

### Wintering the Stock Stallions and Brood Mares.

In the first place, there can be no fixed rule of feeding and fitting stock through the winter, preparatory for the breeding season, as different temperaments and constitutions require different feeding. My methods for a horse of a nervous, excitable temperament are liberal rations, as follows: In the morning, dry oats, whole or chopped, fed with bran; at 11.30 a. m., three to four fair-sized carrots or two turnips; and at 12.30 p. m., cut sheaf, with bran, until near season time, then add a little chop. About 6 p. m., repeat roots; about 7 o'clock, more cut sheaf, mixed with boiled oats, and bran enough to absorb the hot water, with what hay they will eat clean. Have them eat all up clean at each feed under all circumstances. The caretaker must be the judge of the quantities to suit the constitutions of different animals. For a stallion of a rather dull, sluggish temperament, give dry oats in the morning, roots and dry oats at noon, with a little bran, and roots and cut sheaf, with chop, at night. Substitute boiled feed for the chop once or twice a week. Well-saved clover hay is by all means preferred. This rule applies to heavy stallions or geldings fitting for market also. A horse being well fed should have a large box stall on clay floor, with outside yard, the larger the better. The box should be only moderately warm during winter, as I find the legs keep in better form during the winter in a stall not too warm. About the middle of February begin to give them exercise at the line, beginning say two miles, and increase to five miles per day if possible. Plenty of exercise is absolutely necessary in all cases for health and to have him in fit shape for the season. By no means overfeed during idleness. Have them fed so when they start on their season's route you can increase their ration with a good keen appetite. This is a general outline of our winter treatment of draft stallions.

Regarding brooding mares in winter, circumstances differ so much that it is almost impossible to give anything like a regular system of care, as some must work their mares right along; others have nothing for them to do until spring. I would certainly say give a breeding mare gentle work right along, and a box stall also if possible. If you are working them, keep well shod sharp, as bare feet on slippery ground is most fatal to success with breeding mares. If you have no work, be sure to turn them out every day, unless wet or stormy. Letting them out only once in a while is dangerous, as they are more apt to overexert themselves and cause trouble. We generally feed brood-mares straw in idleness, a small feed of oats, dry or chopped, in the morning; turnips at noon; and cut feed, with chop and bran, at night. A small quantity of ground flaxseed two or three times a week is good for either mares or stallions—say a tea-cupful. But plenty of exercise or gentle work, right up to the time of foaling, is the greatest means of success. We have found to our cost that pampering and high feeding is almost sure to bring failure. After foaling, milk the mares and keep the foal hungry for the first ten days, for the health of both mare and foal. By no means milk the mare before the foal sucks. Let the foal have the first, and when you think it has a moderate supply, stop it and do your milking. I believe there is many a foal lost by too much milk the first few days, by disordering the stomach. If your foal takes joint disease, knock it on the head at once and save yourself trouble and annoyance, as nine times out of ten it will die or be a deformed, good-for-nothing, practically.

Now, Mr. Editor, I have told you my methods, and if it does no other good, it may open up a discussion so we can learn from one another, as no one knows it all.

A. INNS.

Huron Co., Ont.

### Grand Sweepstake Wether.

HOW BRED AND FED.

In reply to your enquiry as to the breeding and feeding of the winning sheep carcass in that competition at Guelph, I beg to state it was that of a grade Shropshire shearling wether, bred by Mr. S. Hoar, Woodville, Ont. His dam was a half-bred Shropshire, her dam being a good common-grade Leicester ewe. The wether's sire was the registered Shropshire ram, Fairview Sort 98519, whose sire was the well-known Newton Lord, and whose dam was Campbell 508, 58894, a first premium ewe at several Canadian shows, as well as at Madison Square Garden Show, New York City. We bought the wether in August, 1899. Till then he ran all summer on the roadside with his dam, and had no other feeding but what he helped himself to. When bought, he was weaned and given a run on rape and grass, with two feeds of grain daily. The grain feed was usually one part bran, two of oats, and one of split peas, with a trifle of barley, and sometimes a little wheat for a change. Five per cent. of ground flaxseed was added in October and November, when turnips took the place of rape in part, and most of the feeding was done in the barn. He was exhibited at the Winter Fair in London in 1899 and placed second. During the winter following, the feed was unthreshed peas in the morning, a liberal allowance of cut turnips at noon (mangels instead after April 1st till June), and clover hay and cut roots at night. In June, vetches and rape were ready for use. The latter was fed off in the field, and the other in the barn at noon. A small feed of grain was allowed, about half a pound,

