

# THE FARMER'S ADVOCATE

AND HOME MAGAZINE.

THE LEADING AGRICULTURAL JOURNAL IN  
THE DOMINION.

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Dr. J. A. Gilruth, the chief veterinary officer of New Zealand, recently visited Great Britain to engage inspectors of meat and dairy herds for that colony, where legislation in respect to meat inspection is equally as progressive as it is in social reform. New Zealand believes that it is just as important to look after the quality of food products as of alcoholic beverages. There every town of 2,000 people has a public abattoir, at which all slaughtering of animals for meat is done, and where all such are inspected, whether for home use or export. The public abattoir is bound to come, and thus do away with, in the towns at least, of that summer-time nuisance, the slaughter house. To entrust such a valuable and important branch of the public service as meat inspection to any but highly-trained men would be utterly folly. A possible way of improvement in veterinary instruction would be to add a course to the existing courses in the College of Agriculture at Guelph. The requirements for the veterinary degree should be just as high as for the degree in agriculture, namely, four years of study, and a certain standing in English. The live stock is there, the equipment for good work in microscopy and bacteriology, mycology and chemistry is also available. We submit that such a course would be a guarantee to the stockmen of the country that the graduates of such a course would be up-to-date, know something about disease in animals other than the horse, and be scientists in place of empirics. Another way out of the difficulty would be for those responsible for the present plan of veterinary education to bring it up to modern requirements, both as regards preliminary qualification of students, equipment of institution, staff and course of study. It is passing strange that the obvious necessities of the case have not ere this been discerned and steps taken to bring about the reform so urgently required, and for want of which the profession suffers.

## STOCK.

### The View of a Pork Packer.

BY W. J. FALCONER, GENERAL MANAGER, PALMERSTON PORK PACKING CO.

In every carload of bacon we send to the Old Country there is a difference of from 6 to 8 shillings per 112 pounds in the price of the best bacon in that carload and the poorest. We wish to offer you a few suggestions and hints, to reduce that loss to the lowest point.

In the first place, raise the right kind of hog. We prefer the Tamworth and the Yorkshire. We want a lengthy hog, with deep sides, small head, and narrow across the shoulders. A hog's head is worth say 2 cents per pound, and if more than an average proportion of the hog is head, packers can't very well pay you from 6 to 7 cents, live weight, for your hogs. But if you give us hogs with long, deep sides, small shoulders, and good long hams, you give us the ideal hog, and one we can make most money out of.

In the second place, great care should be taken in feeding hogs and caring for them. Hogs should be kept scrupulously clean and dry, and have plenty of exercise. They should be fed regularly, and not given too much at a time. Farmers should give their hogs a variety of foods, and should give them milk at least once every day. Shorts, peas, oats and barley are the best foods for finishing hogs on. A little corn mixed with the other grains will not hurt, but hogs must not be fed corn exclusively. Clover in summer and a few roots in winter are good to keep the hogs healthy. It is also a good plan to throw a fresh sod into a pen of say half a dozen hogs once or twice a week in winter, while many successful hog-raisers feed sulphur and charcoal occasionally all the year round.

Hogs should be marketed when they weigh from 160 to 200 pounds, and should not be fat. They should reach this weight when they are from 6 to 7 months old. No matter what the price is, farmers should sell their hogs when they are ripe, and should endeavor to market a batch of pigs every month in the year. By so doing farmers will get the high price as well as the low price, and will have a good average price for the year.

Another point we want to particularly emphasize is that farmers and drovers should on no account strike or poke a hog they are taking to market. Anybody with a switch can knock fifty dollars off the value of a carload of hogs in five minutes. Let us repeat, never hit a hog you are taking to market, but endeavor to handle them as quietly as possible. Don't get excited yourself, and on any account do not get your hogs excited, and do not run them.

If farmers will follow our advice in every particular they will assist us very materially in making our bacon as good as the Irish or Danish bacon, as well as put more money into their own pockets. Hogs have been a good price for the past year, and are likely to be just as high for the next. Yet if hogs went to 20 cents per pound there are lots of farmers who would reap no advantage from them, because they are not into hogs. If you are not raising hogs, start at once. Get three or four choice, nicely-shaped brood sows—never keep anything else—and they will make you more money than anything else on the farm.

Canada exported a little over half a million dollars worth of bacon in 1890, and about 12½ millions last year. Ten years ago this country imported bacon, and now it is one of our leading exports. Great Britain is ready to-day to take from us twice as much bacon as she is getting. All we have to do is to get the quality. Britain has the money, let us get the bacon.

