

THE HORSE.

Feeding Weanlings.

In answer to an inquiry from a subscriber, re the best kind of feed for a five-months-old colt he hopes to show at the fairs, we thought the subject worthy of a somewhat lengthened discussion.

We presume that the owner wishes to winter the colt in such a manner that he will be in condition for show purposes when the opportunity for competition presents itself. The feeder must remember that at this age it is quite possible to make a mistake in the endeavor to get the animal in high flesh. The ultimate development, usefulness and value of a foal depends largely upon the feed and care he receives during his first winter.

Weanlings should not be pampered, kept housed all the time and fed heavily on grain. They should get plenty of exercise; at the same time the too common idea that a colt should be taught to "rough it" early in life, in order that he may become a "tough, hardy animal," is as false as it is inhumane. In order that he may develop into the best that "is in him," he must always be well looked after, but this especially applies during his first winter.

The foal should be kept in a comfortable box stall when in the stable. The larger the stall the better as there may be occasions when the weather is such for several days at a time, that it would not be wise to turn him outside for exercise, and if in a box stall he will take more or less exercise voluntarily, the amount being largely in proportion to the size of the stall. So long as the weather remains reasonably fine, he should be turned out into a field or paddock for a few hours daily, but when it is wet or very cold he is better in his stall, which, in addition to being large, should be well lighted, excluded from drafts, and well ventilated, and when possible, of moderate temperature. But it is better that the temperature be low than poorly ventilated and warm. His coat will grow sufficiently to protect him from the cold, provided drafts are excluded, but nothing can act as a substitute for fresh air.

Of course, there are cases in which a box stall cannot be provided, and it is necessary to tie the colt in a single stall, but daily exercise must be given in some way, as it develops muscle, aids digestion and gives tone to the respiratory and nervous systems. When regular exercise is allowed there are few cases in which it is not safe to allow the colt a very liberal supply of grain. There are few weanlings that will eat sufficient to cause digestive trouble, provided, as stated, that daily exercise is allowed. Of course, there are exceptions and these must be treated accordingly. The question then arises, "What and how should they be fed?" As with older animals, hay, oats and bran must be depended upon for the production of bone, muscle and energy, and anything else given is merely for the purpose of satisfying the appetite and aiding digestion. Especially for colts, care must be taken that all feed given be of good quality. Musty or dusty feed of any nature should, on no account, be allowed. Well-cured clover hay gives better results than timothy, but where this cannot be procured good results are obtained from good timothy. The amount of hay should be liberal, but in no case more than will be eaten at one meal. The habit of keeping hay constantly before an animal of any age is wasteful and harmful. If he be fed what he will eat in at most one and a half hours, and then get nothing whatever to eat until the next meal time, he will have an appetite for his meal, will relish it, and receive more benefit from it than if he had been eating more or less between meals. The digestive organs require periodical rests, which they do not get when feed is kept before the animal at all times.

The form in which oats are fed depends, to some extent, upon circumstances and the opinions of the feeders. Some prefer whole oats, some whole oats mixed with bran, some chopped oats, some rolled or crushed oats, and some boiled whole oats. The writer

prefers rolled oats, where this is fed some give it dry, others dampened, others mix it with bran and feed it either dry or dampened. We favor the following plan for weanlings. In the evening mix the ration of rolled oats with a little cut hay or wheat chaff, in a pail, pour some boiling water on it, cover the pail with a lid to prevent escape of steam, and allow it to stand in a moderate temperature until morning, then feed. Then prepare another feed in the same way, to be given in the evening, in the meantime giving a mid-day meal of either rolled or whole oats. This scalded mixture is very palatable and gives good results. It is also well to give a feed of bran, say twice weekly in lieu of oats, but some prefer mixing a little bran with the oats for each meal. Either plan gives good results. In addition, it is well to give a carrot or two with the mid-day meal. This is very palatable and aids digestion. As stated, the amount of grain allowed may be quite liberal, provided regular exercise be allowed. The feeder soon learns about the amount the animal will consume with apparent relish, but if he notices any symptoms of digestive trouble following a meal he should reduce the allowance. Water of good quality should be allowed at least three times daily, and where conditions are such as will allow it, it is well to allow free access to it at all times.

In addition to feeding, housing, watering and exercise, it is necessary to attend to the feet during the winter. The wear of the feet is not equal to the growth, and unless attended to they will grow too large, ill-shaped and out of proportion, hence interfere with the proper relation between the bones of the feet and those of the limbs. This may cause the animal to stand and walk in an unnatural manner and interfere materially with his ultimate value and usefulness. The feet should be carefully examined at least once monthly, and by the use of a shoeing-smith's knife and rasps, trimmed to the desired size and normal shape. The stall should be regularly cleaned out to avoid forcing the colt to stand on heating manure. The attention to the feet teaches the colt to submit to control, and in addition to the handling of the feet and limbs, it is well to teach him to lead, stand tied, etc. Under such care the colt should be in good condition, in fact practically in "show condition" when pasture time arrives, when, if the feeder thinks it necessary, he can supplement the grass with a little grain once or twice daily, as the condition of the pasture warrants.

