

start it got
fight against
all a "miracle

ook the time
and to hoe
he has been
elve feet in
ates a strong
e everywhere
beauty and
rity as well.
g if we were
extravagant
y was over-
dealers were
ded for seed,
urposes. It
it seems to
nd on which
another crop
ps and make
ble weather.
second week
whole thing
een the corn
of the weeds.
many of us,
ing a balky
of becoming
warded and
ne pay is in

although no
ated. When
e natives, or
e plant, and
where it has
especially in
great Britain
nd damp to
t where they
a surprising-
d for making
ve been used
making, as
m the stalk
of yarn, said
even vinegar
Mexico the
human food
as we can

ng of chairs,
ople, and in
nufacture of
they have

tern States
and on the
e title. The
s to between
oes to prove
It is their
that is grown

of using corn
es the height
are not many
It were more
else. At
into air-tight
a top of the
out the air.
d that if the
of the corn
the air and,
very green,
t pretty well
s well as the
the experts
t was cut in
e food value
ow that corn
badly frozen
is added as

etimes more
ly the case.
four men to
into the silo.
e well mixed
only. Leaves
best results.
ng purposes,
can generally
at of the en-
ast up to the
and packing
y hard to do
a week or so
ng round on
at is near the
is no better
d preserving
ble.

the first con-
o accomplish
rmer and his
ould be kept
ddling a crop
l welfare as

THE HORSE.

Overdraw Checks on Road Horses.

The use and abuse of overdraw check reins on horses are questions that have been discussed for many years. Like other debatable questions, extreme views are taken on both sides. Many people condemn them under any and all conditions; not condemn the overdraw only, but checks of any nature. In a large percentage of cases the condemnation is expressed by those who have had little or no experience in driving horses; often by those who never owned a horse, hence are not qualified to intelligently discuss the matter, but have heard some faddist say that "the use of an overdraw is cruel," or they may occasionally have noticed a horse whose head was so tightly drawn up by an overdraw as to cause well marked discomfort. On the other hand, a few owners and drivers of horses, probably having noticed that the heads of most horses racing in harness are tightly checked, usually by overdraws of some pattern, and probably knowing or having heard that most horses can go faster when driven that way, have decided that it is wise to check their horses until their heads are high and their noses protruded, for ordinary road work. Those who take the first stand claim that the use of a check of any nature is cruel, and, if they had the power, would legislate so that the use of a check on a horse would become a punishable offence. These, we claim, are extremists; they do not give the subject intelligent consideration; they speak neither from experience nor common sense. At the same time we cannot but deplore the too frequent abuse of the check rein. The principal reasons why overdraws are used principally on the road horse are (1) It is good form; (2) he is a light harness horse and the overdraw is less bulky than those of other kinds; (3) it is the kind of check usually driven on race horses, and the road horse being of the same breed or class, it is the kind usually adopted. The intelligent and humane use of the overdraw causes no more discomfort to the horse than that of other patterns; but the abuse of a check of any pattern—that is when the horse's head is held up too high for a considerable length of time—without doubt causes extreme discomfort, and we might say, agony.

There are different manners of using the overdraw. Some attach it to the driving bit. This we consider is not good practice, as the check acts directly upon the guiding bit. Others attach to a small bit, especially designed for the purpose, which plan we consider better as the driving bit is not interfered with; while others attach it to a short, soft strap with a ring at each end. This is called a jaw-strap and is placed under the lower jaw, hence has no direct action upon the mouth. This latter plan we think the best. Many claim that no check whatever should be used for ordinary driving; that the horse should have the free use of his head; that he is more comfortable under these conditions, and that he will not tire so soon. These arguments have considerable weight in respect to the average horse, but those using them have probably had little actual experience in driving horses of different dispositions or manners. The man or woman who does considerable driving under conditions that necessitate allowing his horse to stand frequently, either tied or untied, will have discovered that if he be unchecked he is continuously getting into trouble by getting the reins under the point of the shaft, or, in summer-time, while nibbling grass, getting his feet upon the reins, etc., either of which causes the average horse to rush backwards, in many cases breaking something or injuring somebody, and in many cases running away; while if he wore a moderately tight check rein, not sufficiently tight to cause discomfort, but tight enough to cause him to attend to his business it would be much safer and save the driver not only anxiety but considerable trouble and worry in getting out of his rig to adjust the reins, etc., and in many cases avoid more or less serious accidents. Then again, there are many horses which become so dull and careless if driven without a check, that they hang their heads and look mean unless constantly kept to attention by either word or whip. With the average horseman or horsewoman, appearances count for a good deal, and we think he or she is justified in driving with a moderately tight check when circumstances demand it, even though the loafing inclination of his horse be interfered with. There are horses whose manners and general tendencies are so bad, through either want of proper education or because of congenital cussedness, that it is not safe to drive them unless they are tightly checked. No person but those who have had experience with this kind of a horse can appreciate how much more easily he is controlled when tightly checked than when his head is at liberty. Under such circumstances we are not justified in considering the safety of the drivers and others in the conveyance of more importance than the comfort of an ill-mannered horse? Even an extremist would hardly dare to refuse the use of a tight check rein or other device to ensure reasonable safety in such cases.

While on general principles we think the side check more comfortable, we claim that the intelligent and humane use of either quite justifiable and in most cases advisable. We do not object to tight checking for racing purposes. Most horses go faster when so rigged, but the duration of this rigging is for only a few minutes at a time. But, on the other hand, we consider that the tight checking of a good-mannered horse for ordinary driving, when he is often in harness for hours at a time, causes such agony that no man is justified in subjecting him to it, but we also claim that the driver of a vicious horse is justified in using any appliance that is necessary to ensure reasonable safety.

WHIT.



One of the Old Brigade.

