

The Brood Mare and Foal.

The brood mare may be worked a little if it is wanted, but if the working of the mare is not a necessity, she will be better left in peace in the field to suckle her young. Some farmers allow the foal to follow the mare to work, and let it take refreshment from the mare now and again. This plan may be carried out when the mare is only called upon to work very gently in the field. But if more severe labor is required of the mare, and she is likely to get at all hot, the foal had better be left at home. Often, for one reason or another, it is undesirable to take the foal with the mare when going out to work. In these cases the foal has to be left behind. It will be good for the foal if it can be tempted to eat during its mother's absence. If it takes to its food, it will not be likely to fret so much after its mother. When the mare returns, care should be taken that the foal is not allowed to suck the mare until she is cool. It is best to keep the mare from the foal for an hour or so after her return, and to draw off some of the milk before she is allowed to return to her foal.

The sooner the education of the young foal begins, the better; it should be taught very slowly and gently, short but often lessons being the rule. A halter should be put on the young foal, and it should be gently led about on the grass for half an hour or so, every day at first, then the intervals of training can be lengthened, until he is only haltered now and again to keep him used to it. This will render it quiet and docile, and it will not be nervous, but used to being handled, when it comes to be broken in. The longer the foal remains with its mother, the better; but it must be remembered that stud mares have the double duty of breeding and suckling at one and the same time, and that, as the foetus attains the higher development, the demands on the nutritive resources of the mare become greater. The drain upon the system entailed by the suckling is not only detrimental to the mare, but also to the young she bears. Foals under proper management are ready to leave the mare when about five months old, though six months is the usual age for weaning. The actual age at which a foal should be weaned will depend on circumstances. If the foal is well grown and strong, eating its food well, it will be better for the mare if it is weaned at five months old. On the other hand, if the foal is not as well grown or as strong as it might be, or has not taken its food as well as it might have, it will be better for it to remain with its mother for another month. In the case of mares that have not been covered again, and are not required for work, the foal can remain with advantage till it is six months old. The foal should be supplied with an extra quantity of oats, bran and chaff for a fortnight or three weeks before separation.

Horse Notes.

When a horse refuses to eat, he should be allowed to rest.

Always be sure that the sire or dam has no transmissible defects.

A fearful disposition in a horse is nearly as bad as a vicious one.

Farmers can raise their teams more cheaply than they can buy them.

Fast work by a horse is promoted by the food that contains the most nutriment in the least bulk.

The most convincing argument in favor of breeding none but the best class of horses comes when they are placed upon the market.

The efficacy of blood in brood mares is quite as noticeable as in the sires, and always will make an important showing in the offspring.

Horses which are given continuous work are less liable to be injured than those which are only required to do a severe day's work occasionally.

The handsome horse is not always the best for practical purposes. Very often it is the plain horse that shows the most endurance, speed and useful traits.

An egg broken in the feed of the horses occasionally, is beneficial to them, having a tendency to clear the skin and make their hair take on a bright, healthy appearance.

It is a good plan in dry, hot weather, and whenever the horses' hoofs become hard and brittle, to oil them every day with sweet oil—[Exchange.]

The Grand Circuit is the pet child of the American trotting-horse fraternity. It stands in the same relation to the American trotting horse-men as the International does to the cattle men and draft-horse breeders, but many American politicians do not look with favor on the race-course tactics of their compatriots, and racing has been "killed" in several towns that formerly made the sport profitable. This has caused an overflow into British territory, to the land of the actually free, and this year the Grand Circuit opens at Windsor, Ont. That will be new enough for the Detroit sports to get to the track and back each day.

Fitting Horses for Show.

By Alexander Galbraith.

The old-time cook, in advising her friends how to make hare soup, naively suggested that they should first "catch the hare." This advice may well be given in connection with the fitting of show horses, it being an equal necessity to have, first of all, the proper material for the purpose. One great trouble with many unsuccessful exhibitors lies in the fact that their judgment is more or less defective in choosing the material for a show horse. And, while a great deal can be done by skillful feeding and handling to bring out the best there is in any draft horse, and make him look especially attractive, there is, of course, a limit to this.

Presuming that the horse must be made fat in order to show to the best advantage, it is absolutely essential that, however faulty his top may be, his legs and feet must be sound and good. This goes without saying, and for the simple reason that, unless the foundation is sound, the heavy superstructure, when built on, will only prove a detriment and an aggravation.

But, presuming that a suitable animal with "good understandings" is provided, the first step towards making him a show horse is to ascertain if his health is good, his blood in perfect order, and his capacity to assimilate nutritious food satisfactory. It may be advisable to have his teeth examined professionally. The next step is to examine his action—both walking and trotting—and if there is any defect which prevents him going perfectly straight, seek to have that rectified in the shoeing. Remember that absolutely straight, level action, both "fore and aft," is demanded by all expert horse judges. There must be no paddling, nor toeing out, nor toeing in, and the hocks should always be carried straight, and pretty close together. Wide hock action, or a tendency to "bulge out" at that joint, whether

