

the food is brought. They grow quickly when the others are gone, and form, six months later, breeding horses of first order. But this way of proceeding does not offer sufficient guarantee, and the good results that it can give are only an exception. The administration of the Government Breeding Stables was moved by this State of things, and tried to remedy it; that is why it distributes for encouragement the stallions that seem the most suitable for breeding purposes, under the express condition that the breeders will keep them, and that they will serve at least fifty mares. The choice is made by the Inspector-General of the Government Stables at the time of the horse inspection, which generally takes place in November, according to the law of the 14th of August, 1885, on the inspection of stallions. In the different towns of the Perche there are presented not less than 150 stallions at Nogent-le-Rotrou, 100 at Mortagne, 200 at Reginalard, and 60 at La Ferte Bernard. These visits have the advantage of attracting visitors, the Commissions Departementales, and the stud breeders of all France, who take advantage of this opportunity to come and choose some Percherons which they will take into their country to improve their draft horses.

To come back to the state of things mentioned above, two ways may be used for remedy. The first is at the disposal of the breeders; it consists in keeping two or three good specimens to ascertain the reproduction of the following season, a stallion being sufficient for a hundred mares. The second would consist in awarding bigger prizes to the horses classed first in the shows, so as to permit the proprietors to keep them without any loss.

It would be desirable that the Government or some big breeding societies could adopt this second way, as the breeders will never resign themselves to the selection at their own risks and perils.

### Educating the Colt.

Faulty training is responsible for most of the bad-tempered, unreliable and unmanageable horses.

The colt's education should commence soon after birth, and the amount of handling which he receives should be increased as time goes on. There is a difference between petting or pampering and teaching the colt. Kindness and patience must be the keynote of the training, but pampering will prove a nuisance, being responsible for many vicious animals. The colt must be dealt with firmly, and made to understand what is expected of him. Teach him to mind what is said to him. Handle his limbs to promote quietness. Get him accustomed to the halter and to being led while yet with his dam. Be gentle with him, yet never leave him unless you have accomplished what you set out to do. If he beats you once, he will remember it. After weaning, continue the training. Lead him around as much as possible, and, while doing so, teach him to stop when you say "whoa!" and to start when he is told. This is also a good time to begin teaching him to back, as backing is a part of a horse's work that very few of them do with any willingness or ease. The education must be continuous, not spasmodic. One lesson a week or a month is useless, because in the interim he has largely forgotten his previous work. There is no better stable for a colt than

a box stall, but if allowed to run in one of these he should be tied in a narrow stall for a few hours each day, because it is important that he become thoroughly familiar with being tied. A colt that is not halter-broken and tied when young, often gives trouble when he is needed for work later in life, and he has to be put through his education hurriedly, the halter, the bridle and the entire harness being introduced to him in one day. Such colts are very often stubborn and hard to break, and can it be wondered at? Having been allowed freedom so long, they rightfully object to such usage. Many halter-pullers and bad-tempered horses result from such treatment. Do not attempt too much at once, but teach the animal to do carefully and well everything you attempt with him, no matter how simple it is. As time goes on, he should be bitted, and the use of the bit taught him. This will take time, and it is always better if the animal is thoroughly used to the bridle before the harness is placed upon him. A colt never forgets his first harnessing. If he succeeds in getting away or in committing any other bad tricks, he can be depended on to try them again. After he has been harnessed several times, he may be hitched. It is generally better to hitch him beside a good-natured and good-mannered, thoroughly reliable old horse. If such an animal is not available, it is better to hitch him single, as an irritable animal will often bite or kick the awkward colt, and thus cause much trouble. The colt should be driven until he is tired the first time he is hitched. It is not advisable to exhaust his energy, but it is important that he become tired, especially if he is a spirited animal. Driving should be continued each day until he has become thoroughly reliable and handy. The modern colt is easily educated if properly handled. Many generations of domestication have caused him to acquire education readily, and yet there is in the country a large number of bad-mannered, badly-broken and poorly-educated horses.

### LIVE STOCK.

If a cow or horse kicks you, it will not improve the animal's disposition to return the compliment.

Give the stock bull plenty of exercise. The season is approaching when many bulls never get outside their stalls. Give him a run in the paddock or in the yard every fine day.

The feeding steers should now be in their stalls and started on the way toward the finished product.

It is the extra choice cattle that give the highest returns, and, to make an animal a market topper, feeding must commence in good time in the fall.

Do not make the mistake, when commencing feeding, of giving too high rations. An animal thrown off its feed loses much valuable time, and there is danger of permanent injury to the digestion.

A farmer who keeps all the live stock he can feed on his place need have little worry about keeping up soil fertility, providing he handles his manure properly.

There seems to be a tendency on the part of many stockmen to change the breed of stock kept. This is seldom advisable. Do not commence with a breed you do not like, nor a breed which is not a profitable one from a utility viewpoint. If a good breed is kept, stick to it, and do not change with every fad or custom. Changes usually prove costly.

Lambs suffer most in the fall season. They often get very thin, a condition which hinders their growth, and from which it is difficult to start them putting on flesh. A little grain will work wonders in offsetting this trouble. A few quarts of grain at this season will carry them over a critical period in their growth, and will go a long way toward insuring larger and stronger shearlings.

The ram, during the season of service, should receive a liberal grain ration. The lamb crop depends to a great extent upon the condition of the ram. He must be in good heart and flesh, but not overfat. Grain is usually needed to keep up his vitality during the strain of the breeding season, and, as the season advances, the ration should be increased until the greater number of the ewes have been served, after which it can be decreased a little.

