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JUNE 19, 1907

THE FARMER'S ADVOCATE

925

Where a Little Knowledge is a Dangerous Thing.

A short time ago a coterie of lecturers on live stock meandered up and down some parts of our Western land and gave lectures on live stock and instruction in the use of the score card. Unfortunately the teaching was in one case, as reported to us, not quite up-to-date, and if taken seriously by the hearers would result in false impressions being planted, as it is well known *error* frequently flourishes apace, or gets such a start that *fact* cannot easily overtake it. In this particular case the doctrine was preached that the Hackney should not be over 15.2, and that fifteen hands was all right. Any person who studies the show-ring records and sales of Hackneys in Great Britain, the home of the breed, will find that very many Hackneys are sixteen hands, and winners at that. We can overlook the old adage that "*a good big horse is better than a good little un*" for the present, to point out the damage the preaching of the small horse doctrine would result in. The Hackney is especially well fitted to breed coach or carriage horses, especially from mares carrying hot blood, derived from Standardbred or Thoroughbred sources, but almost invariably this type of mare will be found to be lacking in size, and very frequently style and symmetry. The Hackney is an undoubted getter of actors with style if bred to the type of mares suggested, possessing as he does prepotency sufficient to overcome the plainness so common in mares with trotting blood in them. The bulk of the lighter mares of this Western country are so bred and are *rarely large enough*, so that it is easily apparent the damage that may be done to the horse breeding industry by the utterances of men not yet well qualified by experience to pronounce, who recommend and state that the ideal Hackney is a small horse. As has been already stated the records of show-rings where Hackneys are shown in any numbers refute such an idea, as does the fact that classes for Hackneys and for Hackney ponies are offered at the leading country shows.

Pink-eye and the Foal Crop.

One of the bad effects of this form of equine influenza is the detrimental effect on the horse-breeding industry. Where the disease is rife, the number of expulsions of the half incubated uterine contents is very great. Pinkeye in a breeding stud generally means that the in-foal mares abort at varying periods. But that is not all. Mares which have aborted are hard to settle again, despite the use of most virile and energetic stallions. Evidently the soil on which the male seed is to be deposited is not in a properly receptive condition, and it would appear to be advisable to give some local treatment in such refractory cases. Mares may visit the horse time and time again with unfruitful results. In such cases we would suggest the yeast treatment referred to in these columns some time ago, or injections of a permanganate of potash or boracic acid solution. It has been stated that this disease may be communicated from one stud to another through the medium of the horse. Whether a stallion may be infected now and in turn infect a mare and cause her to later on abort is not definitely known. Stallion owners would be well advised to refuse the use of their horses to mares from stables in which pinkeye is rife, until a period has elapsed long enough that the contagion may have become dissipated.

Stone Floors Best.

EDITOR FARMER'S ADVOCATE:

In answer to "A Horseshoer's" letter in your May 15th number, section 2. I was in the carting business and dealing in horses in a general way in the City of London, England, for over twenty years and found by experience the best floor a horse can stand on is one of small stones properly laid and grouted in. Do not use boards or asphalt. I have tried both and found them not good.

When a horse had a corn I always found it was caused by the shoe being short or the shoe pressing unduly on the heel. I have never yet seen a horse with corns that had never been shod. I read with interest Mr. Bradshaw's letter on the care of stallions. I consider it good. There is a little alteration I would suggest in the Saturday night mash—a tablespoonful of sulphur in place of the salt. Rock salt is good in a horse's manger.

Man.

EDWIN JACOB.

Records of Graded Stock.

A correspondent at Osler, Sask., writes as follows:

EDITOR FARMER'S ADVOCATE:

Re the article, "Keep the Standard up for Clydesdale Registration," page 724, I have just worked out the following table on which I should be glad to have your advice. Please correct same in case it is wrong.

Name of mare	Bred in the year	Offspring born	Name of offspring	No. of cross	% of pure blood in offspring's veins
X (scrub)	1901	1902	A	1st	50 %
A (grade)	1905	1906	B	2nd	75 %
B (")	1909	1910	C	3rd	87.5 %
C (")	1913	1914	D	4th	93.75 %
D (grade or Thoroughbred?)	1917	1918	E	5th	96.875 %
E (" ?)	1921	1922	F	6th	98.437 %
F (" ?)	1925	1926	G	7th	99.218 %
G (" ?)	1929	1930	H	8th	99.609 %
H (" ?)	1933	1934	I	9th	99.805 %

In the above table, every first offspring is supposed to be a filly foal and mares bred when three years old.

Clydesdale Breed.—which is the first mare colt entitled to registration and which is the first stud colt entitled to registration according to above table, corrected if need be?

Percheron Breed.—Which is the first mare colt entitled to registration and which is the first stud colt entitled to registration, according to above table, corrected if need be?

I own scrub mare X and grade mare colt A. What course shall I follow in order to have A's great-grand offspring registered, when they are born? Should I get a blank or form now (from whom?) on which A's purebred sire and scrub dam's names would be put down, in order that when A's entitled-to-registration-offspring is born, the ancestry of said offspring may be traced down to its great granddam?

