

colt has not suckled, instead of trying to force it to do so, milk the mother, putting the milk into an infant's bottle and letting the colt take as much as it wants. Seldom will this have to be repeated. When next you see the colt disinfect as before, and continue this every ten hours, except at night, for the first three or four days, and again when the navel falls off. If this system were followed, there would be few cases of joint ill.

It is well not to use the mare for at least a month after foaling. At the expiration of that time she can be worked lightly at such work as will enable her to suckle her colt every three hours, until the colt is two months old. Then it can go longer between meals. The colt should be handled regularly to instill obedience, and a kindly feeling towards mankind into its young head. Early lessons are never forgotten.

CARE FOR THE FOALS' FEET

As the colt grows its feet will soon need attention. They should be trimmed, whenever they show signs of breaking or cracking, or when they grow out too far. As colts and yearlings, feed liberally crushed oats, bran and bright mixed clover and timothy. If clover hay is free from dust it is better than anything else. Give the youngsters plenty of roots as well. Young horses require a great deal of exercise, so should be out every day through the winter for a few hours, but not long enough to become chilled, or to fill their stomachs with frozen grass. The fact that they need exercise, and much of it, for their perfect development must be emphasized.

The second summer may be passed in the pasture field. If the grass is not sufficient, give some crushed oats. Usually during the hottest part of the summer it is well to have the colts inside during the day and out at night. Otherwise supply shelter from the wet and flies.

During the second winter, combine the treatment used as foals with plenty of food and exercise. During this winter the young horses should be well halter broken, and, if of good size, perhaps, hitched to light loads on the sleigh. Briefly, until the fall of the second year, when the horse is rising three years old, when most men put them to work, a heavy draught should have plenty of good nourishing food, and plenty of exercise.

AGE FOR BREEDING

The age at which a filly can be profitably bred, differs with the individuality of the filly. In the case of a large, well-grown filly, early breeding, say, during the second year, so that she may have a foal when a three-year-old, can be practised. But usually it is well to first cover a colt early in the spring of her third year. This ensures proper development of the mother and the colt, and should allow for many years of profit in the stud.

If a good filly be raised, having one more cross than the mother, and be a better individual, sell the mother rather than the filly. The reason that the horse of Ontario is admittedly so much poorer to-day than it was ten years ago, is that most of the good brood mares and fillies have been sold, leaving the inferior individuals from which to breed. Ontario is the seed bed for Canada, and we should strive to raise the purest stock for the younger provinces. At the present, when times are dull, is a good time for the provident farmer to purchase a good brood mare, and a visit to any of the large exhibitions, should give a man an idea of the type demanded in to-day's market.

Cost of Keeping Cows

H. Bollert, Oxford Co., Ont.

The cost of maintenance of the dairy cow is a debatable question. Much depends on whether or not a man wants to keep a cow for the benefit of his health, or whether he keeps her for a profit. In the former case it costs \$25 a year will keep her. In the latter case it will take \$40 and even more at the present prices of all kinds of

feed. The cost of keeping cows has increased considerable during recent years. Feed and labor are at least one-third higher than they were seven or eight years ago; consequently the cost of keeping the cow has increased in the same ratio.

The Aim of the Mutton Producer

In spite of all things said to the contrary and the discouraging reports on wool markets, there will be just as much profit in sheep this year as there is in any other line of live stock. Of course the profits of last year are not to be expected. It was an exceptional year, particularly for the sheep men. This spring, however, after last winter's financial depression, the mutton market was the first to move, and comparatively speaking, it started very strong.

In the ranching country of the West, it must be admitted that things do not look very bright. That is a country where wool represents half their profit, where sheep are fed in car lots and always sold by the hundred. A year such as



A Good Type of Southdown

this means very little gain for those men and in many cases, serious loss. There, mutton can be grown much cheaper, pound for pound than in Ontario. The same applies to wool. It is they who control the mutton market in Chicago and Buffalo. If Ontario breeders have to compete with them, they have to feed very carefully to show a profit.