WHIP.

The Horse Market and Farm Products.

Farmers who do no special breeding of horses and consequently have none to dispose of are not inclined to interest themselves very much in the horse market or in the horse breeding industry. They feel that when the need arises they will be able to obtain a horse or a team, so why should they worry? Whether horses or trucks are used in the manifold activities of trade and industry it matters little so long as plenty of horses are available for work on their farms. This attitude on the part of farmers is altogether too general and many breeders of horses are not sufficiently informed regarding the long-range effect that a decadent horse industry will have on farming as a whole. There is a home market for farm product involved and this phase of the situation is of the most direct significance to farmers everywhere. Wayne Dinsmore, Secretary of the Horse Breeder's Association of America discussed this subject at the last annual convention and showed the breeders where more than a million horses and mules had been displaced in the towns, cities and villages of the United States during the last ten years. Commenting further he said:

"This not only means the closing of a channel to the farmers for sale of his surplus horses, (a by-product of any well managed farm,) but a loss of a home market for staple farm products amounting per year to 113 million bushels of oats, 70 million bushels of corn and 4¾ million tons of hay. The ears of users of horses

both in city and on farms have been so filled with the whirring of engine wheels that the farmer has let this tremendous market for oats, corn and hay, greater than our exports in any one of the last five years, slip unheeded through his fingers, while the city man has paid from two to three times as much for hauling and delivery service without proportionate recompense in efficiency."

The farmers of Canada, where horses have also been displaced in large numbers should consider the problem from this angle for the local market for products of the farm is too big to be ignored.

LIVE STOCK.

English Fat Stock Shows.

EDITOR "THE FARMER'S ADVOCATE":

Two of England's leading fat stock shows have just been held. In that held at Birmingham the cattle championship was won by Sir Richard A. Cooper's cross-bred heifer, Blue Bell, by an Aberdeen-Angus bull, out of a dam by a cross-bred Angus-Shorthorn. This exhibit at 2 years 8 months and 5 days weighed 14 cwt. 2 qrs. 11 lbs. Reserve for supreme title was J. J. Cridlan's Eros, an Aberdeen-Angus of Ballindaloch ancestry scaling 13 cwt. 3 qrs. 11 lbs. at 32 months old. Best animal bred and exhibited by the owner was Messrs. H. Weston & Sons' Hereford steer, Bounds Jester, by Conquest and out of Accomplish 4th. At 1 year, 9 months and 6 days he brought down the scale at 13 cwt. 3 qrs. 16 lbs.

Championship in sheep (pens of 3) went to the Pendley Stock Farms Co., Tring, for a pen of Hampshire Down lambs which weighed 5 cwt. 13 lbs. at 10 months. Reserve was R. S. Hicks Southdown wethers which at 22 months turned the scale at 5 cwt. 4 lbs. Championship in pigs (pens of two) fell to Robert Ibbotson's Tamworths, which won several special awards and brought down the scale at 8 cwt. 17 lbs. at 11 months and 3 weeks old.

At Norwich show the cattle championship fell to the Duke of Portland's white Shorthorn heifer, Welbeck Lass which scaled 16 cwt. 1 qr. 6 lbs. at 2 years and 7 months. Reserve was A. W. Bailey Hawkin's Era of Stagenhoe which at 34 months weighed 14 cwt. 1 qr. The Royal herd from Sandingham won the steer prize with a Red Poll scaling 15 cwt. 2 qrs. 12 lbs. at 2 years, 9 months and 3 weeks. Sir Jeremiah Colman's Southdown wethers won the sheep championship. They weighed 4 cwt. 1 qr. 10 lbs. at 22 months. ALBION.

"I Got Him!"

A boy pushed open the door of the Agricultural Representative's office one morning and shouted "I got him!" and was gone. Those in the office were surprised at the action of the lad but they were soon enlightened as to the reason for this outburst of enthusiasm. A pig club had recently been organized and one stipulation was that each member was to give his personal note, backed by the signature of a parent or guardian, in payment for a young sow. The notes would not mature until the member had produce from his sow to sell. This particular lad had been in town the day previous and had picked his sow, but he could not make final settlement as the father was not present. The Representative told him to go home and bring his father in next morning at ten o'clock. "Father is very busy and thinks this club work all nonsense. He won't come, I know he won't!" said the boy and his eyes filled with tears as he saw his chances of owning a pure-bred sow vanish. To be lenient with one lad would possibly weaken the morale of the scheme and, besides, business is business. The lad was told to bring his father in next morning, but if he wouldn't come he was to come anyway. We believe the Agricultural Representative would have found some way of financing that pig deal if the father wouldn't lend his aid. However, the boy had his father with him at the appointed time.



Wee Donald,

Grand champion Clydesdale stallion at the International, Chicago, for C. A. Weaver, Regina, Sask.



Donna Woodford 5th.

Champion Hereford female at the International, Chicago, for N. E. Parrish, Reading, Pa.