

horse will almost live on oats. Plenty of water at all times is necessary. This class of horses can be handled for \$25.00 per head. Heavy horses would cost \$40, or perhaps \$50, for fleshing. It requires more for feed, and something extra is needed for trouble and risk, as life is uncertain amongst animals.

"Now, as to finding the horse you want. Some day when you are driving along the road you will meet a horse that you consider would suit. You may not know the driver, but stop him, and tell him you like his horse. It will not make him vexed. Find out where he lives, take down the number of his lot and the township, and then when you want a horse you have some idea where to go."

RE PERCHERON REGISTRATION.

Editor "The Farmer's Advocate":

In a recent issue of your paper there appeared an article entitled, "Canadian Percheron Horse-breeders' Association," written by Mr. F. R. Pike, of Pekisko, Alta., Secretary of the Canadian Percheron Horse-breeders' Association, advising Canadian owners and breeders of Percherons to record their horses in the Canadian Percheron Studbook before the close of the year. Mr. Pike points out that, to complete pedigrees, the ancestors of all Canadian and American bred horses must be recorded back to and including the imported ones. Up to the present time, and until January 1st, 1909, the expense of recording these ancestors is paid by the National Record Committee out of a grant made by the Department of Agriculture to assist new associations in the process of organization. It is expected that, after December 31st, 1908, the Canadian Percheron Association will be called on by the Record Committee to contribute their proportionate share of the cost of conducting the National Record Office, therefore, it will be seen that owners and breeders applying for registration will have to pay the cost of recording ancestors, in addition to the usual registration fee. The object of this communication is to again call attention to Mr. Pike's letter, and to state that Mr. Pike omitted to mention that all applications for the registration of pedigrees must be forwarded, with fees, to the Canadian National Records, Ottawa.

There is another matter which must not be overlooked. While all horses on record in the Percheron Studbook de France or the Percheron Studbook of America are eligible for the Canadian Book, there are horses in Canada recorded in other books which may or may not be eligible. It would be well for those intending to purchase or use Percherons to demand production of certificate of registration in the Canadian Percheron Studbook.

ACCOUNTANT,

National Live-stock Records, Ottawa.

SHOW-RING PRACTICES.

A correspondent to the English Live-stock Journal has the following pertinent remarks regarding objectionable usages and practices in the show-ring:

Looking back at past shows, one is struck by the ever-increasing abuse of sawdust, covering the backs of Shire horses with sawdust, or, to be more correct, paper dust. How often at the ring-side is the question asked, "Why is it used?" and never an intelligent reply! Some folk answer, "Oh! it catches the judge's eye." Possibly it does, much in the same way as it catches the onlookers' eyes when the horses are trotting past, or if one happens to be on the leesside on a windy day. Then one exhibitor will say, "Others do it, so we must." This, indeed, is unanswerable, because of its absurdity. Next we hear, "It makes them look bigger." That being so, it is only one step on to add some binding material to the dust; call in the aid of an expert modeller, who, with a trowel and a few other tools will be able to make some noble specimens out of frameworks.

These are some reasons given for the coating of dust, but I have yet to discover the reason, if any exists, for those weird stripes and tufts of soap and dust which are perpetrated on the bodies and limbs of the unfortunate quadrupeds. Are they intended for decorations? If so, then prehistoric man had a better art training. There is not another breed of horses shown that it is thought necessary to disfigure in this way. Why, then, should Shires need to be hidden under this papier-mache covering?

In the early days of the Shire Show it was practically restricted to yearlings and two-year-olds, and only appeared over their loins. The reason given—viz., the prevention of chills—was altogether acceptable, considering the bleak weather we get sometimes in February; but now it is used on all ages and in all weathers, and many are really encased in it from head to foot. A more absurd sight to a lover of horses than a large class of Shires as now shown would be difficult to imagine.

Surely the time has come for some exhibitor to lead the way by exhibiting his horses as nature made them; it would be more pleasing to the eye and less dangerous to that organ.

PROFIT IN RAISING COLTS.

Many farmers who take special pride and delight in handling horses frequently make considerable profit from purchasing common horses and fitting them for buyers who want specially-fitted animals. Particularly in the winter months is such practice possible. Others realize that money can be made from judicious selection of dam and sire, and strict care in rearing the colt to a marketable age.

"Experience has taught me," writes Matthew Mulholland, of Prince Edward Co., "to choose a good mare and a horse that is best adapted for farm work, and then to study how to prevent and to cure disease in mare and colt, until the colt is full-grown. Then I sell to the first man that offers a fair price. It is well to sell before the horse becomes too expensive to keep, before there are too many of them on the farm. Horses soon depreciate in value, and they also sometimes eat more than they are worth. Seven or eight horses are poor property when hay is high in price."

"I have learned how to cure many diseases in horses by reading your valuable paper, 'The Farmer's Advocate.' I find that when a disease has fully set in, it takes about three weeks for the disease to run its course, and it is best not to be too fast in giving medicine after the first two or three days; then give the medicine in some mucilaginous substance, to carry it, so that it will do no injury to the animal. Horses should be kept out of heavy rainstorms. A horse that has been unwell should never get cold water on a cold morning, as it may cause stricture and chills, or collapse."

LIVE STOCK.

