

using red bulls for the past few years the calves of the third and fourth generation have nearly all come pure red. Such being the case, it follows that if breeders of horses would avoid using stallions of an objectionable color, in course of time chestnuts and roans would die out.

#### ADVANTAGES OF STALLION SHOWS BEING HELD IN THE SPRING INSTEAD OF THE SUMMER.

I have always held that a stallion ought not to be in show condition at the end of the season. It is detrimental to the constitution and productive power of the stallion to be fed up like a fat bullock in early spring, for it is seldom such an animal gets many foals for the first five or six weeks. Let any breeder put a number of mares to such a horse which is daily losing flesh, and an equal number to a stallion that has been worked in the team; the latter will not only leave his mares in foal from the first, but will thrive and improve and be in better condition at the end of the season than at the commencement, and the chances are he will leave 30 per cent. more foals, and given that the animals are equally well bred, the stock of the latter will come with more muscular power and hardier constitutions. If this be the case with the earlier date I hold it to be a suicidal policy to continue the overfeeding during the season for the sake of winning a prize at the summer show.

I will instance the case of Champion No. 440, and Champion No. 441, two full brothers. The former won more prizes than any other stallion in the Kingdom, and for years almost lived in show yards; but what of his progeny, and where are they? The latter was kept for service, and was a most faithful sire, and his descendants are much sought after.

Believing the system to be wrong in principle, and a source of loss as well as disappointment to owners of mares I would suggest that the Royal, and other County Societies, be requested to discontinue giving prizes to stallions over three years old in the summer months. I expect to be criticised on this part of my subject, but if we once acknowledge a principle wrong, then why perpetuate it?

The giving of prizes for stallions at local spring shows I take as a waste of money, and not likely to fulfil the object in view, unless conducted as the Peterboro', and some other societies' shows are, where not only good prizes are offered, but a certain number of mares are guaranteed at a fixed price, so as to insure the services of a good animal.

I rejoice to see the yearly increased demand caused by societies sending up deputations to the London Show for hiring stallions for the season. Our friends in the Fens would do well to adopt this system. Say that a stallion is hired for 80 mares—I would not recommend a larger number—at 3 guineas or 4 guineas a mare, as most of the larger breeders in that district season from 10 to 30 mares, it would only be necessary for four or half a-dozen owners to form a company and secure a good animal. Landowners and others can also assist in this matter by placing good stallions within reach of their tenants and others, as many have nobly done.

I deeply regret that one county society has fixed its annual show the day after the Royal at Preston for the express purpose of shutting out from competition two owners of the best studs in the Kingdom, who have not only had stallions standing for service in the district, but are always ready to purchase good animals at remunerative prices.

(TO BE CONTINUED.)

#### HIGH CLASS BULLS FOR BREEDING GRADES—HOW TO GET THEM.

Correspondence of the Chicago Breeders Gazette

There is one great drawback to the improvement of cattle, and that is the cost of procuring and maintaining really good bulls. Where a man has nothing but common scrubs to work upon perhaps any bull known to be a thoroughbred will answer the purpose, for he will make a very decided improvement, and still I claim that even here the better the bull the better the stock will be and the more satisfaction and profit to be derived. But when a farmer has a herd of fair grades as a basis, he cannot afford to take in any bull simply because he is a thoroughbred and has a pedigree, but he has got to look more closely to the bull question, and secure bulls of good, strong, desirable character if he wishes to make any improvement or to even hold the improvement he has already secured. He can no longer find any advantage in the use of the culls which other men have left and which are really only awaiting the ranchman or the butcher, but must go out amongst the bulls before they have been looked over and take his choice from among the best ones. And now here comes the difficulty: such bulls cannot be had for a little matter of \$50, but there is a demand for them all the way from \$200 to \$500 each, even in the absence of a specially fancy pedigree, and the farmer must pay that price for them or content himself with animals of less individual worth. Now, most farmers who have given any attention to stock at all, and observed how great a difference there is in the profit of raising a really prime calf over what can be possibly made from an ordinary one, could see the advantage of paying considerably more money for a bull only a little better than another one if they could only give him plenty of work to do. But they have only a moderate number of cows, and their number cannot be very well increased, and the interest on the price of the better bull is quite a serious charge upon each one of the calves they obtain from him. This they could stand, however, for the sake of the better quality of the calves if it were not for the fact that in a couple of years the young heifers are ready for service, and the bull has to be sold and a new one introduced. This is an interesting period to the struggler after improvement; it is interesting to note the unanimity with which all the neighbors "don't want no bulls"—their complacency at the prospect of a bull, which cost hundreds of dollars and worth every cent he cost, going to the butcher for a mere song; and the extreme condescension with which some one among them, simply as a "favor," and with no purpose or expectation of deriving any possible benefit for himself, will bid up from one to five dollars above the butcher's price. I have been there, and I always let the honest butcher have them, for he is ready to give me what they are worth to him. But the sacrifice which the farmer is obliged to make on the price of the bull when he sells him, if he has bought a good one, added to the interest, makes quite a serious charge upon the calves, so much so that many think they cannot stand it, and are therefore compelled to put up with inferior animals which they can buy at a little more than butchers' prices, and this discourages their desire for improvement, and in time results in a loss of valuable ground.

