

POINTS OF A GOOD HORSE.

A good judge of horses is one who, in a systematic way, can tell the good as well as the bad points of the animal which he is judging. A Canadian horse authority gives the following pointers in regard to selecting draft horses. A consideration of these points will aid materially in systematic judging and observations.

"If a horse is short-ribbed he is light in his middle and is nearly always a poor feeder.

"A light-centered horse seldom weighs well, and weight in a draft horse, if it comes from bone, sinew and muscle, goes a long way to determine his commercial value.

"A stallion whose feet are contracted and brittle and whose hocks are puffy and fleshy-looking should be avoided, as such hocks are generally associated with a coarseness throughout his whole conformation and a general lack of quality.

"When a horse is well coupled together on top and has a short back, he must have the length below from the point of the shoulder to the back of the thigh. When so built he will stand the strain of drawing heavy loads much better than if he has a long, loose back.

"The front feet and hocks are the parts of either a draft or a driving horse that come directly in contact with the hard work, and unless they are sound and good a horse's usefulness will be very much impaired and his commercial value very much lessened.

"Before using a stallion get the groom to lead him away from you. Stand square behind him and see that he picks up his feet and places them on the ground properly, travelling in both trot and walk clear and clean, not striking the ground first with the toe and then bringing down the heel.

"The feet should be large and waxy in appearance. The sole of the hoof should be concave, the frog spongy, plump and elastic, because it acts as a buffer to take the concussion from acting too severely on the foot, pastern, and fetlock. See that both sire and dam have sound feet, free from flatness and brittleness and are not contracted. There should be no "gumminess" about the hocks of the draft horse, as it indicates coarseness. They should be large, flat and firm, and should be wide, especially from a side view."

COWS NOT CONFINED.

Some dairymen follow the practice of using the closed shed or covered barn yard for their cows, putting them in the stable only at milking time. They claim that the cows are kept clean by this method, that they enjoy freedom, that the milking stable is kept in a more sanitary condition and that the manure is all saved and in fine condition.

Superintendent Greggs, of the Minnesota farmers' institutes, follows this practice and speaks highly of it. He calls the closed shed where the cows run loose the cows' bed room. It is kept heavily bedded with straw and hay and other fodder is fed in racks. He puts the cows into stanchions just long enough to milk them when they are turned into the room. Bedding enough is used to keep everything clean and to absorb all of the liquid manure. The sleeping room is cleaned out with a manure spreader, big crops being the result.

Cows so confined will keep in a more healthy condition, because they get more exercise, more good air, are kept cleaner and have better appetites. Labor is also saved because no stable cleaning is necessary daily.

The Curse of FLAX.

Flax is the poor man's crop, the homesteader's means of getting quick returns. He builds a shack in western Canada, starts the breaker, sows flax and within six months is able to get a revenue. Sometimes he gets more than the price of the land from the first crop, but "all is not gold that glitters," for if the flax seed happens to contain a few weed seeds to infest his new farm, this revenue maker in the end becomes a money loser, and a source of much annoyance. In fact, more loss may follow as a result of these few weeds than the entire value of the flax crop, even though it may be a good one. We cannot too strongly urge our prairie farmers to be careful about the flax seed they sow. Thousands of acres of virgin soil are being turned over this spring, considerable of which will be put into flax, but good clean seed is scarce and amid the rush that comes with opening a new farm, the importance of sowing clean seed is too often overlooked. Better go a long distance to get clean seed than to take chances. Better even hand pick the flax seed than to hand pull the mustard.

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The average farm flock of fowls lay many more eggs during the summer months than they do in the winter; in fact, some flocks scarcely lay an egg all winter long. Why is this so? Stop and think a moment. Is it because the weather is warm? Or is it because fowls roam the fields in summer, thereby getting exercise, green food, bugs, worms, grit, dry grain, water and dust bath when desired? Give the hen summer conditions in winter and she will lay.

Provide the variety of food that she gets in summer with exercise, water, etc., and she has got to lay. Summer warmth is not important; it is not warm weather that causes her to lay, but the conditions made possible by such weather. True, she can't get bugs and worms in winter, but meat scraps are the same thing. While much warmth is not necessary in winter, a certain amount is essential, for if hens suffer from cold, food is used to keep them warm, and there will be few eggs. It is not so much in the breed as in the feed and care given. Make conditions right and eggs will be the result.

Sanitation.

One of the practical forms which the interest in sanitation is taking, is in very wisely looking after the cleanliness of the back yard.

To have the back yard as attractive as the front is the watchword that is stimulating all sorts of reforms in this direction.

It not only appeals to the aesthetic sense, to have a beautiful green sward stretching away on all sides of the home, but it is a long step in the direction of healthier living.

The germs of malaria, typhoid fever, diphtheria, and a host of other ills lurk in the garbage pail, the heaps of wilted vegetables, the greasy dishwater thrown out at the back door and allowed to gutter for itself a shiny path over the surface of the ground.

The outlay in burning or burying the garbage and digging a drain, laying terra cotta pipes, and sinking a well for the waste water, will be small as compared with the bills incident to sickness, to say nothing of weeks or months of suffering.

No one need fear cholera or any summer complaint if they have a bottle of Dr. J. D. Kellogg's Dysentery Cordial ready for use. It corrects all looseness of the bowels promptly and causes a healthy and natural action. This is a medicine adapted for the young and old, rich and poor, and is rapidly becoming the most popular medicine for cholera, dysentery, etc., in the market.



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