

The Feeders' Corner

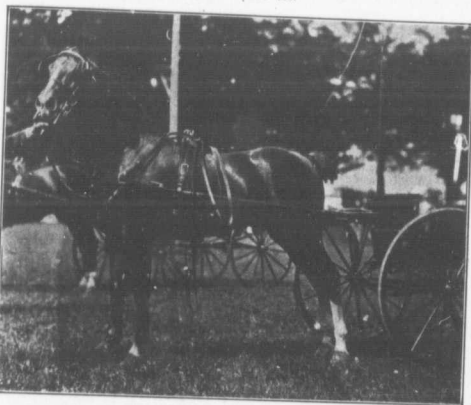
The Feeders' Corner is for the use of our subscribers. Any interested are invited to ask questions, or send items of interest. All questions will receive prompt attention.

To Fatten Horses Rapidly

In what quantity can flax seed meal be used to advantage in fitting horses for sale without seriously hurting them for work? Would you advise feeding corn in the ration? Are there any other fattening feeds which can be fed to advantage? If so, in what quantities?—P. J. Oxford Co., Ont.

Flax seed meal may be fed at the rate of as much as two pounds a day to work horses, once they are accustomed to it. It is however necessary to begin lightly, say with half a pound a day then gradually increase to one and a half or two pounds a day.

It will be found that horses differ greatly in what they will stand of such feeds. Some will be knocked out even added to a pound or so of bran while others will stand two or three pounds of flax without any sign of injurious effects.



One of the Many Good Ones at the Recent Cobourg Horse Show

The carriage horse here shown is one of the splendid string exhibited by Hon. J. R. Stratton, of Peterboro.

As a ration likely to give good results in fattening horses, I would offer the following mixture.

Cracked corn, 500 lbs.; wheat bran, 500 lbs.; oats, whole, 500 lbs.; oil cake meal, or flax seed meal, 200 lbs.; salt, 10 lbs.

Also boiled barley to be fed as much as they will stand at first twice a week and later more frequently. Hot bran mash once a week.—J.H.G.

When to Wean the Foal

At what age do you advise weaning a foal? I have a foal 4 months old. The mare is working hard every day. Would it be better to wean the foal at once? What special treatment and feed would you advise for it?—A. T. Middlesex Co., Ont.

Foals may be weaned without difficulty at anywhere from four to seven or eight months old. It is however necessary to anticipate by getting them trained to eat a bit before the weaning begins. To do this begin by giving some whole oats and bran mixed and leave a little long hay where the colt can easily reach it. In a short time the colt will be nibbling up quite a bit of the bran and oats and chewing away at the hay.

In the case mentioned it would in all probability be better to wean the foal as soon as it is eating fairly well. As an exceedingly valuable addition

to the bran, oats and hay I would suggest some ground flax seed, say one pound ground flax to three or four pounds of the bran used in the oat and bran mixture. An important matter is to feed regularly and not to overfeed.—J. H. Grisdale, Dominion Agriculturist, C.E.F., Ottawa.

Mangels at Ten Cents a Bushel

I expect to be able to buy mangels this fall for 10 cents a bushel, if I care to haul them two miles in order to get them home. Would they make economical feed for dairy cows? In what quantities can they be fed to advantage with, say, clover hay and corn stover?—L. J. York Co., Ont.

Mangels at 10 cents a bushel are fairly cheap feed and lacking other succulent feed in winter, would, I should say prove very profitable indeed for milk production. As a suitable ration for this purpose I would suggest: Mangels, 25 to 30 lbs.; Corn stover, 10 to 12 lbs.; Clover Hay, 8 to 10 lbs.; meal, or flax, to each four lbs. of milk produced.

As a meal mixture I think the following would be found satisfactory: Wheat bran, 500 lbs.; crushed oats, 300 lbs.; oil cake meal, 200 lbs.; corn, 200 lbs.

The stover might of course be fed more freely if desired, proportionately decreasing the clover hay and slightly increasing the meal and roots.—J. H. Grisdale, Dominion Agriculturist, C.E.F., Ottawa.

Mangels and Hay for Cows

Is it possible to feed dairy cows giving 30 pounds a day on good clover hay and mangels alone and maintain that flow? Would the addition of a grain ration be more economical? What grain feeds would you advise when all grain feed will have to be bought? In what proportions would you feed the grain with the roots and clover hay?—R. S. D., Nanaimo Co., B.C.

Yes, it is quite possible to feed dairy cows giving even more than 30 lbs. of milk a day on mangels and clover hay alone. If however bran can be got for less than \$30 a ton it is likely to be profitable unless mangels are very cheap indeed.

To get best results I would suggest feeding about 30 lbs. mangels, five pounds meal (equal parts bran, crushed oats and corn) and what clover hay the cow will eat. Such a ration would most likely cause cows to go higher than 30 lbs. a day and should induce a long continuance of a free flow of milk.—J.H.G.

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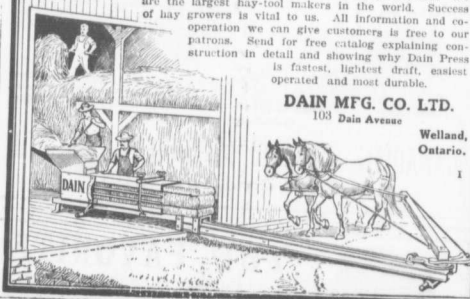
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