

THE HORSE.

Breeding Fall Colts.

There are several reasons why the practice of having mares reproduce in the fall, rather than in the spring, should be more common than it is. Of course, for show or racing purposes, when the animal is under four years old, the production of fall colts is not advisable, as the age of horses for these purposes is reckoned from the first of January of the year in which they were born, hence a foal born in the fall would have to compete with those several months older, either in the show-ring or on the race track. But the breeder who does not show or race his horses until they reach maturity would probably find it more profitable to have his foals born in the fall.

There is no doubt that a large percentage of the fatalities in spring colts is due to the manner in which their dams have been fed and used during the last few months of gestation. Especially on farms where there are sufficient horses to perform the winter work without using the pregnant mares, they are often allowed to pass the time in perfect idleness, often not given even box stalls to stand in, but are tied in single stalls and well fed on hay and oats, and, if the weather be rough, are not even turned out in the yard to get exercise during the day time. Then again, even where there is a disposition on the part of the owner to exercise his pregnant mares, conditions often forbid it for a greater or less portion of the winter months. When the ground is slippery it is dangerous, even though they may be well shod, and when the snow is quite deep it is also dangerous, as the driver cannot always keep his team, or single horse, as the case may be, out of the deep snow, where more or less plunging often occurs, and all breeders know that all undue nervous or muscular exertion should be avoided in pregnant animals. All breeders will admit that regular, but not excessive labor is beneficial, and all observers have noticed that, in the majority of cases, the mare that has had such during pregnancy, especially during the later months, produces a stronger foal than the one that has been pampered and kept in idleness. When breeding mares are not required for work, the necessary exercise is obtained while on pasture in the summer time much better than being turned out in the yard for a few hours each day during the winter time. When the services of the mare are required, either during pregnancy or after parturition, we get more satisfactory service before than after the birth of the foal. It goes without saying, that to get the best results the mare nursing a foal should be well fed, and live in comparative or complete idleness, hence we claim that, on this account, fall production is the better, as the mare can perform the ordinary work of a farm horse during the spring, summer and early fall, and then, after foaling, her labor is not usually required. She can then be given comfortable and roomy quarters for herself and foal during the late fall and winter months, and in the spring when the foal has been weaned, it will be in good condition to be turned out to pasture, while the dam, if again pregnant, will be in condition to do a season's work and reproduce again in the fall.

Again, the food that the mare consumes during the months in which she can be on pasture at nights tends to nourish the foal in winter better than the food usually given when horses are necessarily fed in the stable, and by breeding the mare in this way the farmer loses practically no services of his mare, and at the same time increases his stock. It is seldom that the foal of a mare that has been on pasture during the later months of pregnancy is weak or delicate. Of course, the same danger of mal-presentation, causing difficulty in parturition, exists in one case as in the other, but the foals are usually stronger and smarter if produced after the mare has been some time on grass. There is also less danger of joint-ill when the mare foals on grass, from the fact that the germ that causes the disease is not so liable to be present in the pasture field as in the stable. All breeders know that the production of late-fall or early-winter foals is not an easy matter, as mares do not usually show oestrus in cold weather, but we advocate having mares foal in the early fall while still on pasture. The fall colt, as stated, cannot, with equal chances, compete in the show-ring or on the race track during colt-hood with the spring colt, but at maturity should be as good or a better animal, especially if the dam has been worked while nursing, hence we think that for the ordinary breeder fall production will give the better results.

WHIP.

Care of Work Horses.

The Boston Work-Horse Relief Association has issued the following suggestions in regard to the care of horses and we are glad to pass them along.

Look out for sore shoulders and backs, especially in plowing. Be sure that your collars fit. A collar too big as is bad as one too small.

When the horses are at work on a warm day, lift up the collars now and then to cool their shoulders, and wipe off the sweat and dirt with a bunch of grass.

Wipe off the harness marks on your horses when you stop work at noon and at night, and clean the inside of the harness, the collars especially. The salt sweat, drying on the skin and on the harness, is what makes the trouble.

If the skin is wrinkled under the collar or saddle, bathe it with witch-hazel. If the skin is broken, bathe it with clean warm water containing a little salt. Fix the collar, with padding or otherwise, so that it will not touch the sore spot the next day. A little care-

lessness at the beginning may cause a lot of trouble and suffering.

Clean your horses at night, water them, give them a good bed, and water them again after they have eaten their hay. Let them rest an hour or more before they are grained. The observance of these simple rules will not cost you a cent, and will make a big difference.

LIVE STOCK.

At an Illinois auction sale of Aberdeen-Angus cattle 45 head brought a total of \$24,330.

Magnus Bros. of Minnesota had an average of \$622 on 46 head of Herefords which they recently sold by auction.

