

The Care of Weaning Foals*

Dr. J. G. Rutherford, Live Stock Commissioner.

Be certain that your foal is old enough to wean, that he is in fair condition, thriving and healthy, that he knows what grain is and what it is for, and that, should you have any cow's milk to spare, he will not be above drinking it. As to age, no colt should, if at all possible, be permanently separated from his dam until he is at least four months old, while another month, or even two, by her side will make him a better horse and lessen considerably the risks of his first winter. Many farmers, however, who are trying to raise colts can ill afford to let their mares suckle so long, and while it might, in many cases, be more profitable for such men to refrain from breeding altogether, the fact remains that they must use the mares on the farm, and the foals have to suffer accordingly.

EARLY FEEDING TUITION

It is a good plan to teach the foal to eat out of the same box as his dam, and it is astonishing how little tuition, even with very young colts, is necessary when the food is placed within easy reach. For some time also before the foal is actually weaned he should be schooled to drink milk, if there is milk to be had, and it is well to remember in this connection that milk drinking is an accomplishment of no little value for any horse to acquire, nothing being more advantageous to an animal suffering from any febrile or debilitating disease, than the voluntary absorption of milk in lieu of other fluid when the appetite for solids is capricious or altogether lost.

As regards the diet best suited for young foals, many different opinions are promulgated, but in the experience of the writer nothing is equal to good, sound oats with a moderate admixture of bran twice a day, and a well scalded, not too bulky, mash of the same materials, seasoned with a tablespoonful of salt, and perhaps a handful of crushed oil cake for the evening meal. Many recommend crushed oats, but repeated trials have convinced the most successful breeders that whole oats are more nutritious, and if properly masticated, as they generally are when fed with dry bran, more easily digested than chopped feed.

ACCOMMODATIONS FOR THE YOUNGSTERS

Colts should be halter broken and taught to lead when yet with the dam, as this renders them much more tractable and easily controlled during the excitement inseparable from weaning, and also facilitates housing when the accommodation is limited, and there are several to be kept together. Loose boxes are preferable to ordinary stalls for young stock, but provided the stable is clean, airy and well lighted it will do no harm when they are tied at night, taking it for granted that they enjoy to the greater part of every day the freedom of a roomy, and in winter, well sheltered yard. This latter point is of very great importance. Your youngster must have a chance to develop bone and muscle, and in no other way than by lots of exercise can he be reasonably expected to properly assimilate the generous diet recommended above, while despite all old-fashioned ideas to the contrary, without a liberal grain allowance he will not likely be much to look at when the sun begins to melt the snow in the spring. When two or more colts are kept together it is better to have them separated at feeding times, or the strongest of the lot will be apt to wax fat at the expense of his weaker or less voracious companions, many backward colts being literally starved by careless neglect of this simple precautionary measure.

Weanlings are frequently troubled to a considerable extent with intestinal worms of various kinds, especially if grazed on low lying pastures in late summer or early fall. Some of these parasites are more to be dreaded than others, but none of them are desirable guests or in any way bene-

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ficial to their involuntary hosts, and it is therefore advisable to take measures for their removal. The old farmer's remedy of wood ashes and salt is not to be laughed at in this connection, and if persevered with in small doses for some time will often have the desired effect, but where a more speedy and certain riddance is desired it is well to give a course of antihelminthic powders, as iron sulphate, one drachm, or powdered arcanum, two or three drachms twice a day in a little soft food for a week, to be followed by a drench composed of turpentine, one oz., and raw linseed oil from 10 oz. to a pint, according to the size and condition of the patient. This mixture should be given on an empty stomach and all dry food withheld until the bowels have responded to its action. In all cases of intestinal worms, benefit is found from occasional injections of tepid water strongly impregnated with soap, and for this purpose Gamgee's enema funnel, a cheap and convenient instrument easily turned out by any tin-smith, will be found suitable. Some varieties of worms demand for their successful removal a repetition of the medicinal treatment, but those most commonly met are generally satisfactorily disposed of at the first attempt.

HOW TO RID THEM OF LICE

External parasites should also be guarded against. Many a good colt has gone to skin and bone from the constant irritation and uneasiness produced by lice, and whenever a young animal shows unaccountable loss of condition and want of thrift it is advisable to examine him closely for signs of the presence of these undesirable companions. Should they be detected, the sufferer may in reasonably mild weather be washed well with carbolic soap and soft warm water, and after thoroughly drying the skin, carefully and closely dressed, more particularly about the roots of the mane, with a good insecticide. For this purpose an ointment composed of equal parts by weight of sulphur and lard will be found effectual, as also safe, cheap and easily procured. In cold weather the washing must, of course, be dispensed with, but the ointment may be applied without risk in a moderately warm stable at any season of the year.