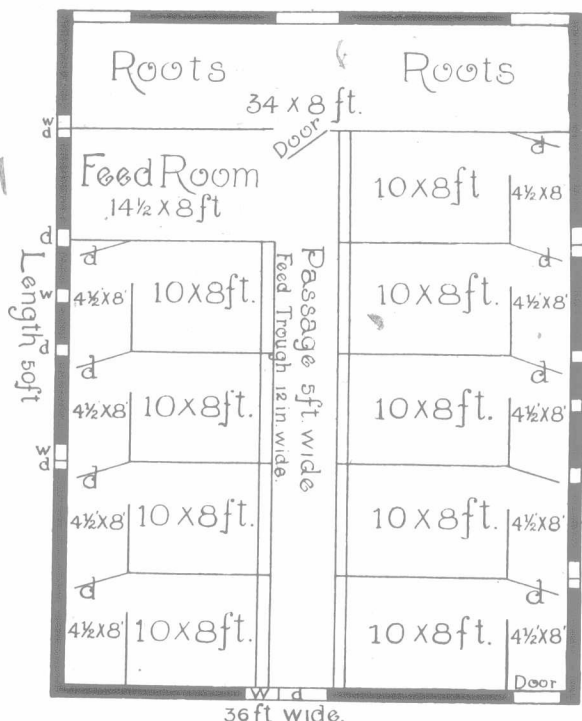
twice a day. He was on grass and rape morning and evening, and carried on in that way till October, when the care and treatment were about the same as during the previous fall. During November, the grain was increased, when about two pounds per day of the mixture was fed. As he was fed the same as our pure-bred yearling wether, the carcass of which was "faulted" for being overdone, at the Guelph Show, I suppose the conclusion we must arrive at is that the breeding has as much if not more than the feeding to do in making up toppers.

JOHN CAMPBELL.

### A Well Planned Hogpen.

To the Editor FARMER'S ADVOCATE:

SIR,—In reply to Mr. Fuller, I also send plan of pigpen, roughly drawn up, 50 feet long and 36 wide, intended to stand with root-house end into bank to protect from frost and allow driving into loft. The door going into loft can be from end over roots or side over roots to give chance to put in roots and fill feed bins. The doors that separate pens are to shut pigs in 10x8 pens when cleaning out and when moving pigs from one pen to another. All underground walls should be made of stone and come from six to twelve inches above ground, remainder wood with dead-air space. Stone walls are very bad, as they draw too much frost and act like an ice house. Pen should be seven feet high, at least, from floor to ceiling; loft can be made to suit. Floor should be cement, also troughs; floor to slope two inches from trough to



GROUND PLAN OF GEO. GIER'S HOGPEN, 50 FT. LONG BY 36 FT. WIDE.

inside of back passage, and the entire pen slope six inches from root house to cleaning-out doors. Leave no raised step at the door, in order to clean out easy. The posts for the partition door to be cedar and put down three feet in ground, and holes filled with gravel or small stone well pounded down. Floor of sleeping and eating room to be covered with 1 1/2-inch lumber—tamarack cut green and dried. Windows to have four lights 12x14.

The cost of material will vary in different parts of the country, so the builder will have to use his own judgment.

If feeding pigs is Mr. S. E. Fuller's intention, and he has a bank along the north side, he had better make the pen longer and feed from one side and his little pigs will yard on the south side. Each pen will hold about six feeding hogs. Windows should be over partitions to do two pens.

I hope this will meet with your approval.

GEO. GIER.

### Shorthorn Prices in Britain in 1900.

According to the returns, compiled by Mr. John Thornton, the average price realized for the 1,906 head of Shorthorns disposed of at the leading sales of the breed held throughout the kingdom during the past year worked out to £32 19s. 9d., as against the £31 17s. 9d. realized by 1,844 head included in the previous year's dispersals. The top price of the year was 455 gs., obtained at the draft sale of Miss A. de Rothschild's herd in Buckinghamshire early in July. The distinction of making the highest average of the year fell to H. R. H. the Prince of Wales, whose draft of 54, disposed of at Sandringham on the 29th of June, averaged within a few shillings of £70 apiece. Next to this came the average of £63 10s., made by the draft of 55 disposed of at Mr. Dudding's sale in Lincolnshire at the end of July. Like so many of the animals which have been making big prices during the past few years, the bull which topped the past season's prices was secured by a South American buyer.