At the dispersion sale of J. H. Miller & Son, Ind., held late in June, 91 Polled Durhams and Shorthorns averaged \$709.



Pair of Romney Ram Lambs

Each made a pound a day gain for the first 45 days. Bred by J. H. Patrick & Son, Ilderton, Ontario

Encourage the boys to fit a calf, colt, pig or sheep for the local fair. It will be fitting them to enter the larger show arenas later on.

At the Shorthorn sale held by Leslie Smith & Sons of St. Paul, 72 head of imported stock brought a total of \$92,870 or an average of \$1,289.

If remodeling the stable or barn, build for convenience in feeding and caring for the stock. Plan to save all the steps you can when feeding the stock or cleaning the stables.

It is understood that the American Shorthorn Breeders' Association have offered to duplicate prizes won by Shorthorns in Canada that have been bred in United States.



Raithby Blenheim

Winner of the 1,000 gs. champion cup, at Bulawayo Show, South Africa.

It usually pays to give prompt attention to ailing animals. If you cannot diagnose the trouble or if you haven't first aid remedies on hand lose no time in securing a veterinarian.

Improve the grade herd or flock by using a pure-bred sire of recognized type and conformation for the breed and with a good pedigree. Then, cull out the inferior individuals.

Did it ever strike you that the majority of the ailments of animals can be traced to improper feeding or

lack of care? A little more attention given to the study of feeds and feeding and to the animal's wants would save expense and in many cases loss of animals.

Let the boys help choose the next herd sire or females to strengthen the herd and thus show them that you appreciate their opinions about stock. Besides the chances are that the boys will have to feed and look after the herd. Too few stockmen make partners of their sons.

It is understood that live stock and live-stock products cannot now be exported without the exporter securing a license. We have heard of several breeders of pure-bred stock having their animals held up at the border, thus causing a great deal of trouble and inconvenience.

English Live Stock News.

The magnificent sum of 3,500 guineas has been paid for an English-bred Holstein cow, Eske Hetty, the first cow in Britain to yield 2,413 gallons in 365 days. She was sold at F. B. May's sale held at Heybridge, Essex, on June 6, the Olympia Pure-Bred Stock Farm's Co. buying her for one of their Yorkshire milk farms. The same firm also paid 1,700 guineas for Routh Blossom 3rd, that gave 1,342 gallons in 308 days with her second calf. Since calving again she has averaged nearly seven gallons a day for her third lactation. F. B. May that day sold 33 Holsteins for £12,626 5s., or a general average of £382 12s., 3d. apiece. This is the "record" sale event of the Holstein world in Britain.

As a set off to this let me say in 1917 some 6,564 head of milking and beef Shorthorns were sold in Great Britain for £16,257 1s. 6d., or a general average of £78 16s. 6d. Fancy half a million of English pounds sterling—I'll leave it to you to figure how many million dollars it means. Could any wizard at figures put a value price on the studs, herds and flocks of this tight little island? I think not!

We are going to revive as a pure breed, which we have let slide for the sake of mere commercialism, the sheeted or saddle-back pig, which you in the New World have long since kept pure and called the Hampshire hog. He emanated with you from Hampshire, England, no doubt, and he is still to be found quite pure in that agricultural county, in Dorset, in Wiltshire, and in Somersetshire, which is what literary high-brows over here call the "Wessex Country" of Thomas Hardy's truly rural novels. I need not paint to you a word picture of the merits of the Hampshire hog. You know 'em off by heart, but it will strike you once more that we must be a funny nation, to give North America a breed of pigs and not worry about it ourselves for fifty years after that, and then to move, only because the war and a boom in pig keeping has made us look a bit closer after our farming stocks, and our porcine races particularly so. Some good men are behind this revival of the sheeted pig and it is bound to go ahead.

There are two Wensleydale-Sheep Societies in England, but as the respective types are much the same a call has gone forth for an amalgamation of both. The chief argument in favor of this is that colonial buyers of the breed—and it is a good long-wool breed—get a wee bit mixed up when ordering stock and think there is a definite difference between the stock as represented by two societies, whereas there "ain't no sich" distinction.

At Bulawayo Show, South Africa, a 1,000-guinea championship cup is offered for the best bull of all breeds that go into the ring for this supreme title. It has just been won by a recently exported English Shorthorn bull called Raithby Blenheim, sired by Bilsington Blenheim, a bull in the Bilsington herd at Maidstone, Kent.

There are some breeders of the Suffolk horse which think the breed needs stirring up, by way of publicity. There are others who think the Society ought to be told bluntly what breeders in Canada and in other far-off countries and districts think are the best points in the breed to develop. Good as the Suffolk horse is, its breeders at home are a "cribbed, cabined and con-