



FARM AND DAIRY & RURAL HOME



We Welcome Practical Progressive Ideas.

Trade increases the wealth and glory of a country; but its real strength and stamina are to be looked for among the cultivators of the land.—Lord Chatham.

The Recognized Expert of Dairying in Canada.

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The Care of the Brood Mare on the Farm She Requires Some Special Attention to do her Special Work

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ESSENTIALLY, the care of brood mares is not different from that given to other classes of horses. The brood mare, however, represents at least two animals, and it is especially owing to this second animal that she becomes of extraordinary importance as compared with the other inmates of the stable.

Pregnancy in itself is a perfectly normal function, which in no way interferes with the mare's health. In fact, it may involve a very advantageous influence upon the general well-being of the animal body on account of the increased metabolism accompanying it. As a result, we commonly see that during the earlier stages of pregnancy the mare shows a better appetite and gains on flesh more rapidly.

During the first half of pregnancy, the condition of the mare is not different from that of the other horses of the stable, but after that time certain changes manifest themselves, which deserve our consideration. At that time the foetus has already assumed a considerable size, and is for some time still on the increase. The size of the foetus and incidentally that of the uterus is found to exercise an influence upon certain organs and their functions in a purely mechanical manner.

Shortness of Breath

The abdomen becomes heavy, so that standing and walking becomes less comfortable. The greatly increased uterus encroaches upon the digestive apparatus, the respiratory apparatus, likewise has pressure exerted upon it to the extent that the animal shows a certain shortness of breath. At the same time, the increased activity of the body's vital processes increase the work of the heart and kidneys.

All these changes are far from being abnormal, even if they should be given full consideration in management. They may even be regarded as safety devices for the unborn colt. The sluggishness of the heavily pregnant mare, as well as her shortness of breath, are excellent factors in the prevention of excessively active

movements or mechanical violence, which are apt to produce premature birth.

When we carefully consider the above-mentioned facts and thereby not forget that the pregnant brood mare represents two animals when it comes to feeding time, the principal features of her care and management are at once apparent.

Exercise and Work

In this the accustomed routine must be followed as near as the state of pregnancy permits. The first question which presents itself here is the one of exercise and work. There can be no doubt that the amount of work performed by a brood mare during the last half of pregnancy must be considerably reduced. In the first place, because of the considerable part of nutritive material which formerly was available for the development of mechanical energy is now being utilized for the upbuilding of the new animal in course of formation. Requiring a mare of this condition to deliver great amounts of muscular energy, which is, of course, primarily derived

from the food, would be equivalent to the starving of the colt.

The danger of this, however, is self-limited, as the labor efficiency of the heavy mare is already reduced by the size of her abdomen and her comparative shortness of breath. A mare can do a considerable amount of work with impunity, but it should not be forgotten that she must be used sparingly, must not be asked to draw too heavy a load or to go too fast a pace, while her condition as well as the welfare of the colt demand frequent breathing spells.

Muscular Activity Necessary

On the other hand lack of exercise would be as undesirable as too much of it. The body and the proper performance of its functions demand a certain degree of muscular activity, and hence when we use our mares with some discretion, there can be no objection to them performing their daily work. Many breeders work their mares almost to the time the colt is born, and find it an advantage to do so. There is no doubt that such a course is preferable to confining the

pregnant mare in a box stall and condemning her to inactivity for several weeks. When suitable work cannot be found for the brood mare, she should be given the freedom of pasture or paddock.

Proper precautions must be taken to protect the heavy mare against external violence or injury. She must not be crowded into close quarters, and certainly not in places where she is liable to be kicked or where she would be especially induced to do so herself. When used on the wagon or other implements, the jostling by the pole must be prevented. Care must be exercised to prevent falls on slippery or icy roads. When used under the saddle the girth must not be drawn too tight.

Of great importance is the feeding of the mare. The fullness of her abdomen points toward the advisability of selecting a ration that is not too voluminous. Whatever feed, concentrated or

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HYDRO-ELECTRIC POWER IN OPERATION



Electric Power is Doing Many Chores, Little and Great, On Farms Nowadays.

SUCH a silo filling scene as this one is becoming quite common in many rural communities. The covered electric motor wagon is displacing gasoline and steam engines for the heavier jobs of the farm such as silo filling and threshing, while smaller stationary motors perform such minor operations as running the milking machine and turning the separator, the root pulper and the grindstone or emery wheel. Electric energy supplies the simplest and best of all forms of power, but as yet is available to only a small percentage of Canadian farmers who happen to be favorably located. This silo filling scene is on the farm of D. B. Smith, Oxford Co., Ont.