

## Brief Pointers for Stockmen

### Care of Breeding Mares

Farmers as well as stallion-owners should give some attention to the care and treatment of breeding mares. Every farmer is interested in getting a large percentage of colts and should make a note of the following rules on the subject suggested by Prof. Ewart, a well-known Scottish authority:

1. Mares which have been indoors during the winter, and which are to run at grass during the summer, should be acclimated to the change before being served. This is well understood by horsemen, who generally follow the above suggestion, which provides for the mares getting accustomed to the changes in food, temperature and surroundings. It is well known by all practical horsemen that digestive troubles are quite serious in their effects on the pregnant female.

2. When any signs of being in season are detected in the mare she should be removed from mares believed to be already in foal.

3. Mares, more especially excitable ones, should be served in the evening and kept shut up apart from other mares and geldings over night, and should, until all signs of heat have disappeared, be kept from any chance of teasing by other horses. In the case of a valuable mare, it would pay the breeder to retain a competent veterinary to tide over the excitable periods when a calmer, both constitutional (such as chloral or opium) and uterine (as black hawk) might with benefit be prescribed.

4. Each mare, when bred, should be carefully watched from week to week, and every ninth or tenth day be tried until the critical period (end of the seventh week) be passed.

5. Mares in poor condition should not be bred, but be gotten into condition by the addition of grain to the daily ration.

6. For at least two months after service the mares should be neither excited, over-heated, nor chilled, neither over-fed nor stinted from their usual allowance, and any drugging except under professional advice, should be at all times sternly deprecated.

### Does not Want American Stock Excluded

To say that the farmers are in favor of excluding American breeding-stock from the Western market by establishing a prohibited tariff is a mistake. They are not so blind as to thus put themselves at the mercy of syndicates of eastern breeders and a soulless railroad corporation. It is to be hoped that the Government is long-headed enough to refrain from meddling with the tariff along this line, as it would only force the Western farmers to breed from their scrub stock.

The writer has for the last three

years paid an average of four cents an egg transportation charges on eggs for hatching purposes. Add to this the price paid the Ontario breeders for the eggs and it makes it very expensive, particularly as very few if any of the eggs hatch because they are so poorly packed that they cannot stand the rough treatment they receive in transit.

If we meekly submit to paying the eastern manufacturer a high tariff on his goods and an eastern railroad corporation an equally high rate for transporting said goods, we think that we are doing for the east about all that can be expected.

Alberta.

### Cattle Exports Increase

The shipments of cattle from Montreal so far this season show an increase of 100 per cent as compared with the same period of last year. The exports of American cattle in bond for May and June were 20,650 head, and the total of Canadian and American, 44,595, or more than 50 per cent. of the grand total for 1902. There has been a falling off in sheep and horse exports.

### Pastures Five Sheep per Acre

The Maine Agricultural Experiment Station has been able to carry during the summer months from 20 to 25 breeding Shropshire ewes on a paddock containing 5½ acres which produced grass only. This work was continuous for six years and the breeding animals averaged to weigh from 110 to 150 pounds each; shearing 8½ pounds of wool, and yielding an average of 1-1½ lambs each per year. During that time the animals were in perfect health. One of the investigations with sheep of interest is an attempt to determine the limits of intensive work by setting apart a tract of 10 acres of good clay loam plow land and devoting it to the summer feeding and pasturing of about 50 ewes and lambs. The number will be increased or diminished as the food produced on the land indicates as necessary.

Another phase of work going on at this station is the breeding of winter lambs from Dorset sheep. The high prices of light weight, but fat lambs, during the spring months argues strongly in favor of this system over summer and fall marketing of the later born lambs. The chief difficulty encountered is in getting the ewes to breed sufficiently early and a number of expedients to overcome this are now being tried.

### Give the Hogs a good Run

Don't keep the hogs shut up too close these hot months, give them a little outing. They will be the healthier for it and will thrive better. A little exercise is just as necessary for the fattening hog as

for the breeding animal. The breeding hog should, however, have a great deal more exercise. It will give strength to the bone and keep it in good thrifty condition. If a hog is allowed the run of a pasture or clover field, feed a little grain, as the green food alone will not keep the animal as strong and vigorous as it should be.

If it is necessary to keep fattening hogs inside, see that the pens are properly ventilated and kept clean and tidy. A great many of the troubles that farmers have with pigs are due to filthy and unhealthy pig pens. Always remember that the pig is naturally not the dirty, filthy animal people think it is. No animal on the farm will respond more to cleanly and careful treatment than the hog. Fresh air, lots of exercise and good, clean surroundings will give as good returns with hogs as with other farm animals.

### A Sow's Family

The following item from an English agricultural exchange will be of interest:

"Lancashire stock breeders are rejoicing in the belief that their country has achieved another record. A sow of some local eminence has just had a litter of five, making the total number of her family 196. This number, it is said by Lancashire agriculturists, is a record for the whole country, if not for the world."

While this record is a large one it is not by any means a record for the whole world. Gilbert White in his "The Natural History of Selborne," mentions a sow which was the proud mother of 300 pigs. At the age of fifteen her litters began to be reduced to four or five, whereas her average for ten years had been two litters a year of about ten each, and once above twenty. When the average declined, and the sow gave unmistakable signs of age, she was killed, and, if we are to believe Gilbert White, became "good, juicy bacon."

America is yet to be heard from. What is the record for sow families for Canada? Has anyone kept a record? A sow that will produce 300 porkers would be a gold mine.

### Will buy at Junction Yards

W. Levack, one of Canada's largest cattle dealers, has consented to do some business at the Toronto Junction stock yards. This is a strong point gained by the Junction people in their fight against the city, which is still wedded to that old mud-hole known as the Toronto cattle market.

### For National Roads

At a meeting of the National Good Roads Association of the United States held at St. Louis in April last, at which President Roosevelt and W. J. Bryan made addresses, strong resolutions were adopted favoring state and national aid for road improvement.