Does Seeding Down Pay?

Despite the fact that progressive farmers in many parts of Western Canada urge the practice of seeding down prairie soil to grasses there are a few intelligent men who have tried this system of farming and fail to get results that warrant them in advocating it to their fellows. Is it a question of soil or of improper treatment of the soil ?

On another page of this issue appears a letter from "Manitoba Farmer" in which it is pointed out that for five years he has noticed lower yields of wheat from timothy sod than from summer fallow. As he figures it he has lost hundreds of dollars each year, and his farm has not increased in value.

As this question has been announced as the one to be taken up in our "Topics For Discussion" in the issue of August 18, we should have a recital of interesting and valuable experiences with grass lands and crop yields following their breaking. The facts as stated by "Manitoba Farmer" this week make it necessary to be definite as to methods adopted and the nature of the soil. The settling of the prairies calls for the growing of cultivated grasses for hay supply. It is, therefore, important that farmers should know the methods that can best be adopted in again putting the sod land under crop.

Granary Problems

Particularly to the new settler on the prairies the problem of providing storage for what grain is not hauled direct from the threshing machine to car or elevator is a very important one. In most cases it is possible to find out from neighbors who have had experience, what is most satisfactory. Conditions have to be considered by the individual. Economy with due regard to efficiency is the factor that, as a rule, ranks high. If the farm is close to a loading platform or to abundant elevator capacity the expense for granaries need not be large. But when these boons are not within easy reach the farmer must furnish the necessary storage.

For those who can afford the initial outlay there can be little doubt but that a substantial granary in conjunction with other farm buildings is the best. It is an easy matter to arrange for easy loading and unloading. The grain always is easy of access. Besides there are no small granaries scattered here and there over the farm obstructing the plow and other implements and causing considerable inconvenience until removed—which as a rule is when it is empty or nearly so.

* * *

Tight binder canvases mean extra and useless draught on the team. The canvases should be run as slack as possible, to have them carry the grain properly. So used they will wear much longer and render better service. Tight canvases cause the rollers to become warped out of alignment, and the roller bearings to wear rapidly. They mean extra horse power, and extra horse power means more feed and less acres harvested, which all sifts down to a smaller net profit per bushel of grain. The binder chains come in for a good deal of hard wear during harvest. Secure a stick of graphite and rub them well before putting the machine into the field, keep them well oiled and supplied with graphite, and give them moderate slack, and you will be pleased with the results.

HORSE

Importers who have visited the Shetland Islands, this summer in search of good Shetlands report values on ponies appreciably higher this year than last. While the sensationally high prices are paid only occasionally for show ponies of the highest quality, the prices for fine breeding specimens of both sexes have made a great advance during the last five years, and the prospects for a steady and healthful increase during the next few years appear to be very bright.

* * *

A new English record was made for the high jump at the International of Olympia, the French mare Jubilee clearing the bar at 7 ft. 2 in. The world's record in high jumping is 7 ft. 6 in., made by the American gelding Heather Bloom at a Chicago show some years ago. Twenty thousand dollars was recently refused for this remarkable animal and a few weeks after the offer was made the horse injured his shoulder in jumping over a six foot six paddock and had his career mercifully ended. The French mare therefore is the greatest living high jumper.

Horse Feeding System

EDITOR FARMER'S ADVOCATE :

After three seasons' trial we find the following methods of feeding, caring and working farm horses in hot weather very satisfactory. We feed the first meal about five a. m., giving each horse a forkful of hay and an oat sheaf. We then groom and harness them and clean out the stables. Before going to breakfast each horse is given two quarts of threshed oats. If we did not feed sheaf oats we would increase the ration of whole oats to four quarts. We have tried watering before feeding but we found that the horses would not drink very much and it was not worth while leading them any distance to water.

We aim to get to the field just before seven and work until eleven forty-five, driving eight miles on a breaking plow. Whilst in the field we watch and keep the horses' manes from under the collars and also keep the hames good and snug. At noon the horses are fed the same amount as in the morning, hay and sheaves being fed before dinner and the whole grain after dinner. I do not think it advisable to feed whole grain as soon as a horse comes into the stable, as the stomach being empty the grain passes into the intestines before it is properly digested, and the same benefit is not derived from it. We bathe the shoulders at noon with cold water to which a little salt has been added, being careful that the shoulders are good and dry before hitching up.

We get started in the field again by two o'clock and quit at six. If the horses are very warm we give them a pailful of water each before supper, and all they will drink after supper. Before going to tea we feed hay; after, we groom, then sponge their shoulders and water them, and then feed them oat sheaves and oats. If the mosquitoes are very bad we smudge out the stables before leaving for the night. On Sundays we feed the hay and oat sheaves but do not feed any whole grain. Salt is given twice a week. We have broken as much as 220 acres with eight horses and fitted it for crop, on above feed. It is a good plan to feed each horse a good bran mash on Saturday night in place of oats if one can get the bran.

Sask. ARTHUR TRAFFORD.

Objection to Low Back

An Alberta correspondent asks, "When a horse or mare is low in the back, is the defect likely to be reproduced in their offspring ?"

Defects of this kind seldom make their appearance immediately in the produce, but it invariably follows that wherever there is a defect in a parent there will be a tendency to that same defect in the offspring and when the part is put to a strain its weakness will become evident. This also applies to diseases. The produce of a spavined horse do not come with spavins fully or in part developed, but a large percentage of them will have spavins if they live long enough. One has only to have an experience of this kind to be impressed with the certainty with which diseases reappear and also the predisposition to diseases or defects.