### Food Rations for Bacon Pigs.

The production of the bacon hog has been a very profitable undertaking to the farmer of late, in spite of the fact that "soft pork" is sometimes a result of his work. Many people differ as to their methods of feeding. An Irish contemporary comes out as follows on the feeding of bacon hogs:

"When being finished for the market, bacon pigs should be fed principally upon crushed grain or meals of various kinds. As the finishing stage is being reached, the allowance of soft foods should be restricted and the proportion of grain gradually increased. A few potatoes may be given with advantage, but the quantity of these must not be so large as during the earlier stages of feeding. Of all single foods, perhaps that best adapted for bacon production is barley meal, though even better results may be obtained from a combination of this and other grains than by its free use by itself. A capital combination of grain foods for use where the best quality of bacon is aimed at consists of three parts barley meal, two parts crushed oats and two parts corn, with perhaps a pinch of pea or bean meal thrown in. Made into a mash either with water or separated milk, this mixture will be found a first-rate bacon-producing food. Though this makes an ideal ration, it does not follow that it is one that can always be most advantageously employed. Where the feeder grows potatoes and oats on his own farm, and is located within reasonable distance, he will find it very difficult to make as much money with any combination of purchased foods as he can realize by a judicious mixture of cooked potatoes, crushed oats and separated milk. Both as regards the quantity and quality of the bacon produced, our experience is that this combination is very difficult to improve upon."

### Vitality of Bots in Horses.

The opinion of those who still think that bots in the stomachs of horses can be killed by the administration of drugs will be rudely shaken by the disclosures made by Mr. J. A. Gilruth, M. R. C. V. S., chief veterinarian to the New Zealand Government, who in a recent address said:

"I have given the parasites solutions of corrosive sublimate, and kept them alive in it for days. I have kept bots alive in a saturated solution of corrosive sublimate for three days, and then they were lively. I thought a 50 per cent. solution of nitric acid would kill them immediately, but it took two hours, while in absolute alcohol they revelled."

Commenting on these disclosures, the well-known veterinary expert, Pately Bridge, writes in *Farm and Home*: "And still there are people who think that there is, or that they possess, a 'cure' in the shape of a dose of medicine that is not injurious to horses while fatal to the parasite. The absurdity is even more patent when we remember that not only do bots resist the strongest acids and alkalis, the most irrespirable and poisonous gases, the most potent mineral poisons, and empyreumatic oils when brought directly into contact with them, but that within the horse's body they are lodged in that part of the stomach to which medicine does not come—the insensitive left half—and have their mouths too deeply buried in the mucus for any drug that can safely be administered to affect them. When passing out of the body, after having detached themselves from the wall of the stomach, their passage may be accelerated, but under ordinary conditions they are not in the least affected by any remedy that would not be far more injurious to the host than to the parasite. The prevention of 'bots' is much more effective than their 'cure,' and the time is approaching when those owners of horses who desire their animals to be free from bots during the next winter and spring should take measures to prevent egg-laying and provide for egg-destruction."

### Hints on the Summer Care of Work Horses.

The various experiment stations have done comparatively nothing with the feeding of horses. The marked difference existing between the digestive apparatus of the horse and cow call for differences in feeding. The horse's stomach is small compared with that of the other domesticated animals, therefore smaller quantities of food must be offered, which should be concentrated. Bulky food is not as suitable for equines as for bovines. During the hot days, water should be offered frequently and in moderate quantities. That from deep wells is often ice cold, and should not be allowed *ad lib.* if the horse is sweating. If, however, the chill is off, little harm will result from allowing a horse all he will drink. *Water before feeding, always.* If the time allowed at noon is only an hour, don't seek to overload your horse's stomach with hay; leave the hay for the night feed. When resting for a few minutes in the field, and there is any breeze, turn the horses so that they will face it. After removing the harness at night, go over their bodies with a damp sponge; it will cool them quickly and remove the sweat and dirt incidental to field work. Collars must fit properly, or scalded shoulders, sore necks, choking, etc., will result, with the inevitable loss of valuable time. Be careful in the use of new hay, or you will notice a big increase in the urine of your horses, and a rapid loss of flesh, all symptoms of what is often termed diabetes. Horses with the forelock unclipped will be less liable to sunstroke. Clipping the forelock is a fashion which has gone from the city to the country, and is one that cannot be too severely condemned. Looking at it from the material standpoint alone, the removal of the forelock cannot be excused. A horse so mistreated deteriorates \$10 to \$15 on the big horse markets when intended for export. Sponging the eyes, nostrils and anus with cold water every night after the work is done will also be found to be beneficial, being refreshing to the horse. The Saturday night bran mash is just as important in summer as in winter, unless the horses are grassed every night. In very hot weather it might be advisable to take two hours at noon and work later at night; such a proceeding would be better for man and horseflesh. Regularity in watering and feeding are indispensable.

### To Stop a Horse Jumping.

Mr. A. L. Spink, Pontiac Co., Que., recommends for a breachy horse punching his ears near the tips and tying them almost tightly together with a piece of cord. He says he has never known it to fail to cure a jumper. Mr. F. W. Moore, of Perth Co., a successful horseman, does not think much of Mr. Spink's method, as he fears it would have the effect of spoiling the appearance of the horse in time. Mr. Moore's treatment is to tie the horse's head down, so that the top of it is no higher than his withers. He puts a strap around the horse's neck close to his head, and a surcingle around his body just back of his fore legs. He then passes a shank from the neck strap between the fore legs through the surcingle, and back outside of one fore leg nearly to head, where it is tied to the shank. By this means bad jumpers are restrained.

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