$10 for breaking, and \$5 for mortality up to two weeks of age. According to my experience, there is a loss of one foal in five up to that age, after which the mortality is very low. I have not allowed anything for veterinary expenses, though I believe these should be considered, as sometimes they are highly necessary, though I have rarely had occasion for such services. Have considered manure sufficient to cover cost of attendance. Have allowed \$10 for service

on the farm, the Standard-bred and the racer are probably not profitable to the ordinary farmer, as they do not always meet with ready sale, and some of them are too light to work, while others do not want to work if they could.

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LIVE STOCK.

Founding a Flock.

If one has had little or no experience in keeping sheep, it will be well to start with a few, and learn from experience, as well as from observation and reading, how to care for them. For, while no class of farm stock requires less labor in their care, or cost less for their keeping, perhaps no class is more subject to ailment from overfeeding, or drop out of business so quickly from this cause. For this, and other reasons not necessary to mention here, the novice will do well to start with not more than a dozen ewes, and those not expensive ones. Healthy, young grade ewes may be bought at a moderate price, and the best time in the year to secure them is, as a rule, in September or October, when the lambs have been weaned, and the ewes are in improved condition; or, if yearlings are preferred, that have not had lambs, they will also be in good condition. The same season of the year is also the best for the

selection of a ram to breed them to. The ewes may be grades of the breed the buyer fancies most, or which is best suited to the farm or the markets, and the ram should be a pure-bred one of the same breed, selected for trueness to the best type of the breed, a medium-sized animal for his age, with a wide forehead and nostrils; a short, thick neck; full heartgirth; a strong back; short, straight legs and pasterns, and a fine class of lustrous wool, of uniform quality all over. For ten to fifteen ewes, a strong and vigorous ram lamb will answer very well, and may be bought for about \$25. Good grade ewes may not cost more than \$10 each, and may possibly be secured for less. For more than twenty ewes, an older ram is preferable, and an aged ram that has proved a good breeder may be had at a bargain price from a breeder who has used him two or three seasons, and is making a change, and it may prove a good investment to the buyer. As a rule, it is

not wisdom to buy ewes older than three years, though we have known cases of aged pure-bred ewes, secured at butcher's price, proving the foundation of a good flock, at little cost. The ram should be kept separate from the ewes in the fall, until the date at which it is desired to breed them. It is good practice to keep with him for company an old ewe or two, intended for sale to the butcher, or a few ram lambs or wethers, if such are on hand. If the ewes are grades, and the object be to sell the male portion of the produce to the drover or butcher, there is economy in having the lambs come in April or May, as the ewes can be carried through the winter at less expense for feeding than if the lambing season is earlier, since they must have some grain for best results from that time until grass comes. The gestation period in ewes is five months, and, to have lambs come in April, the mating should take place in November. If the object be to have lambs in January or February, for show purposes or the early butcher's market for spring lamb, the mating should be in September or early in October, in which case warm winter quarters and better feeding of the ewes will be necessary. Good profits are made by farmers living within easy



Bute Baron (imp.) (11642).

Clydesdale stallion. Sire Sir Everard, the sire of Baron's Pride. Included in dispersion sale of stud of James J. Hales, Chatham, Ont., Sept. 1st, as advertised. (See page 1305.)

fee, because it is the fee generally charged, but it would be more profitable to use a \$20 sire, provided he is worth the money. Perhaps the best way to be sure of his value is to look up his pedigree and the quality of his stock. Have estimated the cost of raising colt at \$196.15; and if the mare has been well mated, colt should be worth \$50 more than dam. This would leave a net profit of a little over \$50, which is none too much, as there is a possibility of it being less, but I have produced horses under similar conditions worth \$375, and this is by no means the limit.

Heavy-draft horses require more nourishment than the smaller breeds, as weight is one of the great essentials for a drafter, and they should be fed in such a manner as to increase weight as much as possible, consistent with a good sound constitution. Very often, colts do not get enough of exercise.

The Hackney is a very good breed, and makes a very good general-purpose horse, and, on farms where land is light, may be very profitably raised instead of the heavy breeds. But, should they be blemished or unsound, their value will be much more impaired than will that of one of the heavy-draft breeds. Although a driver may be necessary