When colts are debarrated from taking much outdoor exercise their hoofs very soon become deformed, and great harm is often done to the bony and tendinous structures of the limbs from neglect to properly trim and regulate the growth of the horny coverings of the feet. Accidents of various kinds are liable to occur, and in all such cases the advantage of having the patients halter broken, thoroughly domesticated and free from fear of their human friends is incalculable. This state of affairs can only be brought about by the most careful, systematic and painstaking handling of the young animals from the time they are foaled, but more especially during the first week or two after weaning.

Bladder Campion a Bad Weed

Hy. Glendinning, Ontario Co., Ont.

A weed that is becoming very serious in many parts of Ontario is the bladder campion. It is a deep-rooted perennial, and unless taken in good time becomes a very serious pest. It has appeared on my farm recently. I know it did not come in seed grain, and the only explanation is that it was carried there by birds. Unless, therefore, we are content to have bladder campion a constant menace, neighbors must cooperate in destroying the weeds.

When first found in a district this weed is comparatively easy to overcome. If it is spotted out and a handful of salt put in the hole, the plant is killed effectually. I drive around my farm quite frequently looking for weeds and always carry a pail of salt and a spud. Those who have seen what a pest bladder campion is in some districts, as I have, take every precaution to keep it out of their own.

Satisfied With Cement Silo

E. Terrill, Northumberland Co., Ont.

My cement silo is giving the best of satisfaction, and I consider that it is cheaper than a wooden one. My silo is 16 by 40 feet and of solid cement. We paid \$120 to the contractor and building it, and furnished the cement and gravel. Forty barrels of cement cost \$1.50 a barrel. We had to put in a 10 foot foundation of cement anyway, so I thought we might as well make it cement all the way up. The top and chute of my silo cost more than was necessary. \$65, but I like to see a good job. The top and chute are painted red to match the barn.



Recently Built and Eminently Satisfactory

Mr. E. Terrill, a prize-winning farmer in the Dun Fairs Competitions last year and the year before in the adjoining article also also facts worth considering.

—Photo by an Editor of Farm and Dairy.

A big advantage in a cement silo is that there is no tightening of hoops in April and May, when the winds dry out the stave structure; nor is there any loosening of hoops in the fall. Two of my cousins who have stave silos tell me that it takes two men half a day to tighten the hoops. Every two or three years stave silos have to be straightened up. Last year there were three stave silos blown down in this neighborhood. There is no danger of my cement silo blowing down. Nor do I have to insure it against fire. Cement is sometimes objected to because of the silage freezing, but I have not noticed that the silage froze any more in my silo than in the stave silos of my neighbors.

ENSILAGE MORE VALUABLE

In my opinion silage is worth double as much for feed as is dry fodder. Some of my pure bred Holstein heifers, only two years old, were giving 50 to 60 lbs. of milk a day last spring. This, of course, was not due entirely to ensilage, but I am convinced that as good records could not have been made without ensilage for feed. The young stock thrive on silage as they never did on dry fodder. It gives them a nice slick appearance and a splendid appetite. Another advantage in favor of the silage over fodder is in storage. The silo holds 140 tons. We could not begin to lose that amount of dry corn.

I intend soon to put up another silo for summer feeding. This letting the cows slack off on milk in August is a more serious loss than most of us suppose as they never regain the lost ground. The only thing I cannot understand about the silo is how I got along without one so long.

Co-operation A

W. H. Chano

The growth of co-operators in the United States is very rapid during the year. It has undoubtedly been a whole, co-operation is a great success. In many places it has been greatly benefited production and quality. Oak Fruit Growers' Association in Missouri, many going out of the business largely through the the strawberry business prosperous of any age state.

BENEFITS OF

Some of the benefits enables small growers crop may be distributed in the market. It enables a brand that will and will thus insure the sale better business men fruit buyers, transport enables a community to fruit that for any reason to grow except in small brings better equipment plants for handling the insures better care of the cases it results in greater

DIFFICULTIES

Some of the difficulties are: (1) Since the operation are in distributing a reputation for growers in a section rated will receive these as good prices as men. Since this is true, indeed slow to come into the



An Example of the barns on Messrs. D.

of the association who so as well as they with their share toward the support tend to drop out. (2) A of confidence in and loyalty by the members.

SIZE OF ASSOCIATION

The size and organization have to be adapted to the particular section. However, most promising type of handles a large share of produce from any section. The members uniform enough to uniform characteristics for. This general association should be divided into well organized so that there will be personal general manager through the members of the small association. In the apple industry the