

Can it be wondered at that with such a climate to a period of extremely pleasant intercourse with them there should be in one Canadian's heart a tender regard for the warmhearted and delightful French people.

T. B.

THE HORSE.

Do not over-exert the in-foal mare.

Give the best care to the young foal.

Keep the in-foal mares at regular, light work.

All horses require regular exercise, but colts, in-foal mares, and stallions demand special attention in this particular.

Muddy legs left neglected often lead to scratches, itchy legs, and sometimes complications develop causing no end of trouble.

It is generally believed to be good practice to feed crushed or coarsely ground oats to horses in winter. This applies particularly to colts and old animals.

If all unregistered stallions were excluded from the breeding studs of our country, the horse industry would not suffer any loss, but an immense gain would make itself apparent.

If a surplus stock of horses is on hand and some can be spared, commence early in the season to feed them up. No fat pays better for the making than that placed on market geldings.

Investigators have found that mares are more likely to abort from six to nine weeks after conception takes place. This may account for the large number which show oestrus about this length of time after breeding.

Remember when considering the sale of surplus horses that young, well-grown mares, full of energy and vigor usually make the best breeders. Would it not prove profitable to retain these on the farm to do the work and rear foals?

Think of the colts in the back pasture when the wind veers to northeast, and the driving sleet beats against the window pane as you sit in front of the kitchen range, warm and comfortable after the day's work.

Feeding Pregnant Mares.

Do in-foal mares, with foal by side, require all the hay they care about eating, especially if working every day?

Ontario Co., Ont.

STEVE.

There is a double drain on the mare nursing a foal and developing a foetus. In fact, when such a mare is working every day she is in need of an abundance of the best food available, and must have it, otherwise she will fail in flesh, and neither the foal nor the developing foetus will get the nourishment required. She may feed them both well for a time, drawing upon her own body to do it, but, as her surplus fat is reduced through lack of sufficient and proper nourishment, the drain becomes severe, the supply of stored energy is exhausted, and colt, foetus and dam suffer. If the sucking colt is four and one-half to five months old it would be well to wean it, especially if the mare is working hard and conceived again soon after the foal was dropped. Give her all the well-cured hay she will eat, feeding the largest quantity at night. Feed liberally on oats of good quality, and add bran to her daily ration. The foal should have about all the grain he will eat, consisting of rolled oats and bran.

Feed the Horses.

Fall is not generally the best time of year to sell horses. Approaching cold weather and snow, making feed higher in price and cutting off all agricultural work, almost yearly causes a slackening of the demand for horses of all classes. The man with horses to sell can generally make a good profit to feed them well until spring approaches. Feeding horses should be just as important to the farmer as feeding steers, from the standpoint of finishing them for the highest price. A finished horse brings the premier price, just as the finished steer tops the market and is in greatest demand. This is a good time of year to hold the horses unless, of course, very unfavorably situated as to feed supplies. A poor

time to sell, however, is very often a good time to buy, and horsemen requiring more horses another spring might save money to pick up a few animals to meet their needs this autumn. There are always those who must sell. Buy from these.

The Mare's Influence.

There are various opinions regarding the influence of the mare on her progeny, the age at which mares should be bred, and their care during pregnancy. A writer in the Agricultural Gazette does not favor breeding two-year-old mares. Happily, he says, adverse criticism has met the practice of putting an immature two-year-old filly to the sire, for it is unreasonable to expect a young mare of that age, whilst still growing, to assume the additional task of producing a foal, as both mother and foal must suffer in development. It appeals to any fair mind that the most rational practice is to wait until the animal's body and functions are fully matured and her growth complete. The earliest age recognized is from three to four years, but some discretion must be exercised in each case, seeing that certain fillies are precocious and mature quickly, whilst others are slow.

Continuing he says, neither is it always advisable to breed from old mares, seeing the result is often disappointing. Occasionally it happens that a farmer works a mare continuously until she gives evidence of being worked out. She is then looked on as only fit to turn out and breed from. This class of mare is not altogether satisfactory. It often happens that she fails to secrete enough milk to nourish a foal; at other times the foal is a weakling and hardly worth rearing; and again, difficulties in foaling often present themselves owing to the hardened or atrophied condition of the muscular mouth of the womb.

Successful breeders invariably select young, vigorous mares for stud purposes.