I should be glad of getting an answer to above questions through your paper, as doubtless many farmers will read same with interest.

Sask.

R. M. E. P.

With Clydesdales the rules for registering graded-up stock read: "Stallions having five top crosses with their dams on record and mares having four top crosses in each case by a sire recorded in the Clydesdale Studbook of Canada shall be entitled to registration."

This means that in the case of our correspondent D would be eligible for registration and a horse colt from D by a registered stallion would be eligible.

With Percherons we have not been able to get information from all the record associations and the fact that there are several of these associations makes it rather complicated to trace the breeding of graded stock. We believe, however, that the same rule will hold as with the Clydesdales, and where the stallions used are registered in different books the finally produced purebred will be eligible in whatever studbook it is decided to record him or her.

In the matter of keeping records when grading up stock, so far there are no blanks supplied by the breed associations to parties who are endeavoring to breed from grade stock to be registered. Some breeders, however, use the transfer blanks for purebreds for this purpose, and fill them out from memory or from their diaries. This is an instance where the breed societies could do considerable good work and we have suggested to the Clydesdale Association that they prepare blanks and circulate rules for the convenience and guidance of farmers who are breeding in line from purebred sires. These blanks might contain spaces for the names of the mare, the stallion used, the owners of each, the date of birth of the progeny, the name of the progeny, and any other data that might be required. These breeding certificates might also be supplied whenever a mare changed ownership and should have a blank for transfer certificate. Such a system would result in time in increasing the value of high grade mares and in adding many new names to the list of registered stock. We believe this is a phase of breeding operations that should be endorsed and would be glad to publish expressions of opinion upon it.

STOCK

Is Barley Bad for Breeding Females?

It is commonly accepted that an excess of carbonaceous (fat or heat producing) food is inimical to the reproductive functions, and on that ground corn (maize) is condemned for breeding animals, especially females. The heavy losses by the pig breeders this winter, which all will not admit, is due to lack of exercise, are charged up by some to barley feeding. Henry states that barley tends to correct the laxative tendency of roots in cattle feeding, and it is fair to assume that this grain will have a binding or heating tendency in swine which for the breeding female is distinctly the effect not wanted. Almost invariably bad results follow a constipated condition of the bowels in the breeding female. Perhaps the chemist's analyses may throw some light on this important matter. We find the four leading cereals, wheat, barley, oats and corn, are possessed of the following digestible nutrients per 100 pounds:

	Protein.	Carbohydrates	Hydrocarbons
Wheat.....	10.2	69.2	1.7
Barley.....	8.7	65.6	1.6
Oats.....	9.2	47.3	4.2
Corn.....	7.9	66.7	4.3
Bran.....	12.2	39.2	2.7

The quantity of carbohydrates in the quartette is worth studying and the grains usually termed "strong" are found to have a high percentage as compared with the protein amount, oats, the ideal food for live stock, showing a marked difference in the protein-carbohydrate ratio to the other three, and the same may be said of bran. Feeding trials to date have been to determine methods of profitable flesh or milk production, but experiment stations have as yet issued no data bearing on the influence of diet on the carrying of the gestation period of animals to a successful issue. Barley has become very popular in the West, as a help to produce high class bacon and pork and as a quick maturing crop, so that there is a possibility of its too general use, especially for pregnant females. What have our readers to say on the matter?

A Farmer who Combines Stock-Raising with Wheat Growing.

Some people have the idea that, while the various instruments for improving the quality of farming, in the form of lectures on agriculture, farm journals, etc., devote a lot of time and space to preaching and exhorting people to go in for mixed farming, stock raising, rotation of crops, dairying, etc., yet for all the wheat farmers have demonstrated that more money can be made by their system of soil robbing. The Rounthwaite district is noted for its fine farms, and fertile acres and in the Cove, nestling close against the southeast corner of the Brandon Hills, is a farm or series of farms, because such include five sections, whereon live stock feeding is combined with wheat growing without the resultant impoverishment of land bound to follow wheat growing alone. The magnitude of the operations on the farms of S. Clark may be guessed at when one hears that in 1906 eleven thousand dollars worth of cattle and hogs were sold, and that thirty-three thousand bushels of wheat were in the granaries. At the time of our visit (May 31) the wheat was up, healthy and strong, because the owner thereof states (and believes what he says) that he never saw land so good that manure would not help it. In the cattle barn a building 72 x 40 were some 48 head of steers, threes and fours, many weighing fourteen to fifteen hundred, being fed loose for the June beef market. They were being fed cut hay (wild) and approximately twenty bushels of crushed speltz per day, morning eight, noon four, night eight, and the cattle looked well, but the owner thinks that an oat and barley chop combination has given him better results. This opinion is in line with those of big feeders and experimenters, who prefer mixed grain to a single grain ration. The cattle were put in end of November and were fed lightly the first month. We believe improvement would be had if there had been fewer cattle in the barn and if they had had a yard to walk out in and lie down in; they were when seen rather too warm and crowded, especially when the warmth from a foot or two of strong manure is allowed for. Another line of industry is pig raising and feed-