

LIVE STOCK

The Mare to Breed From

Farmers very commonly seem to think that when a mare is good for nothing else "she will do to raise a colt out of." This is true enough in a way; but of what value will the colt be when it is raised? As a general rule breeding from mares of this class means loss of money and vexation of spirit. There is to-day as much profit to be made in raising horses, as any other class of live stock, but the horses must be good ones, specialized for some particular purpose and not mere scrubs. If the best results are to be obtained.

The qualifications necessary in the stallion have been so thoroughly and often impressed upon the public that it is generally understood, that nothing but the best obtainable in its class is good enough and that pure breeding must be combined with individual merit, if the qualities of the sire are to be transmitted to his progeny. But the mare, too, must be considered for she also is capable of transmitting to the colt both her good qualities and her defects, not perhaps with as great certainty in the case of a mixed blooded mare as with a pure bred, but in a greater or less degree in all cases. It is therefore essential that the mare shall have size, good conformation and be free from any hereditary unsoundness, and from vice. Previous to mating she should be brought into a perfect state of health, not over-fat, or tumbled, but well fed and groomed, so as to be in high condition. As a general rule the best brood mares are of the low grown, wide and roomy type, with hips somewhat sloping and wide and deep in the pelvis.

A mare of this type in any class will usually make a good mother and raise a satisfactory foal if properly managed. All horses are more or less defective in one or more points and careless mating will be apt to accentuate the defects in the foal materially, especially if both sire and dam are affected in the same way. If the mare be defective in any point do not breed her to a horse having a similar or even an opposite fault, but rather to one that is as near perfect as possible in that particular. So, too, if the mare be on the small side mate her with a horse rather larger than herself, but avoid an enormously large horse, especially if he be of the tall, leggy kind.

When considering the mating of the mare it is well to remember that horses are bred to perform certain specific services, all of which require strength, endurance and courage. But though these are the prime qualities, essential to every good horse, yet we do not always apply them in the same way. Therefore many types or breeds have been produced, each adapted to the purpose it is required to serve. Shires, Clydes and some others of great weight and muscle are so well fitted for their work as heavy draught animals that it is difficult to see how they can be improved upon, while the Thoroughbred and Hackney and the races descended from them have developed speed and intelligence in the performance of their work which is but little short of marvelous.

There are so many types of horses from the diminutive Shetland pony to the gigantic Shire, and each of them is so well fitted for the purpose it was bred to serve, that cross-breeding

between the various types would seem to be a most unnecessary and useless thing to do; yet unfortunately, it has been done and with as usual the most disastrous results to the interests of the farmers. With regard to the heavy breeds, however, inter-crossing while it is seldom of any particular benefit is not always directly injurious. Thus a Clyde mare may be bred to a Shire horse or vice versa, and a good useful colt be produced, though it would be, in no case, better than a colt got by a Clyde horse and the same mare and it loses any advantage it might have had in being pure bred.

Crossing animals with extreme difference, such as light and heavy horses, is very seldom successful.

Light or medium, common bred mares may advantageously be mated with the Thoroughbred horse for the production of good driving and saddle horses, a stallion of this class weighing about 1,200 lbs., being big enough. Horses thus bred are always in good demand and command high prices. It is not good policy to breed mares of the extreme cold-blooded type to Thoroughbreds, the result seldom proving satisfactory.

The Brood Mare

The Editor Farming World.

We have a Clyde mare seventeen years old, which missed this year for the second time. She has raised one dozen colts, all as clean and sound on the bone as can be, there wasn't one balky, stilted, vicious, or cross one amongst them. I think we may call her a money maker. We worked this mare in the first team every year and fed her like the other horses, whole in feed. After she has foaled we give her hay—damped it dusty—and make her a small bran mash, give her warm water with a little flour in it for a few days, then gradually increase the wash and cook oats or barley for her.

Turn her on the grass as soon as possible, for grass is the natural food

for the horse and the best health restorer. We wean a colt at four or five months old. It is not well to do this suddenly, so let it suck the mare twice a day, then once a day until it last we quit altogether. I think one quart of oats, one quart of bran, and a little good hay is a nice ration for a sucker. While fed in this way the colt should have lots of exercise. Lead the colt and give it manners. Coax it to stand still, teach it the meaning of the word "whoa". Do not let it walk a few steps after eating the word. A colt should be handled frequently. You will find the best way when breaking. Do not be too hard but rough. The best horseman is gentle with, and loves his horse.

BREAKING IN A COLT.

To break in a colt have patience. Put the bit on him and lead a few times before you take him on the lines. The best plan is to always put on the colt side for the first few months. Teach it to walk, and if you have taught it to stand still at a word, it will be a help. If anything goes wrong simply tell it to stop. Coax it, and it will stand. This will often avoid accidents. A colt is not always cross when it starts to kick or run away; it is simply afraid. Let it know that nothing will hurt it. When once trained right, it is trained forever.

Oxford County, Ont. E. Ritchie

"Clydesdale Memories"

An interesting article from the pen of Mr. Thomas Dykes in the recently issued volume of the "Transactions of the Highland and Agricultural Society of Scotland," recalls a controversy which was a somewhat bitter one and which agitated the Clydesdale, and indeed the whole of the cart-horse breeding world some twenty years ago.

Mr. Dykes' article, entitled "Clydesdale Memories," is an exceedingly interesting one, as well as it may be, few know so much Clydesdale history as he does, and he always tells what he knows in pleasant fashion. Speaking of the late Mr. Laurence Drew of Merryton, he says: "As everyone knows, his ideas were to make Shires

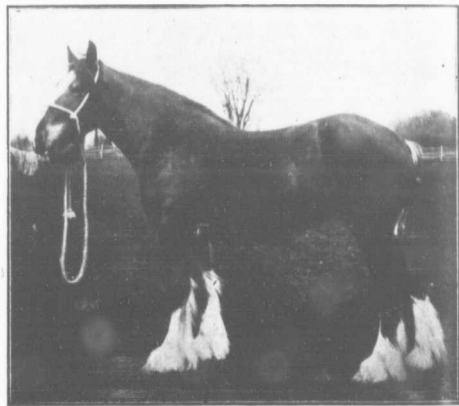
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Fifehire Lass Imp. Vol. xv. Sire, Time-Enough, Dam, Jubilee Queen. Owned by Holsteson & Tisdale, Beaverton, Ont. A Clydesdale mare of the right type to breed from.