A mare is always sexually fit for service and in the best condition for impregnation when she has been given regular work during the previous winter, for when kept in idleness there is a possibility of an infertile service, or (if put in foal) the progeny is not vigorous and sturdy.

The selection of a mare for breeding purposes is to some extent controlled and determined by local conditions, combined with the circumstances of the owner, and in order to ensure good stock it is advisable to be guided by some general principles.



Champion Hampshires.

Winners of premier honors at Toronto, 1913. Owned by John Kelly, Shakespeare, Ont.

We all readily admit the need for more pure-bred mares of the right type, soundness and conformation, because from these only can be produced suitable pure-bred stallions. Pure-bred mares pay handsomely for their keep, both in their work on the farm and in the excellence of their foals, and inquiry is therefore as essential to success as discretion in selection. It is not enough to have a mare of good quality and stoutness with a local reputation. More remote evidence in relation to breeding, type, and pedigree on both sides for at least three generations should be available as a safeguard against the intrusion of some defect or objectionable characteristic in the progeny.

Deficient heart and lung action, weak sight and ill temper in the foal are often traceable to the mare. She should be roomy, staunch, of even temper, gentle disposition, with strong maternal instinct, and a reputation for being good in the collar and quick in moving. Sluggish mares transmit their objectionable habits.

In connection with freedom from hereditary disease or unsoundness, it may be specially emphasized that it is of great importance to the owner to have the mare examined by a qualified veterinary surgeon to determine whether or not either of these defects is present in any form

At the same time appearances often mislead the best judges, for splendid stock have been bred from mares showing no special fitness, though evidently possessed of a capacity for transmitting vigor and quality.

A brief inspection of the future mother should include a keen examination of the way she stands. Correct balance on the ground, standing, walking or trotting, with even movement, is essential, for balanced action is the source of a mare's ability to do a long day's work and to come home comparatively fresh, showing the minimum waste in power. Any tendency to awkward pace, or abnormal spreading of the feet inwards or outwards, means unusual wear, and early suspension from work. The shoulders contribute in no small degree towards the perfection of balance, and enable the animal to walk and trot with level, active carriage, and game, even movement, and they should be fairly oblique and broad.

Symmetry, quality, stamina, stoutness and substance are to be estimated, as well as character and staunchness. The short ribs and hips should not approach each other closely. Roominess is gained by broad and prominent pelvic bones, with width across the loins. The udder, or mammary glands should be firm and well shaped, and should have clearly defined teats. Vigorous heart and lung action is evidenced in the angle and space of the girth, and size of the chest. The ribs should be well sprung, enclosing a capacious barrel.

The legs should be well moulded from the forearm and thighs downwards, terminating in sloping pasterns, and sound, round, wide feet. The knees should be broad and massive, and the hocks well placed, firm and clean.

The lean, fine head, soft but quick intelligent eye, with active ears, are indications of a good disposition.

LIVE STOCK.

The upward trend of beef prices should save some of the calves.

This looks like the dual-purpose cow's opportunity. Milk is high and so are milk products and beef is soaring.

Very often the steer feeder loses considerable at the commencement of the winter-feeding period often through not stabling early enough in the season and getting the steers down to business a little earlier. Once started to lose through neglect in the fall it is difficult to get them making satisfactory gains.

Old sows, provided they are not too fat and cumbersome, are usually the most profitable breeders. Before deciding to fatten and kill the dam of many litters weigh carefully the consequences. Have you a young sow which is likely to fill her place? It is good practice to try out the young sow before discarding the proven breeder.

A good average brood sow should produce two litters, aggregating fifteen pigs a year. These have for some time back been worth three to five dollars apiece at weaning. We have known them much lower, of course, but put the average at two dollars. That makes an annual revenue of thirty dollars, almost as much as the produce of an average cow. By utilizing pasture, rape, roots, alfalfa, and such materials, the feed cost of maintenance may be reduced to less than half that of a cow, while the labor is light in comparison. They should pay with suckers at \$3.00 per pair.

Feed the Flock.

Many commencing sheep breeding seem to think that the fall or breeding season for the flock is a time when the sheep need least care and feed. Much of the success with next year's lamb crop depends upon the condition of the ewes at breeding. They should not be too fat, but there is little danger of this with regular breeders which have recently been separated from one or two big, strong lambs. Sometimes yearling ewes get quite fat and occasionally one will not conceive, but this is not often the case with older ewes unless for some reason they have not raised a lamb the previous season. For the average flock of regular breeding ewes better feeding than is often