The hog men in Ontario soon found that if they were going to raise the fat type of hog they would have to compete with the product from the corn belt. This they realized would be anything but profitable, so they produced a more reliable article, the bacon hog. It found a better market and in consequence, it started a very lucrative trade.

A TRADE IN THE BEST MARKET

The most up-to-date of Ontario's sheep men have already taken a step in the right direction. They have worked up a trade with the best butchers in Toronto, Montreal and New York. As it is, we find that any Ontario mutton has a preference over the average American product. This surely gives feeders something to work on. If, with the aimless breeding at present carried on, they can conform favorably with the Americans, what could they do with improvement?

The main reason, at present, for the ordinary farmer's lack of attention to his flock is that it does not seem to demand any care from him. He probably has from 10 to 20 ewes, that run at large all summer. They pick for themselves, requiring housing and feed for two or three months in the winter. They will, as a rule, clear him five or six dollars a head each year. This represents something like 25 per cent. of the total money invested. With money coming so easily, a man thinks he should make no further effort. But why not double it? With just a little care and attention this is possible.

In the first place, next fall start out with a good sire at the head of the flock. It is conceded

that the ram is one-half the flock. What cheaper way is there of improving the flock than by investing five or ten dollars more in a good ram? Above all things never use a grade or scrub ram. What can be done in the way of improving a flock when a ram is used of whose ancestry the best that can be said is that they were sheep? It is not sufficient that an individual in itself be good. To be any value for breeding, it must be descended from stock that is bred right and true to type. There is also the other extreme when men get a sire with a long line of ancestry regardless of the individual. This is the greater mistake of the two, as the individual must first be selected and the breeding considered afterwards.

The females must also receive some attention. The greatest mistake of the ordinary farmer is that he allows the butcher the pick of his lambs, and breeds from the ones rejected by the butcher. Why not pick out the number needed of the strongest and most typey ewes? Then allow the butcher to take the rest. It will mean money in pocket inside of two years.

Make the first step this fall by laying out enough money to buy a good ram. If the lambs have not been satisfactory, select a sire of a different breed, or in the case of pure breeds, of a different strain of the same breed. Produce something just a little better than last year. By careful selection of females the flock will become not only a source of profit but of pleasure to the breeder.—C. F. M., Middlesex Co., Ont.

Our Corn for Next Year

L. D. Hankinson, Elgin Co., Ont.

There is no time during which the selection of our seeds for the coming season's planting can be so advantageously undertaken as at the harvest time. Then we can more readily locate the most vigorous growing plants, and by spending a little time in this manner we are able to choose the fittest. A little forethought often saves much inconvenience, time and expense at seed time.

Corn harvesting will soon be at hand, and those interested in the growing of the most valuable crop must needs take the opportunity, and either select the seed from their own crop or procure it from some reliable source. The past year has been an object lesson to many along the line of seed culture in regard to corn. Last year owing to the scarcity of seed corn much inferior stuff was placed upon the market. Now, the result is manifest. Where inferior seed has been used we see uneven, sickly and patchy corn fields, while on the other hand where well selected seed has been used we have everything that tends to be a bountiful crop, thus exemplifying that old established law, "like begets like."

HAVE A DEFINITE AIM

In selecting seed corn, as in animal selection, we must have some definite aim, some fixed standard. Then select with that in view. A good ear of corn, no matter of what variety must possess certain definite characteristics. It should be more or less cylindrical in shape, symmetrical, large and well filled with sound grain from butt to tip. The rows of kernels should run straight—the whole length of the ear—and the kernels should be of uniform size, thus giving a large per cent of grain to cob. A good, mature ear, when taken in the hands, should possess a firmness about it, so that when twisted in the hands, there will be no indication of looseness of kernels or vacancies between kernels. In my experience the best time for harvesting seed corn is while the crop is standing. Then one can see both the parent stock and the ear it has produced. By passing through the field with a basket and stripping down the husks on the promising looking ears, one can in a short time procure the seed he requires. Or when husking is done by hand the selection may conveniently be made then. The husker simply leaving the husk on the ear and throwing it on a separate pile.