William Spraggett, of Long Itchington, Warwickshire, England, who, although 91 years old, has taken the place of a younger shepherd, only missing two days during the last winter and spring.

LIVE STOCK.

Keep a breeding record of all females.

The ram should be fed a little grain during the fall.

Have the ewes in a gaining condition in the mating season.

Weeds may be turned into cash through the medium of sheep.

More stock means more manure with which to build up the soil to grow larger crops to feed more stock.

The herd sire that receives regular exercise is usually more prepotent than the one closely confined to a pen.

Do not have the ram too fat during the breeding season if a big crop of lambs is wanted next spring. However, he must be in a thrifty condition.

Place the sow in the farrowing pen a few days previous to farrowing, in order that she may become accustomed to her new quarters before she has a litter to look after.

A stream cannot of itself rise higher than its source, neither can stock of high quality be secured from sire and dam of inferior type and conformation. Look well to the quality of breeding stock used.

If a handful of clover hay and a box containing a little grain is placed in the calf pen the calves will start to eat at an early age. These feeds along with milk keep the calf in a thrifty, growing condition.

Our mutton and beef supply must largely come from the one or two-hundred-acre farms. The ranches are being divided up into small holdings. Is your farm carrying the number of sheep and cattle it is capable of?

The sow that has been running on pasture all summer should be fed green feed when confined to the farrowing pen. A sudden change in the ration is liable to lead to digestive troubles and possibly to loss of both sow and litter.

Weaning the Lamb.

By this time many lambs are weaned but there are flocks where the lambs still run with the ewes and are keeping them from gaining in flesh in preparation for the breeding season. When the pastures become hard and dry the lambs are better weaned and put on a piece of fresh succulent clover or rape. Unless care is exercised the lamb's growth will be checked at weaning time. The first few days after weaning is a critical time with the lamb, especially if it has not been grain fed during the summer. If the lamb commences to fail it becomes a subject for attacks of parasites which sap its life. When a lamb is three-and-a-half to four months old it might advisedly be weaned and put on fresh forage. The ewes will keep in fair condition on the drying pastures and there will be less danger of udder trouble than if they were on luxuriant pasture.

It is a good plan to teach a lamb to eat grain before it is weaned, in fact, some shepherds grain the lambs from the time they are a couple of weeks old and claim that it pays. Experiments as given in Henry's Feeds and Feeding show that lambs grain fed from birth as a supplement to the ewe's milk attained a given weight from 4 to 7 weeks sooner than those fed no grain before weaning and required about the same amount of grain for the same increase in weight. One advantage is that the lambs are ready for market at any time so that the owner may take advantage of any fluctuations in the market.

Whether the lamb is to be kept for breeding purposes or to be butchered in the fall it should not be allowed to lose flesh at any time. It is more expensive to replace flesh than to hold it; consequently lambs should have the run of good clover or rape from the time they are weaned. If green feed is short whole oats and bran may be fed. Cabbage and kale are other crops grown for the flock. About one-half pound of grain per head daily is liberal feeding and the custom is to feed considerably less.

When the lamb is weaned the ewe's udder should be watched for a few days. There is danger of complications setting in if the ewe is a heavy milker, and if attention is not given a portion of the udder may be rendered useless. Weaning the lambs gradually will overcome the trouble. Where this is not practical the ewe should be milked a time or two.

The thin ewes at weaning time are usually the best milkers, therefore they are the ones to retain for breeding purposes. The fat ewes give evidence that they have been looking after themselves in place of feeding their progeny. Ewes of this character are not the most profitable to keep and any showing excessive fat after raising a lamb might well be culled out and sent to the butcher.

Community Breeding Centres.

While the percentage of grade sires in service is gradually lessening, there is reason to believe that the number is yet far too great for the good of the country. The quality of stock raised will be no better than that of its sire and dam, yet in spite of this fact the mediocre female is still retained on many farms and the services of an inferior sire is used. How can improvement come in herds where this practice is followed? It simply doesn't come, and the owners continue to market their home-grown grains and roughage on a second or third-grade market, when if systematic culling of females had been practiced during the past decade and nothing but a high-quality sire had been used the herd would undoubtedly have graded high and would now be returning the highest market value for feeds consumed. There is no getting away from the fact that like tends to produce like, and that so long as inferior breeding stock is used the herd will be inferior.

On enquiring of several farmers as to the reason for their using a sire that they knew to be of poor type and conformation, we learned that the rate of service fee or the price of a really good animal was greater than they felt they could afford to pay. They considered the present in place of planning for the future. There may be many who are not in a position to pay cash for the quality of herd headers they would like to secure, and credit is not always as easy to secure as it should be when the purchase of good breeding stock is concerned.

One means of overcoming this difficulty or of securing an animal of merit is for a number of stockmen to club together in the purchase of one. In this way the expense does not come heavy on any one person, yet each member may in this way have the use of the best blood of the breed. In many centres horse breeding clubs have been organized and in the majority of cases have worked to the benefit of each member. Why not co-operation in the purchase of a bull?

In the first place it would be necessary that there be several in the one neighborhood breeding the one class of animals and all desirous of improving their stock. There has been a tendency in some sections for every known breed to get a foot-hold in the district, and then as one stockman becomes dissatisfied with results it is not difficult for him to mate his females with a bull of another breed. It would be much better for every stockman in a certain section to go in for one class of cattle. It would be to their advantage in breeding and marketing. For instance, patrons of York, Wellington and Ontario Counties are noted the Dominion over for the high-class Shorthorns and Clydesdales produced. Stockmen looking for breeding stock naturally go to these centres, knowing that if one breeder's stock does not come up to their ideal that there are other herds near by. They have a chance to select what they want. We believe there are many young men to-day who would like to go into the pure-bred stock business, but hesitate on the paying out of the price they would have to pay