

## Increasing Number and Value of Horses.

The coming of the bicycle, and, later, of the automobile, seems to have had little effect on the demand for horses. For a few years there were fewer horses kept and prices were low, whatever the cause might have been, but on January 1st, 1909, there were more horses in the United States than ever before, and, judging by the average price, which was the highest ever known, they were never so much wanted. In 1867, the number of horses in the United States was 5,101,263. Year by year, without a pause or break, the number increased steadily, until, in 1893, when it stood at 16,206,802. The numbers then decreased for seven years, 13,537,524 being the number kept in 1900. The next year the sag was more than made up, 16,744,723 horses being reported. After that, until 1904, there was practically no change, but since that date there has again been steady increase, 20,640,000 being given as the number in the country on January 1st, 1909. For twenty-seven years, from 1867, the average price varied but slightly, ranging from \$52 to \$71, but in 1894 there was a sudden drop, and from that date prices declined, until in 1897 prices averaged \$31 per head. We all remember those years, when cows were more in demand and higher in price than horses. It is another story now. The rise in prices since has been gradual, but continuous, standing, on January 1st, at \$95.64. It will be noticed that the period of low prices coincided with the years in which there was a falling off in the numbers of horses in the country.

The variation in the numbers and prices of mules corresponded closely, in point of time, to that of the horses, though they are always about ten or twelve dollars dearer. There are now in the United States 4,053,000 mules, valued, on the average, at \$107 each.

## Price and Product.

Heavy-draft horses, weighing 1,500 to 1,700 pounds, \$225 to \$300 each; light-draft, 1,400 to 1,500 pounds, \$180 to \$210 each; small animals, 1,000 to 1,100 pounds, \$100 to \$150.

These quotations, from last week's Montreal market report, preach a sermon—a sermon of breed, soundness, horsemanship and feed. Three-hundred-dollar drafters are not bred from scrubs. They are not spavined, ringboned or curby-hocked, and, except in a minority of instances, are not bred from stock possessing these defects. They are not developed on a ration of straw and poor hay, without grain, nor are they fitted for market by men who take no pride in a horse. They are the result of a combination of favorable factors, and the weanling's first winter is the time to remember it. This is the most critical period. Give the colt a chance.

Herewith I enclose \$1.50, renewal of my subscription to your valuable publication. You are to be congratulated on issuing so much valuable information to the agriculturist of this growing country. The paper is eagerly inquired for in our home, and we get many pointers in carrying on our business. Wishing you continued success.

Muskoka, Ont.

J. J. BEAUMONT

## LIVE STOCK

### "The Honest Steer."

Editor "The Farmer's Advocate":

In some of the letters which you have published on the cost of raising a colt, the writers make the rash, and, to some of us, the nonsensical statement, that a colt can be raised as cheaply as a steer. Instead of that being the case, it would be much nearer the truth to say that two steers can be raised at less cost than one colt. Against the steer there is no such item of cost as depreciation in value of mare, interest on her value, loss of her labor for a time, a ten or fifteen dollar service fee, and the special risk which attends horse-breeding. These, added together, amount to as much as the steer has cost at two and a half years of age.

I do not wish to take up the cost involved in raising the calf, but will take for granted that the price at which a fairly-fed and well-bred calf will sell for in the fall will cover the expense of his upbringing to that time. Say he is worth \$10.00 at six months of age. The charge for wintering cattle around a straw stack used to be a dollar a month. An animal on such fare, as might be expected, does not grow much and loses flesh steadily, but he lives through, and comes out in spring with a grand appetite for grass when it comes. But it is better economy to feed more liberally than that. Supposing 10 pounds per day of roots were fed in addition, at a cost of one cent, and one cent's worth of hay also be given each day, about three pounds, the cost would be increased by \$3.60, but the calf would grow right along. The sixty cents might be cut off to balance the lessened amount of straw fed, making the cost for first winter \$9.00. First summer at \$1.00 per month for pasture, \$6.00. It may be objected that that is not enough for pasture, but it is worth to anyone only what it can be got for elsewhere, and in most sections good pasture can be had at that rate. Second winter, say, \$10.00. Second summer, to be quite liberal, allow for pasture \$9.00. To sum up:

Calf, 1st Nov., at 6 months of age	\$10.00
First winter's keep	9.00
Second summer	6.00
Second winter	10.00
Third summer	9.00
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$44.00</b>

A good grade steer, fed as above described by a man who knows his business, would weigh from 1,000 to 1,100 lbs., and would sell for at least \$45.00 on the average. Allowing that the manure would pay for the care, the steer has rather more than paid his way so far. That is all right. Why should we whine if we fail to get a big extra profit? If we do as well as the steer, and pay our way, the world will find little fault with us, and neither should we at him, good useful animal that he is.