In culling the ewes, it is not always the thinnest individual which is the one to discard. The thin ewe may have raised two lambs last year and fed them well. Look up her record before condemning her. Often the plumpest ewe is the poorest money-maker, because she is frequently found to be barren. It is never wise to cull from appearances only. The ewe's value as a breeder must be considered.

The stock-breeder who has faith and confidence in his business will succeed. In fact, none other than this kind of man need commence. It requires faithful and continuous application of the best possible judgment, and if this is done year after year, no fear of the result need be entertained.

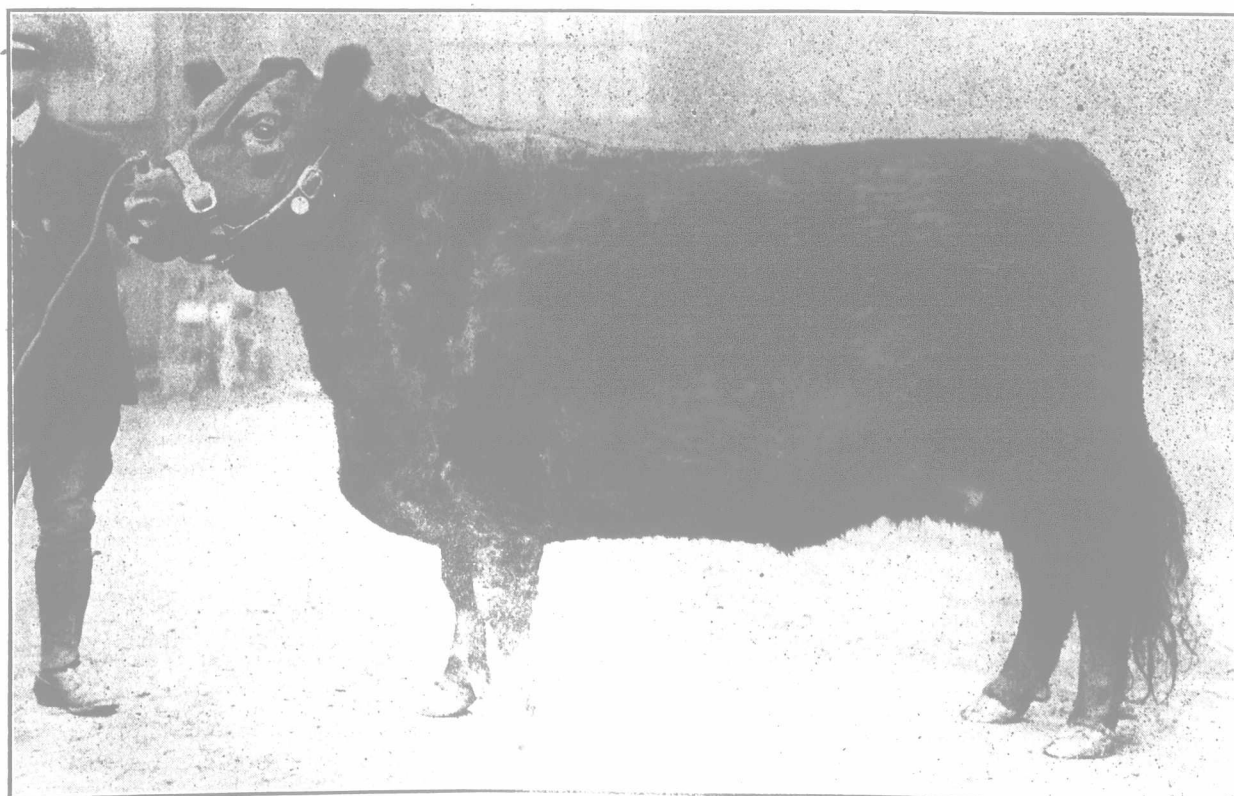
A weak, saggy back in either a sow or boar is fault enough to warrant its being culled from the breeding pens. Sagging backs result from weak muscles, and a weak-muscled pig seldom is a success as a breeder. The right type of back is one that is arched slightly in the middle, with a gradual slope toward either extremity.

The pregnant sow must have plenty of exercise. If she is in a paddock, this can be provided by feeding her at the end of the lot opposite to that at which her sleeping pen is situated. Strong, vigorous litters seldom result where the sow does not get sufficient exercise, and some means of forcing her to move about should be resorted to.

The best proof of a sire's excellence is not his long list of show-ring premiums, but his ability to get progeny of a high order. True, if he has a number of winnings to his credit, it adds to his value commercially, but the real test of a sire's value is what he is able to do as the head of a stud, flock or herd. If his progeny are able to win prizes in keen competition, it speaks better for him than if he himself had been the winner.

### Stabling the Calves.

When all the live stock is brought in from the pastures, it is often found that the stable room is a little inadequate to accommodate comfortably all the animals. Very often this results in the calves being tied in small, dark corners here and there throughout the stable, where they receive very little attention, and where sanitary conditions are not well suited to the promotion of health and vigor in the stock. The housing of the calves is one of the most important phases of cattle-breeding. The calves compose the future breeding herd, and no breeder can afford to deprive them of anything which makes for their general health and rapid growth. Where possible, they should have box stalls to run in, where they can exercise at will. Plenty of light is essential, and good ventilation imperative. Each calf should have sufficient manger room; in fact, it is often advisable to have stanchions or chains arranged so that the calves can be tied during the feeding hour. This insures that each calf gets his allowance, and as no two calves will have the same appetite, the feeder is permitted to gauge the amount given to each to suit its condition.



Aberdeen Angus Steer.

First and champion beast at the Great East Stock Show, 1910.