

THE FARMERS ADVOCATE AND HOME MAGAZINE

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IN THE DOMINION.

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Organize the Milk Producers.

It has been characteristic of farmers in America that they have been slower to organize themselves and seem less disposed to stay organized than those of Europe and, to some extent, those of Great Britain.

Canada is naturally highly favored for the purposes of dairy farming, but the remarkable progress of cheese and butter making has been accelerated largely by reason of strong organizations, aided by Governments in the different Provinces. Ontario once had three great associations, the Eastern and Western Dairymen's Associations and the Ontario Creameries Association, for promoting, respectively, the cheese and butter making industries. Their work has been largely educational in respect to the production of milk and the manufacture of products, but extended on into the study of markets and the improvement of trade conditions. It is simply incredible that the Canadian dairy industry could have gained the position reached without the aid of continuous organization.

During the past quarter century, Canadian cities and towns have been growing enormously in population, and proportionately in the demand for butter and cream. But, with the exception of a few of the larger cities, it has been largely a go-as-you-please of unorganized units. Little is definitely known about the cost of milk production, and nothing done by concerted effort to insure a fair margin in returns above the ever-increasing outlays involved. The tendency has been to isolation, and if not to positive antagonism, at least to working at cross purposes. Here and there the shrewd, studious, intelligent man forges ahead, but even then not with the same momentum as if the general body of milk producers in the district had been unitedly educated up to a higher standard. In dairying, as in other branches of farming, one does not rise by the inertia or the failure of others. On the contrary, what benefits one benefits all. Nothing could be much more helpful than for all the milk-producers

around a given city to band themselves together and to meet at stated intervals to consider how best they might improve in their methods of rearing and feeding cows, purchasing feed stuffs, and the handling, preservation and delivery of milk, not so much for the purpose of getting an extra cent per quart from the consumer as for the economical production of milk of the highest quality. Without going further afield than the country surrounding the city where "The Farmer's Advocate" is published—London, Ont.—there is a striking example of the chance for such an organization as the one referred to. Candid milkmen concede the rare opportunity existing for a campaign of education in regard to milk production and sanitation. That more rigid regulations will be imposed by Provincial and municipal authorities in the near future is inevitable. Why not prepare voluntarily, rather than undergo a possible costly process of compulsion?

Then, the consumers themselves need to be educated, probably even more than the man beside the cow or the milk can. Many of them do not know how to care for good milk after it is supplied them, and if they were taught to appreciate a good product, there will be no trouble about getting the price. Court publicity. Let the people know what high-class milk means and its value as a food and a preventive of sickness. Let them understand more fully the wholesome luxury of good honest cream and the use of these two products will be increased many times over. There is a tendency in the case of the larger centres of population for the milk and cream trade to fall into the hands of powerful intermediary agencies, between whom and the transportation companies both producer and consumer are squeezed. Acting individually, dairy farmers are practically helpless, but, organized, they become powerful enough to cope with just such conditions.

HORSES.

If the horse is thin, and quids of grass chewed and rolled into small balls are found lying around in the pasture field, it is safe to decide that there is something not just right with his teeth. Many a horse is in a thin condition because he cannot masticate his food. All such should have their teeth examined by a competent man.

Don't be discouraged if previous service has not been a success. There is still plenty of time to get the mare with foal. A colt, though somewhat late, is far better than no colt. Do not neglect to return mares regularly, as much of the success or failure of horse-breeding depends upon regularity at this time.

Hints on Trying Mares.

M. W. Harper, in his book, "Manual of Farm Animals," says there is a great diversity of opinion as to when and how often a mare should be tried after she has been served by a stallion. It can be accepted, as a general rule, if the mare is perfectly normal and healthy, she will conceive. If she is not normal or is unhealthy, she either will not conceive at all, or only occasionally at best, and even then there is likely to be difficulty. We should see to it that her organs are perfectly normal, and that she is in good health. We should not change her diet or her mode of life so suddenly as to upset her general health.

Some mares are shy breeders. If a mare is unwilling, and it is desired to breed her, she can occasionally be brought about by hobbling her securely and then breeding her. Then she will behave more or less peaceably for eighteen to twenty-one days, when she may breed again. There are other mares, and they are numerous, that will freely be served when they are in foal, in some cases almost up to the time of foaling.