"OLD-STYLE FARMER."

## Breeding Season for Sheep.

The breeding season of ewes in this country usually commences in September, or soon after frosty nights occur. The heat periods of the ewe last from one to two days, and occur at intervals of fourteen or fifteen days. Ewes are somewhat irregular in the time of bringing forth their young. The usual period is put at 145 days, or about five months. Breeders of pure-bred flocks who count on showing lambs at the fairs, or selling ram lambs for breeding purposes, usually turn the ram with the ewes early in October, so as to have their lambs come early in March. Those who cater to the early spring-lamb market aim to have their lambs arrive in January or early in February. In order to accomplish this, the ewes require to be flushed upon fresh clover or rape pastures, or given a ration of grain, so that they may be improving in condition when the ram is turned with them, and hence more likely to come in season at an early date, and nearly at the same time, insuring a uniform crop of lambs. The average farmer, who aims to raise grade lambs for the ordinary butchers' or drovers' market, finds April early enough for the coming of his lambs, and there is economy in the feeding of the ewe flock when the lambing period is in the late spring, as they do not need to be as liberally fed as ewes that are due to lamb earlier.

It is wise, if a ram is to be purchased, to secure him early in the season, before the best have been picked up. There is considerable advantage in securing a strong, vigorous ram, in good condition, but not overloaded with fat. The ram, when brought away from his companions, should have the company of a few lambs or an old ewe or two in his new home while waiting for the mating season, as, if kept alone, he is liable to fall in condition from loneliness or homesickness. And unless the pasture is very good and fresh, he should have a light ration of grain, preferably oats, and bran, in order to keep up his strength and vigor. When turned with the ewes, he will be the better of a feed of the same once or twice daily, or he may be kept in a pasture paddock in the day time, and turned with ewes at night.

For a small flock of ewes, say fifteen to twenty-five, a strong ram lamb may be quite suitable. For a larger flock, a yearling or older ram is more suitable. It is good practice to paint the brisket of the ram once a day with a mixture of some mineral paint powder and water to mark the ewes that have been served, and change the color after the first fourteen days, to ascertain whether any ewes are returning; and if any considerable number return more than once, it will be well to put another ram with the flock.

There is always a temptation, too strong for some to resist, to breed from the ewe lambs of the year. This is a business requiring careful management, and it should not be attempted at all except in the case of the early-maturing breeds of rapid-fattening propensities. It generally proves too economical to be profitable, and only the few reap a profit by it. Those who propose to mate their ewe lamb during the coming season should remember that the tax of carrying a lamb or a pair of lambs is considerable, and that breeding from ewe lambs is quite different from using ram lambs. Needless to say, ram lambs, if too freely bred from, have their powers for the future considerably weakened; but the young ewe has her own frame to build up, and the strain is longer than in the case of the ram. The drains on the system and the check to the growth, the difficulties often experienced at parturition, and the poor supply of milk, often cause those who try to save a year to regret having done so.

## Feed Value of Skim Milk.

A Wisconsin Guernsey breeder, asked how he reckoned the value of skim milk, answered: "If fed to young pigs less than 200 pounds weight, when live pork is worth \$5.00 per hundred, I count skim milk worth 30 cents a hundred pounds. If fed to grade Guernsey heifer calves, I count it worth from 50 to 60 cents a hundred. That is, I can sell the heifers at 10 months of age and make the milk net me that per hundred. If fed to registered calves, it is certainly worth from one to two dollars per hundred pounds, for I know of no other feed that will make up for a lack of skim milk in securing a profitable growth on a calf. The only trouble I ever had with skim milk was a lack of it. But the way farmers usually feed it and handle it convinces me that they really know but little of its value."

The United States Department of Agriculture advises that the best way to get rid of wild morning glory is to turn a lot of hogs among them, as they are fond of the roots. We once cleaned an acre of ground of quack grass in the same way.—[Hoard's Dairyman]



Prizewinning Clydesdale Fillies.

Clyde Park Bay Queen [16461], one year old. First in class, Western Fair, London, 1909. Bred and owned by A. F. McNiven, St. Thomas, Ont. Sire Keir Democrat (imp.). Also Fanchette (imp.) [22118] [17694], 3 years old. Second in class at same show. Same owner and sire.