In breeding horses it is very often difficult to know whether it would be better to raise stock with almost a certainty of defects or disease, or not to raise them at all. Where horses are raised almost wholly for work at home the oss arising from a defect or disease is not so great or direct as where horses are raised for market. One can often get a lot of service out of an unsound horse but not be able to sell him for what he might be worth. It is also difficult at times to choose between a horse with a serious defect like a low back, or short action or lack of size or other drawback and a horse that fills the bill in every way except for a slight unsoundness, like a side bone, or spavin, or a bad eye. Of course, the best thing to do is to pass both up, but that is not always possible and so one must use his judgment and breed from such horses under protest until something better is to be had.

Cerebral Disturbance

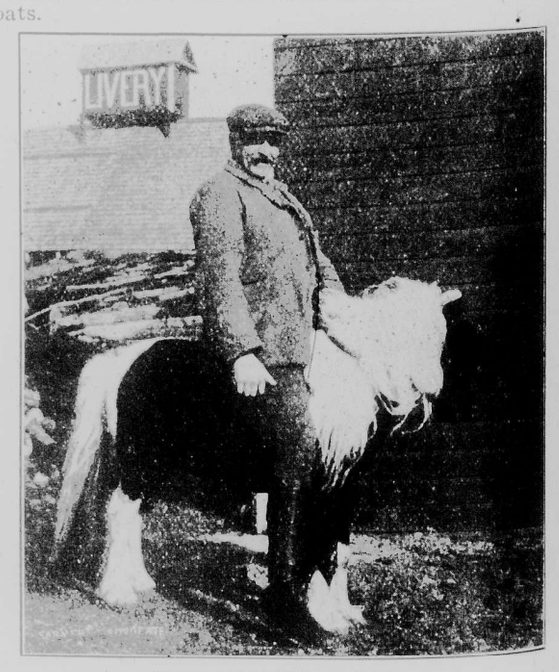
Kindly let me know what is the matter with my driving mare. several weeks ago, after travelling about two miles, she commenced to hang back and looked as if she were listening to something behind or like a horse that had a notion to balk. After going that way for one-fourth of a mile she suddenly started to run, and for one-half a mile I had very little control over her. She then cooled down and went along as usual.

Some time ago she had been driving all forenoon. After dinner when about two miles on the road, suddenly became unsteady on her feet and stopped, turned her head to the right, towards the other horse, leaned out and back, had convulsions like an animal that had been poisoned with strychnine. This lasted for a minute or two. She came partially out of it for a moment. These symptoms were repeated four times and then she started off on a run for about half a mile, leaning to the left so hard that the only thing that kept her from falling down was the harness. After standing for a few moments she went on all right.

A few days ago she became unsteady on her feet after driving about a mile, and the muscles of her body twitched like as if she was poked in the ribs with your finger. There was an interval of 15 or 20 seconds between the twitches. The spell lasted three or four minutes, when she came all right again.

Alta. A SUBSCRIBER.

This is a case in which there is some disturbance with the function of the brain. It is difficult to point out the exact lesion as there are several diseased conditions, both local and remote that would account for the peculiar action of this mare. For instance there may be a tumor, or an accummulation of fluid in the cranial cavity, or there may be something interfering with the blood supply to that organ. On the other hand certain derangements of the digestive system acting reflexly on the brain would cause her to act in the manner described. If the cause be tumor, or, accumulation of fluid or structural change, a cure cannot be hoped for but if from gastric troublet proper feeding and treatment will likely bring about good results. We would advise you to turn her out on pasture for the summer if you possibly can; if not give her a good physic and low diet for a few weeks. Prepare for the purge by feeding bran mashes for one day, no hay. Next morning administer a purgative ball composed of barbadoes aloes from 7 to 10 grains, according to the size of the mare, calomel 1 dram, powdered ginger 1 dram, soft soap sufficient to combine. Roll up in soft paper making a bolus 2½ inches in length, to be given fasting. Continue to feed bran mashes only until purging commences, then commence to feed half her usual allowance of hay and oats.



SHETLAND PONY ROMEO.
Owned by N. Little, Postmaster at Fork River, Man. Weight 280 with Municipal Clerk, D. F. Wilson 240 pounds up.

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It is doubtful whethe
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tion. The practice wit
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a rank or woody growth
America."

Prof. Koch's View

Prof. Robert Koch, the
teriologist, who discovere
in 1890, has been much
opinions expressed regardi
tuberculosis, and the char
tuberculosis in man. At
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tuberculosis in man in whi
demonstrated as of bov
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elicited from Dr. Koch th
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Times, in which paper
December 28th, 1908. Th
Times correspondent as foll

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The second point at issue
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human beings could not be
All he contended was that
less frequent source of the d
fection, and less far-reachin

Professor Koch would
simultaneous efforts made f
cure of bovine as well as hu
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ever, that the efforts of a c
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sumption by any attempts.
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Warbles in

A correspondent asks for
vention and destruction of
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domen, and somewhat simil
thorax. The presence of the
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the field with head and neck o
erect. The fly introduces its
by means of a sharp-pointed o
hatch into the warble or ox
was formerly held that the eg
the system by the cattle lick
off, and that the grub found i
the skin of the back, but th
reasonable theory is that ab
simplest measure of preventi
smearing of the backs of the
summer with some offensive
which the fly will avoid, such
oil and sulphur, applied wit
Treatment for destruction of