

HORSES.

Nothing takes the energy out of the work horses more than being exposed to the broiling sun during the heat of mid-day.

A drink of fresh cold water is one of the most effective means of restoring the horses' weakening energy.

Thirst depresses a horse's vigor and only serves to intensify his exhaustion due to oppressive heat.

A colt that is being heavily fed should have sufficient exercise to keep the proper balance between exercise and feed so that his bone and muscle develop properly.

If your horse is poor in flesh and wears a staring coat despite a reasonable supply of food, examine his teeth. Elongated and irregularly worn teeth are often responsible for poor condition.

It should always be remembered that hard-worked horses should have rich food. As a rule, the richer the food the more easily it is digested, and a food that is easily digested and assimilated has a much larger proportion available for work than a food that is difficult to digest, because much of the energy of such a food is used up in the work of preparing it for the use of the body.

It is said that horses sleep only from three to four hours out of the twenty-four. This is a very short time, and it is necessary that the animal have all possible comfort during his short rest. Wide stalls and abundance of bedding give the horse encouragement to stretch out and ease his tired limbs. Narrow, cramped stalls and bare floors cause stiffened joints and tend to discourage lying down. Surely the faithful animal is deserving of all possible comfort during the few short hours of his repose.

Most farmers endeavor to follow some system of managing their human labor, but few pay any considerable attention to the management of their horse labor. It is needless expense oftentimes to keep more horses for working purposes than are really required. Some system should be worked out which would get over the difficulty of having to feed a number of idle horses in winter. The work should be so planned as to distribute it throughout the year, winter as well as summer. Brood mares which raise foals each year are one means of solving the problem. They do the work when it is needed, and the colt more than pays for the mare's keep during idleness.

Weaning Foals.

When the colt has attained an age of from four to five months he is old enough to wean. Most of the brood mares in the country are required for the rush of fall work, and it is not fair to them to be expected to feed the colt while they are thus expending most of their energy tilling the soil. Both the mare and the colt will do better if the colt is weaned, provided the youngster is liberally fed and has been taught to eat previous to the time his dam is removed. Weaning does not offer any special difficulties, provided the preliminaries of care and feeding have been properly attended to.

Two methods are practiced by horsemen, either of which will give fair results. By one method the colt is taken suddenly away from the dam, and is never again allowed to suck, while with the other the colt is allowed to suck at intervals, which are made more infrequent from day to day until the mare is nearly dry. There is very little to be gained by prolonging the separation, as is done in this latter method, and it has little to recommend it, save that it lessens the danger of trouble with the mare's udder from the milk not having been drawn, but this can be averted by drawing a little of the milk by hand. At this time of year, when the grass is dry, the mare, unless she be an exceptionally good milker, does not produce a very heavy flow, and the better plan is to take the colt away abruptly and not allow him to see or hear his mother until he has forgotten her. It is very important that the colt and the dam are kept separated far enough so as not to be able to see or hear each other, because it will take much longer for them to forget if they are not kept well removed. The mare should be placed on dry feed, which should only constitute a limited supply of hay. No grain should be

fed, and if kept at work no trouble will result from the flow of milk, which will gradually diminish and soon cease. As soon as it has ceased the mare can and should be fed liberally.

The colt should be placed in a box stall, or in a grass plot; the former is the better—and he should be well fed. There is nothing better than oats mixed with bran for concentrate, and an abundance of grass and green feed should be given. It is a good plan to place halters on the colts at this time, and to leave these on, leading the colts as much as possible during the weaning process. This serves to get them handy, and also help them to forget the loss of their mothers. The colt abhors solitude. He enjoys mixing with his kind, and there is nothing that will cause him so much trouble as to be left alone, and especially is this so at the time he has lost his dam. He will fret and be very restless if he has no company, consequently it is advisable to place two or more colts together, that they may, as it were, console each other. If the box stalls open into nice grass paddocks, so the colts can run in and out at will, so much the better. A few days is usually time enough to keep them in the stalls, after which they can be turned away to the fields, where there is plenty of water and a feed trough containing feed constantly. When the colt is turned away to the field he is too often allowed to rustle for himself. This should not be, for it is in the young and growing stages that good care is absolutely essential to the best development of the horse. Older horses can stand hardship, because they are fully developed, but the young colt if placed under adverse conditions receives a setback which is rarely if ever overcome, and he is injured for life. He has been in the habit of taking milk a great many times a

The Suffolk Horse.

Peculiar to the eastern counties of England in general, and the County of Suffolk in particular, is the third of the British draft breeds of horses—the Suffolk—one of the most distinctive types of the drafter known. It enjoys the unique distinction of having but the one color—chestnut. This varies throughout all the different shades of that generic hue, from the dark liver to the bright golden sorrel, with the most general shade the medium sorrel, as we understand the term in this country. Here and there white markings are met with, but more rarely now than formerly, the white being deemed objectionable by the British breeders. Unlike the other two breeds of drafters in Britain, the Suffolk has a very clean leg, with no more hair about it than the Percheron.

Regarding the origin of the Suffolk, investigators seem to have agreed that in its present habitat there practically always has been a race of chestnut horses. At least it was there back in the beginning of the eighteenth century, and it does not appear that any infusion of foreign or other alien blood has ever been made. Certain it is that the clean leg and characteristic conformation were never brought about by crossing with French stallions. What the breed is to-day is solely the result of another lone very small territory to which this breed seems to have been indigenous. The chestnut color is readily transmitted to the Suffolk's grades, and I have seen some very good specimens among them.

It is doubtful if this breed has ever received in America the recognition to which its many good qualities entitle it. This perhaps is accounted for in the fact that the color is not a popular one among draft-horse breeders generally,

and from the personal experience of the writer there has always been some sort of a lurking suspicion in the public mind that these clean-legged, heavy-quartered chestnuts were French horses of some sort masquerading under a name to which they had no right. It is hard to persuade some folks that the very hairy-legged Shire and the very smooth-legged Suffolk are bred in the same island. Nevertheless the Suffolk can trace his lineage back to the middle of the eighteenth century and beyond in an absolutely unbroken line.

In so far as they have been given a trial here they have made good. The individuals do not run as large as the Shire or Clydesdale, and

have proved themselves eminently well suited for crossing on rather small mares, on the ranch and elsewhere. Their progeny is wonderfully uniform and they make most excellent workers. It is doubtful if there is in the entire list of draft breeds one which has a better disposition or greater tractability. In their native land it is the custom of their drivers to break these horses to work entirely without reins. In the plow, on the road, in the show ring, you may see them often hitched three tandem, guided by one man, and not a rein in sight. For simple endurance it is again questionable if this breed is surpassed. In that part of England where they are used it is the custom to hook up the Suffolks as early in the morning as the daylight will permit, and keep them plowing continuously until the daylight fades.

It is on account of their docility and good tempers that the Suffolks are sought for crossing on range mares. In addition to putting neat bodies on their foals, arching up the neck and making them generally desirable in point of conformation, the Suffolk stallions almost invariably imbue their get with such even tempers that the breaking process is comparatively simple. On account, however, of the clean legs and the common chestnut color the foals by Suffolk stallions have no distinguishing marks, and hence are swept into the great commercial maelstrom without their sires obtaining due credit for them. Suffolks are being bred successfully in a number



Monston Peters.

Suffolk stallion. First and champion, Royal Show, England, 1911.