EARLY WINTER CARE OF STOCK

Many stockmen practice false economy in not giving farm animals sufficient food of the proper kind and requisite care during late fall and early winter. None should forget that it is much easier to keep a beast in good condition than it is to bring a run-down animal back to normal. On farms where stabling capacity is limited, and where feeding facilities are not up-to-date, sometimes there is a tendency to neglect the stock for the first few days, or perhaps weeks, after winter sets in. Some excuse themselves on the ground that they did not anticipate wintry weather so early in the season. Others aver that they must save the food supply, because it will be more urgently needed before spring opens.

No progressive farmer is in such position as will make it necessary to give either of these answers. The progressive farmer has learned from experience that the general condition of his stock from November until June depends largely on the condition in which the animals are in November, and the treatment accorded them until January. Shelter from the first storms and extra precautions in feeding until they become accustomed to dry stable feeding avoids what in too many cases proves to be a chill, and a setback that weeks of special feeding later on cannot overcome. Particularly is this the case with young stock, or those animals that are not strong and rugged. In most cases milch cows receive due attention. The farmer has too often realized the serious effects of the first storm in a greatly diminished flow of milk. This decreased supply is a true warning that the animals demanded shelter and extra food. With those animals that are not giving milk the effects were also serious, but not so evident to any except those who know their stock.

SILAGE FOR HOGS.

A Michigan farmer claims that silage can be used to advantage to take the place of grass in the fall to carry over lightweight hogs that are rushed to market in large numbers when a dry season compels hog-men to sell animals that are not of a marketable size or condition. The pigs are said to thrive and make cheap gains, and be in condition to respond to liberal grain feeding later on, when prices have regained a normal figure.

A RELIABLE "DOCTOR BOOK."

"I have never had a sick animal but what I could diagnose the disease by studying 'The Farmer's Advocate.' I have taken your paper for several years, and it always is the most welcome paper that comes into the house."—[Matthew Mulholland, Prince Edward Co., Ont.]

WEANING PIGS.

By the time pigs are three or four weeks old, they will have learned to eat soft foods, and the more they can be encouraged to eat, the better. They should be given access to a pen adjoining the sow, if it is possible to so arrange it, and fed skim milk and shorts in a small trough of their own. At first, the quantity of shorts fed should be small, for a sucking pig's stomach is not adapted to the digestion of solid food. The organs that secrete the juices which bring about the digestion of foods other than milk are not at this age sufficiently developed in function to manage the digestion of grain foods in any quantity. But, with use, they gradually reach that stage where ordinary foodstuff can be handled. In pigs, this condition is reached at the age of from six to eight weeks. They are then ready to wean.

Sucking pigs are the better for getting at food as early in life as possible for another reason. They save the sow, as well as acquiring the eating habit. A sow with a fair-sized litter has to stand a pretty heavy strain on her milk-making resources by the time the pigs have reached the age of a month or so, and, unless the youngsters' rations are supplemented from some other source than her own milk supply, she is likely to be pulled down more than is good for her before the litter can be weaned. It is not so good for the pigs, either, since their food demands are constantly increasing with age, and if the dam cannot supply their needs, they are likely to be retarded at the age when, for the food consumed, they should be gaining most rapidly. Then, later, when weaned, the sudden and complete change from milk to other food is liable to give them a more or less decided setback.

In weaning pigs, it is a good plan, sometimes, to let them continue running with the sow, putting her on rather slim rations, and giving the youngsters access by a small creep from her lot into another pen, where they may be fed. The pigs will thus be changed from the dam's milk to the next diet gradually, while the decrease in the sow's rations causes a decrease in milk secretion in her glands. The result is that both dam and pigs are separated without either of them worrying very much.

CARE OF THE BOAR.

While a boar is usually able to give service when five or six months old, he should not be required to do so before he is eight months of age, and should be used on but few sows even then, says a writer in an English exchange. The amount of service that he may do will depend upon his development and condition. Careful watch should be kept to see that he is not losing in flesh on account of services performed. Young boars should never serve more than one sow a day, nor should they be expected to do that much for many days in succession. Mature boars may serve two in the day, and keep on that rate for a considerable length of time, if conditions are in every way favorable.

To insure the boar keeping in good service condition, he should have plenty of exercise. To permit this, a good roomy pen or large yard must be provided. In summer, he should have at least a small pasture wherein to roam and root at will. Not infrequently, returns of sows to service are due to legarthic condition of the boar, rather than to sterility of sows. Plenty of exercise, with the right kind of food, will almost entirely overcome this condition. The boar should be fed sufficient food to keep him growing rapidly, and in good flesh, in any case. He should not, however, be fed such foods as are likely to make him fat, but rather flesh-and-bone-forming foods.

COMMISSION AND TRANSPORTATION INTEREST IN STORE-CATTLE TRADE.

Editor "The Farmer's Advocate":

I want to congratulate you upon your article re shipment of feeding steers to the Old Country. You express my entire sentiment. If our steers are worthy of winter feeding, then the man with the hoe, working amongst his roots, must be recognized.

The men who clamor for the open market are men in connection with railway companies or stock-yards. The worst blow Canada could get would be the specimens of feeding cattle we would ship—the refuse of our feeders. But what care they? The commissions come regularly, also railway and steamship freight; and the poor farmer, who looks for this immense benefit, is under four or five interests, each looking for toll. Middlesex Co., Ont. RICHARD GIBSON.