A mare will almost invariably breed on the ninth day, or thereabouts, after foaling; and if she is healthy and has received no injuries in giving birth, it is the practice to breed her at this time. Just when mares should be returned to see whether they have conceived, is a much discussed question. Mares differ greatly in the recurrence of their periods. It is best for each breeder to study the individual difference among his mares. The common practice is to return them fourteen to eighteen days after the first service, and to return them each week thereafter for at least a month.

Twenty Hot-Weather Don'ts for Drivers.

1. Don't fail to read this.
2. Don't forget that the horse helps to earn his living.
3. Don't forget that he will repay you for his cost if you treat him right.
4. Don't stand him in the sun, when, by moving across the street or around the corner, you can find shade.
5. Don't put the same load on him when the thermometer is at 90° as you do when it is just above the freezing point.
6. Don't fail to give him water at short intervals.
7. Don't fail to bathe his head with cold water.
8. Don't give him whisky, unless advised by a veterinary surgeon.
9. Don't take any yourself. Whisky heats the blood, and much of the abuses of animals are directly traceable to intemperance.
10. Don't fail to wash your horse's mouth out.
11. Don't fail, if he shows signs of exhaustion, to give him a half-hour's rest.
12. Don't fail, if heat exhaustion continues, to bathe his entire body with water.
13. Don't fail, in extreme cases, to apply ice to the head and ice water to the body, so as to reduce the temperature.
14. Don't lash your horse when he is doing the best he can.
15. Don't lash him at any time. He'll do better if you are kind to him.
16. Don't swear at him. Profanity is offensive, and never does any good.
17. Don't forget that a horse has feelings like yourself, and can feel either the lash of your whip or of your tongue.
18. Don't forget that he is a faithful servant if treated properly.
19. Don't hesitate about employing veterinary aid when your horse shows signs of being sick.
20. Don't take advice from the man in the crowd who "knows it all," and is always on hand. People who really know are not very free to offer advice unasked.—[From an American Humane Association Leaflet.]

Heavy and Light Drafters.

There is often a difference of opinion with regard to the kind of horse best suited for all-round farm work. Many a controversy has arisen on this subject, and few, if any, have succeeded in "showing" the other fellow wherein their favorite has any distinct advantage. As far as the work itself is concerned, there are many tasks on the farm which may be accomplished in less time with an agricultural or comparatively light-draft, or even a general-purpose team, than when extremely heavy-draft horses are used. Instances have come under the observation of all where a team weighing about 1,200 pounds each have at the same kind of work, practically "bushed" a team weighing 1,600 or 1,700 pounds each. Take harrowing or rolling, for example. The actual load is not great, and a quick, active gait such as that of the lighter horses is not so likely to fatigue the team as the slower and heavier gait of the extremely heavy-drafter. There are a lot of odd jobs and regular doings on the farm in which the lighter type of drafter excels the very heavy animal. Horse-breeders and exhibition managements, realizing that there is a place on the farm for the lighter type of draft horse, have placed agricultural classes in the entry lists of all exhibitions of any size.

As far as work is concerned, unless it be for the few real heavy jobs on the farm, a 1,200 or 1,300 pound horse is just as valuable as the heavier animal, but when it comes to market values, there is at once a different phase of the subject to be discussed. Weight is one of the first things which a horse-dealer looks for in a draft horse. "He is too small," is often heard to fall from the lips of the horse-buyer when looking over an animal upon which a price has been placed. On the market is where the big horse is at his best. Weight counts more with the buyer and with the company with heavy city teaming to do than it does in farm work.

There is no question but that the draft type is the best type of farm horse. The problem, then, is which type of drafter to breed. A horse, to be a valuable horse, must be one for which there is a demand. The demand is for heavy horses. They do the farm work almost, if not quite, as well, and at practically the same cost, as the lighter-draft horses. For breeding purposes, because they have size and their colts are likely to inherit the same, they are worth infinitely more than light animals.

Horsemen realize the profits to be made from breeding the working mares. Where breeding is carried on, the colts are raised to supply the market, and the market demands great weight. Which, then, is the best horse for the farm? There