

Blanketing Horses.

The blanketing of horses, like everything else, requires to be done with discretion in order to derive full benefit, says a correspondent of an exchange. From our observation and way of thinking many errors are committed even in this simple matter, hence a few remarks upon it are not out of place, as horse covering will now be called into requisition.

There is a wonderful attractiveness about a nice, clean, sleek coat on a horse. It is only second to flesh in filling the eye and increasing the admiration of inexpert observers. It must further be confessed that a few good judges of horses are not altogether uninfluenced by its alluring effects in forming an estimate of all that goes to make up value in horseflesh.

The cautious use of blankets in the early autumn, and of course continued, has considerable effect in checking the undue heaviness of the coat, and that tendency to profuse sweating so noticeable in October, and in fact for the remainder of the winter, if the precaution of blanketing is not taken early in the season. Some horses that are inclined to have very heavy coats will not have the growth of the coat sufficiently checked even by careful blanketing, and such animals, if they have to perform much fast work, are greatly benefited by clipping about November 1 or later if convenient. Judicious blanketing has a great influence in improving a horse's coat. Exhibitors of horses at our fall shows experience a great deal of trouble in getting their animals' coats in the condition they would like.

In our use of blankets in the early autumn we should be guided by the temperature; not only should they be used at nights, but on cool days their use should not be neglected. Care, however, has to be taken to avoid ever keeping animals so warm as to sweat. Sweating under the blanket not only makes the horse uncomfortable, but it destroys the condition of the coat.

Unfortunately, many people do not allow their horses to derive the full benefit of clipping, on account of not using a sufficiently liberal amount of covering; a clipped horse should have at least two warm blankets on him, and more are sometimes of benefit, particularly during cold spells.

A great mistake is frequently made in applying a horse's covering while he is wet with sweat, or from any other cause. The best plan to pursue is to dry the animal with cloths, taking care to avoid cold draughts. If it is inconvenient to so rub him, a blanket may be applied to pre-

vent chilling while the evaporation from the skin is taking place, but this should be removed as soon as it is thoroughly dampened with steam, and another dry one put on. Before putting on the first blanket the skin should be rubbed dry if possible.

No Side Issues.

Farmers are too much given to taking contracts for wood cutting and piling while very few of them have the time to give to such side issues, except by neglecting their business as farmers. The stock raiser, if he attends strictly to his business, can have very little time to spare from five o'clock in the morning till six o'clock in the evening during the winter months. This is the season when he feeds the products of the soil for making the beef, milk or butter for the markets. This is the season when the best prices can be obtained and the customers seek the seller. This being the unproductive season of the year for the land, the farmer and his help can give their whole attention to the stock and their products. It is of course different with the hay and grain farmer, who only has his implements to clean up and prepare for the next season's work, and his grain to market and fertilizer to haul. He may have time to do a little in wood or lumber business. But as a rule farmers had better leave side issues alone and attend strictly to their legitimate business. Mother earth refuses a living to no man who by intelligent effort, industry and economy seeks his livelihood from the soil in the sphere of an agriculturist. Tend strictly to your own business is an excellent motto for the farmer.

Buckwheat

Time was when large areas in Canada were sown to this grain, and, in the time of its blooming, the air was heavy with its peculiar fragrance. But for some cause or other, a field of buckwheat has become a rarity. This is to be regretted for there are many advantages connected with its culture. It will grow on very poor land, and is an improving crop. As a starter of exhausted soils on a career of improvement, it is of great benefit. One or two crops of buckwheat turned under make a good foundation for rye or peas to be followed by clover. Seed time is early in July, so when an early planting or seeding of something else fails, buckwheat may be made to fill up the gap. As its seedtime comes after the hurry of spring work is over, its harvest may be delayed until other grains are got in. The seed is sown either by hand or

grain drill, at the rate of three-quarters of a bushel per acre. Heavier seeding than this is not advisable. A fair crop will be in the neighborhood of forty bushels per acre. The market price of course varies, but is usually not far from fifty cents per bushel. Most people think of buckwheat in connection with the cakes made from its flour, which are generally esteemed as a breakfast delicacy. But it is useful for other purposes. As a food for laying hens, it is unrivalled. It is good for fattening turkeys and other fowls. Mixed with oats, barley, or peas, and ground, it makes excellent chop for horses, cattle and sheep. When in flower, buckwheat yields a large quantity of honey, and though its quality is not the best, it is saleable, though at a lower price than that got from clover and bass-wood, while it is as good as any for stocking up the hives with winter stores. As it comes late in the fall it gives the bees employment during what would otherwise be idle time. Some enterprising bee-keepers readily supply the seed to neighbouring farmers who are willing to sow it, and find their account in so doing. Buckwheat straw is not worth much except for manure-making. Cattle and sheep will pick it over and get some nutriment out of it, but will not eat it as freely as they will good oat or even wheat straw. Buckwheat is very effective as a land cleaner, its dense growth smothering down all weeds. It is also valuable as an insecticide, being fatal to grubs of all kinds even the cutworm. They cannot subsist on buckwheat, and are starved out. For this reason, it is advised by some to be sown in young orchards. There are several varieties of this grain, some of which are much better than the common sort. The European Silver Hull is one of these. Its grain is smaller, rounder, less angular, and heavier than the common kind. It is also more prolific. The new Japanese variety has a very large three-cornered kernel, and on this account is not so well liked by millers, because it requires different sieves from those used for the smaller varieties. But of all known kinds of buckwheat, this yields the most and the best honey.—*Rural Can.*

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