I have given considerable thought as to whether these disadvantages could be avoided, and how. The most obvious plan would be for several farmers, having each but a moderate number of cows, to club together for the purchase of a bull for use in common; but unless the farms are close together this plan does not

work satisfactorily. The bull is not where he is wanted when he is wanted, and it is very inconvenient to drive the general stock of the farm a mile or two away to a neighbor's every time a cow is suspected of needing service. And there are some cows so nervous and excitable that, in the worry of getting them to the bull under such circumstances, the purpose of the visit is entirely defeated. Such cases, however, can be managed by bringing the bull. I am under the necessity of making a change in bulls shortly, and shall endeavor to organize an association on a somewhat different plan. My idea is an association of say three or four members or shares. The number is so limited that there ought to be no difficulty in securing an equality of enterprise and views. Then let money enough be put in to purchase, no matter what the cost, a bull of the very highest merit for each member of the association. Let these bulls be held as common property, each member to keep one at home, but free to send cows to the others; and every two years, or at such intervals as may be agreed upon, the members change bulls, so that each gets a different one. If any bull die or become disabled it is to be regarded as a common loss, and the bull replaced by another at joint expense. The members of such an association might live ten miles apart, as the long intervals between changes of stock would make distance a matter of little consequence. If two or three farmers in the same neighborhood, with only a few cows each, preferred to join and hold one membership there would probably be no objection, as it would be purely a matter between themselves.

In some such association as this the farmer, when he pays the good price necessary to obtain a good bull, will receive an assurance that when he is through with him he will be exchanged without cost for another equally good, and that such exchanges will be continued during the ordinary lifetime and usefulness of a bull. And I am satisfied that in such an assurance many farmers will find an inducement for the purchase and use of a class of bulls which they have heretofore, with considerable show of cause, thought they could not afford. And during the coming season I intend to find a couple of other farmers to join me, if I have to look over two counties to find them, and go out "heeled" to buy three of the very best bulls which we can find to be used upon the farm breeding grades.

#### FRUIT FARMING.

From the American Cultivator.

It is not strange that low prices of nearly all kinds of agricultural produce incline the thoughts of many to some change in crops and methods of farming. The growing of fruit as a business is perhaps the most seductive of the specialties to which those are attracted who have been unsuccessful in producing wheat, oats, and corn so that they could be profitably sold at low prices, yet this is the class most likely to engage in fruit farming. One of the misfortunes of farming in this country is that it is the catch-all for the unsuccessful in other avocations. A man who has failed in other business regards in many cases this as his certificate of his right and claim to be a farmer. In most cases, unless he goes to the far west, he settles down to growing fruit or poultry, near some city or village. Thus failures in farming are often due to lack of experience and capacity rather than to natural causes.

The wonder is that there are not more rather than less failures. If there ever was a time when fruit growing, successfully, required only planting the trees and gathering the fruit, a