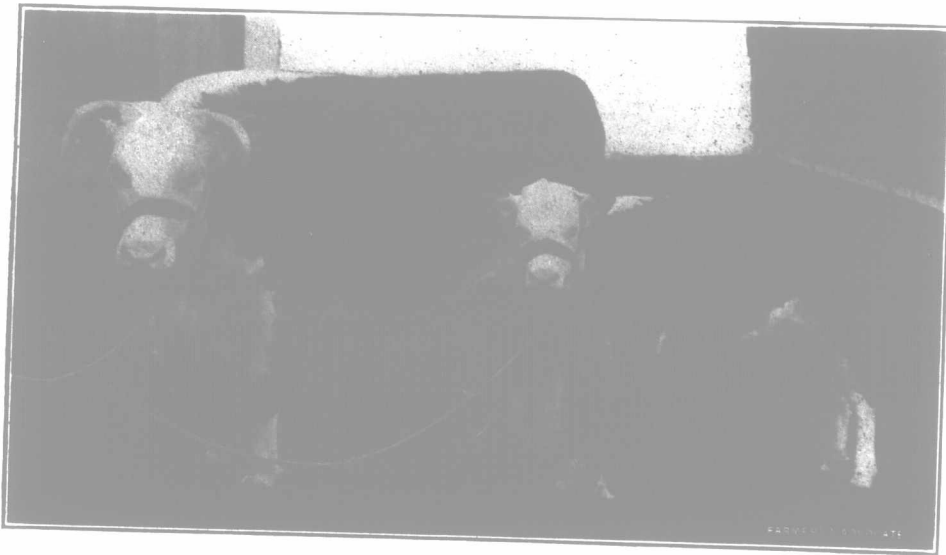


Photo by

Irving Plum and Calif.

G. H. Parsons.

Three-year-old Herford cow, first in her class and reserve champion, Royal Show, 1906. Bred and exhibited by A. E. Hughes, Leominster.

walking or trotting, is simply unpardonable in a high-class draft horse.

In fitting a horse for show purposes, considerable latitude must always be allowed the fitter in regard to the kinds and quantity of food used. Some prefer cooked food, while others of equal experience condemn it, as not only unnecessary but dangerous. My experience and observation indicate that the best results are got more promptly and more economically by giving the animal cooked or scalded food once in twenty-four hours, but not oftener. There is a danger in feeding cooked food too frequently. It affects the digestion, and causes colic. I have seen horses shown in the "pink of condition" whose food for some months previous consisted principally of oats, bran, and boiled sugar beets. I have seen other horses in equally good condition that had received no cooked food whatever, but simply oats, bran, and hay. A few, but only a few, raw carrots are an excellent alternative; carrots fed liberally will prevent, rather than assist, the horse getting into show condition.

Some exhibitors use molasses and various condiments freely and successfully. I think these also should be used judiciously, and in great moderation. As a fattener, corn has few equals, but I do not advocate its use generally for show horses, it being too heating.

The essential things for the fitter to observe closely are:

First.—That the food is being thoroughly digested.

Second.—That no more is crowded into the horse than he has the appetite to clean up, and the capacity to assimilate.

Third.—That he is regularly and thoroughly groomed, and receives sufficient daily exercise to

keep him in perfect health and prevent his legs from "stocking."

Fourth.—That the horse be weighed frequently, and if not increasing in weight, his feed ought to be changed or modified somewhat. A horse's perfect condition is evidenced by a bright, clear eye, a brilliant coat, high spirits and mettle, and sufficient flesh to thoroughly "round him out," but not enough to interfere in the slightest degree with his natural action, which on no account must be impeded.

LIVE STOCK.

American Meat Products.

In visiting the towns along the railway between Calgary and Edmonton, recently, a representative of "The Farmer's Advocate," Winnipeg, made inquiry at a number of points as to the demand for American meat products. In nearly every village the lard, meat extracts, canned stuffs and hams from the jungle of Packingtown were on sale. This seems more than strange, when we consider that the district traversed is one of the richest dairying and hog-raising sections of the West. Not only American products, but also the corned beef of a well-known Montreal firm, had found its way into the heart of the stock country of Alberta. The only explanation offered was that the trade demanded it, and the merchants sold it. It seems a strange caprice for the people of Alberta to prefer canned dairy cow from the East in preference to a home-grown sirloin. To bring beef from the East and pork from Chicago seems like carrying coals to Newcastle, but trade is like love, which laughs at locks and bars.

Alberta is not the only part of the Dominion that delights in the use of foreign-grown meat product. In 1905, Canada imported 1,223,576 pounds of lard, valued at \$102,666. This lard is produced in Chicago. We also imported 4,220,354 pounds of bacon and hams, valued at \$483,354. Salted beef in barrels was brought

in to the tune of 1,152,569 pounds, costing \$50,727. Our imports of canned meats from the United States aggregated 812,000, or \$99,550 worth. In extracts of meats, not medicated, we are a customer for \$70,590 worth; while of barrelled pork we buy 4,957,453 pounds, put down at \$337,865. Of dried and smoked meats, we purchase \$60,345 worth; of fresh meats, \$23,000 worth; and of salted meats, \$16,000 worth. This makes a total of \$1,245,000 worth of American meats in various forms which compete against our own products. There is not the slightest doubt that the recent exposures will do much to curb this, and the time has surely arrived when Canada can, at least in a large measure, supply her own products. Especially should this be the case in the Province of Alberta, where, according to a recent poem,

"The sirloin steak doth grow,
And bovril walks about in herds,
As all the pictures show."

Pig Pointers.

In no way can the waste milk from the dairy be used to a better advantage than by feeding to thrifty, growing pigs.

Better put up a cheap rough shed in the pasture than compel the pigs to lie out exposed to the hot sun all summer.

Pigs require very little bedding during the summer. As a rule, they will thrive better with a bed on the ground, if kept dry and not allowed to become dusty.

Litters born in September and given the run of a pasture field will gain strength of bone and muscle, fitting them to stand the heavy feeding and close confinement necessary to finishing for market in winter better than late fall litters.

Young sows of spring litters intended to be kept for breeding should not be confined in a pen, but given free range of a pasture, that they may grow and not get fat.

Pigs at present and prospective prices are worth raising, and are probably the most profitable crop the farm produces.