

The Purpose of the Farm.

Some captains of industry, financiers, heads of universities and politicians are rather prone to regard "The Farm" as a sort of stepping-stone or supplier of raw material for their particular institution, or mill, as the case may be. School systems, as they have worked out, have given strength and impetus to the townward gravitation by idealizing and preparing for its occupations. The pulpit too often has acquiesced in the general draft, sounding no strong note on behalf of rural life and its interests, many younger men in the ministry often seeming to show scant appreciation of their surrounding opportunities in the haste to realize their greater hopes with a city charge. Occupants of the farm themselves have cultivated the idea of retiring from it as soon as sufficient lucre could be accumulated, doing little or nothing meanwhile to enlist the interest or satisfaction of the young people growing up in what is really one of the most secure of all occupations, and capable of being made one of the most agreeable. Now that another winter season is at hand (at least, most of us are hoping so), suppose we start into its opportunities for reflection and improvement with a fresh spirit and a truer outlook. Let us think of the farm and its home as an end to be enjoyed and perfected, rather than a temporary place in which to toil and exist till we can escape to some delectable dreamland. Let us think of the business of farming as something worth while for which to qualify boys and young men, as well as turning them off as quickly as possible to help in the toil or management of some town factory, or as so much plastic material to be matriculated through a course of years into lawyers, doctors, or what not. And then, for a change, suppose that the heads of our great "Interests" and would-be statesmen grasp the idea of the farm as a co-equal, national enterprise, not as a mere place for the production of so much raw product to speculate with or convert into something more valuable, or to haul about over steel rails at as high a rate as the traffic will bear; or to rally a solid phalanx of voters in response to the campaign call. Less "raw material" and more "finished products" would not be a bad motto to put at the top of our farm programme for the future, and in the domain of education to resolve and insist that the rural school, in its surroundings, spirit and curriculum, manifest a real and sympathetic relation to the interests and industries of the farm. Farming will then become better manned, and there will be less complaint that farmers are not sufficiently represented in the domain of Provincial and National affairs.

HORSES.

The horse's manger should be kept clean at all times.

A good heavy-draft mare that shows promise of being a useful breeder should not be sold off the farm for city teaming. It would be more profitable to breed her and sell the geldings for the city trade.

A cold horse barn, with free ventilation and a continuous supply of pure air is much more to be desired than a close, stuffy, poorly-ventilated stable reeking with foul odors and the organisms of infectious disease.

Do not keep the stable too tightly closed up. The coming of the cold weather demands a little extra care, but dark stables usually are damp. With the dampness and darkness dirt is generally found, and these three conditions promote germ life so detrimental to the health of the horses.

Only the best of the hay and grain should be reserved for the horses. Let the other stock take the inferior feed, if any such feed must be used. The horse's digestive organs are more sensitive to the action of undesirable food material, and it should be avoided.

Two main factors in the production of high-class horses are breeding and feeding. If the animal is bred right, the feeding is not such a problem as is the feeding of a scrub. Commence in the right direction by breeding to the best stallion in the district, and follow this up by the judicious feeding of both dam and foal, and success should follow.

When the cold weather sets in, do not let your horses go down in flesh. It will be more profitable, in the long run, to keep them thriving well throughout the winter. It is a mistake to allow animals to get thin, thinking that they will be greatly improved by this, followed by heavy feeding as spring approaches.

In commencing horse-breeding, there are three main points to be considered by farmers. They should select the breed most suited to farm work, the breed in demand on the market, and the breed which best satisfies the individual taste. Compromise may sometimes be necessary, but compromise with these points in view.

When the cold weather has come to stay, it is advisable—in fact, it is necessary—that the in-foal mare be kept sharp shod at least on the front feet; and if she is allowed out for exercise, which is also a necessity, she should be shod all round. A slip often causes a fall, which not infrequently results in abortion, and slips, even if they do not result in a heavy fall, may cause this trouble, as well as endangering the mare's future usefulness.

After the fall work is finished, the horses will be idle the greater part of the time. It is a mistake to continue feeding them as heavily as when they were working every day. It is also a mistake to turn them out to a straw stack for feed and shelter. Give them a comfortable, well-bedded stall, and gradually cut down their rations. Make no violent changes. Feed enough that they do not fail in flesh, but rather gain a little, and avoid overfeeding. Some care is necessary in changing the horse from a working ration to one a little above what is required for maintenance.

Free Interchange of Standard-Breds.

The interchange of breeding stock between Canadian and American breeders of trotters is facilitated by a government order providing for the free importation of Standard-breds from Canada for breeding purposes. The United States Department of Agriculture has adopted a rule recognizing the Canadian National Records for Standard-bred horses, subject to the same provisions as prescribed for books of record across the seas. It is stipulated that no horse registered in the Canadian records for Standard-bred horses shall be certified by our Secretary of Agriculture as pure-bred, except those which trace in all crosses to registered horses in the United States, where the breed originated.—[Breeder's Gazette.]

To Prevent Stocking.

Would you please publish a recipe which would prevent horses' legs from swelling? A. D. M.

In many horses there is a congenital predisposition to swelling or stocking of the legs. This trouble usually becomes more marked in the fall and winter. After a hard summer's work, during which time the animal has been fed heavily, and has received regular and abundant exercise, he is often placed in a stall, and fed very injudiciously upon rich, heating food, which tends to increase the trouble. The fall rest is such a change from the daily work that his digestion is impaired, and his blood may get overloaded with impurities. Of course, if the animal is naturally beefy-legged and predisposed to lymphangitis or stocking, he is difficult to treat, but some horses not so predisposed will stock up in the legs under these bad conditions. Such horses, unless worked regularly, or receiving an abundance of regular exercise, should be fed little grain—just sufficient to keep them in good condition. A few roots added to the ration will be found beneficial, as they tend to promote looseness of the bowels, a very desirable condition in such cases. Light feeding and regular exercise are the best preventives, and farmers will do well to make it a point to begin cutting down the rations of their work horses the very day that the fall work ceases. Let them down gradually, and at the same time give the needed exercise. Do not let the horse stand in his stall for a week or ten days before commencing this. A horse that is so treated will, if at all inclined to the trouble, be affected before the exercise is given. It is easier to prevent its appearance than it is to treat it successfully. A little bran added to the daily ration will tend to prevent stocking, as it, like roots, has a laxative effect.

If the animal's legs show signs of swelling, in spite of judicious feeding and regular exercise, it is advisable to feed nothing but bran for twelve hours, then give a purgative of eight drams of aloes and two drams of ginger. This can be followed up with one dram iodide of potassium twice daily. This latter may cause a failure in appetite. If such is the case, reduce the dose to forty grains. If possible, give the animal light work, and never fail to give regular exercise. Hand-rubbing the legs at frequent intervals tends to improve the circulation of the blood and somewhat allay the trouble, as does also the application of bandages to them for a few hours each evening. The most effective means of eliminating bad legs in our heavy horses is by breeding it out. By using only mares and sires with the cleanest and finest quality of bone and an absence of beefiness, and horses that have no hereditary predisposition to such affection of their limbs, the trouble could be largely averted.

Do not neglect to clean the horse, even after he enters upon his winter's rest. It will be noticed that his coat will fill with dandruff, and unless cleaned from time to time it will become very dirty. A short time spent in brushing and cleaning him each day will be time well spent.



Baron of Buchlyvie (11263).

Brown; foaled 1900. Champion Clydesdale sire of 1911, his progeny winning highest number of first prizes at leading British shows this year. Sire, Baron's Pride (9122).