

## THE FARMER'S ADVOCATE AND HOME MAGAZINE

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IN THE DOMINION.

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build up their soils with manure. No matter how much they may have read or seen of other people's experience or even their own, they are afraid that, after all, perhaps it may not come back, though experience proves that with good management it will come back many fold, after several years, if not at once.

There is such a thing as investing beyond one's means, but there is also such a thing as starving the goose that lays the golden egg. Nine cases out of ten, the best place to invest farm savings is on the farm, and this becomes increasingly true as years pass on, and values of farm produce, and consequently of farm fertility steadily rise. But the habit of a life-time makes us often over-cautious. We do well to remember the Proverb "There is that scattereth and yet increaseth; and there is that withholdeth more than is meet, but it tendeth to poverty."

### HORSES.

Sudden changes are dangerous.

It is not what is fed so much as whether the horse is accustomed to the feed or not.

Brood mares should get only clean, choice feed.

Avoid mold silage. Silage, if fed at all, must be fed very carefully.

Try to arrange the stabling so as to provide a box stall for the brood mares.

Let the in-foal mare do her share of the light work of the farm during the winter.

If hay must be sold from the farm sell the timothy. It will bring more money and contains less fertilizing value than the clover.

With many the care of the horse ends with the busy season. A little attention during the idle days of winter will bring the horse through in better condition for the spring work.

How often do you clean out your horse stable? Twice each day is not too often, and many scrape it out three times.

There is no fat so valuable to the colt as the "colt fat." Once lost it is almost impossible to replace it. Thin weanling colts are difficult to fatten, while fat colts are easily maintained.

The horse digests rough feed with less ease than do cattle or sheep, therefore the farm horses should get a larger proportion of easily-digested or non-fibrous feed than cattle, provided all are on a maintenance ration.

Never lose sight of the fact that the using of the muscles of the colt develops them and ensures great powers of endurance, while disuse means flabby muscular development and a weaker animal.

Remove all wet bedding at each stable cleaning. The whiff of ammonia, arising from old straw saturated with the horse's urine, should be enough to convince one that such a condition should be avoided by carefully removing all this material regularly.

Colts properly fed make rapid growth. During the period the colt is with its dam the average increase is said to be over two pounds daily, and during the second year of life they increase about one and one-third pounds daily, gradually decreasing, until at the beginning of the third year of life it falls to less than a pound, and finally ceases.

Ontario has two winter fairs of which she may well feel proud. Each of these has sections for horses, and the horse classes have come to be recognized as one of the features, if not the crowning feature, of these exhibitions. The time is near at hand for the Guelph Fair and the Ottawa Fair comes in January. Plan to attend one or both, and if possible take along a horse or two to the competition.

### Coat and Constitution.

A writer in one of our contemporaries, speaking of the relation of color to constitution in horses, says:

The coat color has no direct bearing upon the question of constitution, although it is true one often speaks of a horse being a good "hard" color, the implication being that it is a sign of a stout constitution, although in reality there probably exists very little, if any, justification for making any such deduction. But an exception must be made in the case of roan, and also in that of dun. Roan undoubtedly deserves to rank as a specially hardy color, for it is well known to be associated with a tough constitution and hard-wearing nature in most cases. That, however, is not to be ascribed to any intrinsic quality connected with this particular color, but is entirely due to the fact that most roan-colored horses—particularly so as regards Hackneys and cart horses—are descended from certain old strains which were noted for their great stoutness of constitution, and in which a roan color was an hereditary and distinctive characteristic.

The commonly held view that dun-colored horses are generally of a hardy sort is also largely justified. When this color crops up in horses and cobs it is usually derived from a cross of pony blood present in the animal's ancestry, dun being a color specially associated with some of our native pony breeds; and there is nothing more calculated to impart constitution and stoutness than the fact of there being a dash of such wiry and extremely hardy blood in a horse's composition. Some of our best and toughest strains of hunters and half-bred nags are originally descended on the maternal side from the pony, and in the west country especially, the home of the Exmoor and Dartmoor ponies, great store is set by a cross of pony blood for light horse stock. The Welsh breed of light, active cart horses, which have a wide reputation for their excellence, also owe something of their merits to the Welsh pony cross, infused into the stock in past generations.

### Our Draft Fillies.

High offers are tempting, no matter what the stock in trade is. It is hard to turn down a bid which seems to be really more than the animal is worth. Sometimes when an owner does so he regrets it later when something befalls his mare, but this is the exception, not the rule. The mare owner is generally induced to sell seeing only the cash offered, when if he would hold the mare and use her for breeding purposes he could make far larger returns in the long run.

Good draft mares are scarce, and the only way to make them more plentiful is to keep the young fillies and put them to breeding. Eastern Canada has been the buying ground for horsemen of the West and other districts, and at the present time while many good mares have been retained, too many have been sold to go out of the district for the good of the horse business in this part of the country. Long and strong are the strings of stallions at our large exhibitions, but not so the filly classes. A few real choice individuals are out in each, very often being recent importations, which, as soon as some distant buyer gets his eyes upon them, depart to some Western or other part of the country at what the seller deems a long price. He must get and keep more of the real good mares or what is to come of our horse industry? Without good mares we will soon be without good geldings, and Canadian-bred stallions must also deteriorate. Two hundred dollars, yes, three hundred or five hundred, is a poor price for a young mare which during the next ten years may raise six foals each, at three years of age worth as much as the dam ever was, and she at the same time doing work enough to more than pay for her feed and care.

Of course there is a limit to the number of horses or brood mares which may be kept on each farm, but few of our Eastern farmers are living up to the limit in this respect. Many, too many, are the holdings upon which not a single brood mare is kept. Many more have one where they might as easily have two or three, and some have two or three, which could as easily and profitably support four or six. Why are they not kept? Chiefly because they have departed elsewhere with the wise buyer who offered an attractive price.

It costs no more to keep a good brood mare than a poor one. Is your buyer so keen to offer high or even fair prices for your common mare? Not often. He leaves her with you and takes the good one, because he realizes that there is more money in the good one for him. If there is more in her for him, is there not more for you if she is kept? Let the other fellow have the common mare, and keep the high-class individual to raise the standard of your own stud. It is a matter which our horsemen should feel proud of to have it said that we have one of the best buying grounds for high-class draft horses in America, and it behoves them to keep it such. Good stallions are imported annually and are doing their part (more are needed in some localities) to keep up the standard in many districts, but they must get good mares with which to mate. If Eastern Canada had a large supply of these some could be sold, but until such is the case breeders would do well to hold fast to their best mares, and keep them breeding regularly.

### LIVE STOCK.

Give the recently weaned litter the warmest part of the pigpen.

Clover, alfalfa, rape and corn help the pig feeder make a profit.

Try the calves on pulped mangels or turnips upon which a little chopped oats has been placed.

Clover or alfalfa hay is almost indispensable in calf feeding.

Some of the lambs may not take to eating dry feed very readily. A little coaxing will help.

For every ten pounds that a sheep weighs a square foot of housing space is rutable.

Henry says: "The flock should be so divided into groups that all the members of each group are of the same age, sex, strength, and general characteristics."

Care is necessary in the feeding of the steers. Increase the feed very gradually or "stalling" may result. Once a steer goes off his feed it is no easy matter to get him back again, and for a time he loses rather than gains in weight.