### Common Sense in Horse Rearing.

To the Editor FARMER'S ADVOCATE:

SIR,—As time rolls on and changes come, the old rule never fails—one extreme brings another. In regard to horses, we find that there is a scarcity in Canada and the United States. We can easily trace this to two reasons: First, the farmers almost, if not altogether, ceased to raise them in some sections because of an over-production. Second, the number that was exported to Africa to serve in the Boer war. In my opinion, when others cease raising any commodity on the farm, then is the time to keep right on. The first duty in this important enterprise is to use nothing but sound, healthy sires and dams. As like begets like, let us use a little common sense. Common sense, thou art a jewel!

The mare, in order to be a sure breeder, should always be in a nice thrifty condition. It seems to be a fact that a goodly number of foals when dropped are in a weakly condition, and a certain per cent. die. Now, speaking from my own experience, I must conclude that proper plain feed, exercise and fresh air play a very important part in this matter. After breeding horses for twenty years in a moderate way, allow me to tell you that I have yet to see the first weak foal. Our method of wintering mares is to feed on straw, roots and hay, more straw than hay, and about one gallon of oats at two feeds daily. The straw and hay is not cut. I like it better uncut. We grow about one-eighth wheat and a little flax. This mixture makes a grand feed when ground together. Flax is very much better than oil cake, as the flax contains all the oil. We all know the benefit of linseed oil.

By using a little the time it acts as a preventive of many complaints. "One ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure." If I find an animal not thriving, we use a little Epsom salts occasionally in their chop. Please do not forget a little salt daily. My custom is to allow plenty of fresh air to circulate through the stable. Oh, for more fresh air and light in our stables! In regard to exercise, I think it advisable to allow horses not working to run out two or three hours every day. When the weather is fine, turn them out together and allow them to run together if they are so inclined. Let us follow nature as closely as possible. We all like liberty. It is a bad plan to allow horses to eat all the hay or straw that they like. About as much as they will eat in an hour is enough. When the spring opens, we work the mares right along until the time of foaling. Motto: Moderation in all things.

**Wintering Foals.**—The first winter in a colt's life is a very important one. If the mare is in foal, it is a bad plan to allow the foal to suck too long, as it weakens the next one. After being weaned, it is an excellent plan, if one can, to use some warm skim milk along with some ground oats, the same as for grown horses, about 1 1/2 gallons divided into three feeds, or a little less, and a turnip or two or carrots; but do not forget the fresh air and exercise. I allow them to run out every day along with the other horses. If handled in this way, they will come out in fine condition in the spring. Do not forget a little grain right along through the summer.

DAVID BURNS.

Ontario Co., Ont.

### Keep the Colts Healthy and Growing.

In regard to raising colts, they should be kept healthy and growing all the time, and in order to do this they must have sufficient food and exercise. The first winter is probably the most important of the colt's life. If you have any skim milk to spare, by all means give it to him; it is easily digested, will make bone and muscle, just what the colt needs to develop into a strong, vigorous horse. For the feed I prefer clover hay, oats and bran. With a few roots, a little ensilage or something of the kind for a change sometimes; about four quarts per day of oats and bran will do very well for ordinary colts. At present the mares in foal that are not working, and all the colts over a year old, get a feed of hay in the morning, cut straw and ensilage with a little oats and barley meal mixed in at noon; oats or bran and uncut wheat straw or the cut feed at night. We try to have them outdoors at least half the day, so that they get plenty of exercise, and they are all healthy and doing well. The mares are just as well working if you need them, but, of course, should be used carefully and will require better feeding. In early summer they will do very well on good grass, but as soon as it begins to dry up and flies get troublesome put them in during the day and feed a little grain.

Middlesex Co., Ont.

A. B. SCOTT.

The cow's stomach resembles a clock in one particular—its machinery is arranged to mark time; it is wound up to strike the feeding hour, and it strikes that hour almost to the minute. If the feeding time is changed for even an hour, the yield of milk will decline, and the flow of milk once lowered, is very difficult of restoration. Regularity in feeding and in milking are of the highest importance with good cows; the better the cows, the more important. It makes the difference between success or failure, gain or loss. Select whatever hours are most convenient, but when once selected, adhere to them rigidly.