

### Breeding Horses for Profit

J. H. Reed, V.S., Ontario Agricultural College.

The prospective breeder of horses must first decide upon the class he will breed. This must be governed by conditions and individual tastes. If mares of a certain class are owned by him, he will probably breed that class, but if he has to purchase dams, he will have the privilege of deciding which class or breed he will select. In order to breed successfully he must be at least a fair horseman, and a fair judge of at least the class he intends to breed. If he have not both these qualifications, he should not attempt breeding, as he will most surely be disappointed. We hear it said repeatedly, from public platform and see it in print again and again that the draught horse is the most profitable to breed. There are many arguments to support this assertion, especially for the man who has no particular choice, and who is going into the breeding game simply for the money there is in it, but cares no more for one breed or class than another. A man of this kind will probably be fairly successful in producing draught horses, as they sell at a comparatively early age, and practically unhandled, for a reasonable price provided, of course, that they have the desirable size, and fair individuality; but he will never be successful in breeding the lighter classes, where greater care and attention is needed, and where the individual offered for sale must show the manners, style and action required in the class, in order to sell for a profitable price. But the prospective breeder, who really likes a horse, and who has a decided preference for some of the lighter breeds, will find both pleasure and profit in breeding his favorite class or breed.

The marketable horses are the roadster; the saddler, or hunter; the carriage, or heavy harness horse; and the draught horse.

#### ROADSTERS

In the breeding of roadsters of course the standard bred sire should be used and the ordinary breeder should strive to produce size, quality and true action, rather than speed. The production of race horses is, and should be, the function and hobby of the rich man. The ordinary breeder, who breeds with the idea of producing "a world beater," generally meets financial ruin. It costs so much to develop speed sufficient to show that he has a wonder, and often the results are disappointing, notwithstanding the expense and that it is ruinous. Hence we say, select your dams and sires from the standpoint of size, quality, action and reasonable speed, with the idea of producing a gentleman's bird, stylish road horse, rather than a race horse.

#### SADDLERS AND HUNTERS

These classes are of course produced by the thoroughbred sire out of mares with more or less light blood, or sometimes by other light sires out of thoroughbred or  $\frac{3}{4}$  bred dams. In the selection of a thoroughbred sire we should, if possible, be more careful as regards individuality than in other breeds, as on account of his prepotency, he is very liable to transmit to his progeny any undesirable characteristics, either of conformation, action or manners, in a more marked degree than he himself possesses.

#### THE HEAVY HARNESS HORSE

The good carriage, or heavy harness horse, that presents the qualities demanded, viz., reasonable size,  $15\frac{1}{2}$  to 16 hands, good conformation and style, with true straight and flash knee and hock action, and reasonable speed, will sell at all times for a fancy price. The question then arises, "How are we to produce him?" The Hackney may be said to be the true type. Horses of this class are produced by the Hackney, the coach breeds, the standard bred and the

thoroughbred. The selection of a sire to produce this class must be governed largely by the individuality of the mare. If the mare has the size, style and quality, but lacks action, the Hackney should be the choice. If she has the quality, size and action, but lacks speed, the speedy Hackney or the big, high-acting, stylish standard bred, will give good results. If she lacks, size, but has all other qualities, the big Hackney, or one of the coach breeds, will be a wise selection, always bearing in mind that in any point where the mare is deficient, the sire should, if possible, show hyper development. If the mare be rather cold-blooded, somewhat coarse, but has the action and speed, a thoroughbred stallion of good size and fair action, should be chosen. But we must bear in mind that too violent crosses are seldom successful, and that it is poor policy to breed a small mare of the draught type to a thoroughbred. The thoroughbred is the most prepotent of all sires, but he has not the power to overcome too much coarseness, or cold-bloodedness, in the dam. While we say that a mare that is somewhat coarse, cannot, with reasonable prospects of success be bred to the other classes of light horses, with a view of producing a heavy harness horse, but should be bred to a thoroughbred, we must remember that extremes in crossing are usually disastrous. In cases where ordinary intelligence is used to produce, the class of the progeny and does not make a good horse of his class, he will in most cases make a serviceable animal, of reasonable size, in fact, what we call a "general purpose horse." This is a class that no intelligent breeder will endeavor to rescue for the market. We have enough "misfits" to supply the demand.

#### DRAUGHT HORSES

The breed of draught horses most profitable to produce, is largely a matter of opinion, and, to some extent, of the market in which the breeder expects to sell the Clydesdale or Shire, the Percheron, and the Belgian draught, are the fashionable draught breeds. The advocates of each of these breeds argue very forcibly to prove the superiority of their favorites. If the breeder has pure bred mares, or mares with one or more crosses of any of these breeds, he, of course, should breed to sires of that breed. In the greater portions of Ontario, the Clydesdale or Shire, is probably the best choice, from the fact that a very large percentage of the mares that are qualified to produce draughts or agricultural horses, have

either Clyde or Shire blood, sires of these breeds, especially the former, having been used very largely for a score of years or longer. Of course the ultimate success in breeding, will depend largely upon the breeder sticking to type and breed. If he be disappointed, he must not become discouraged, and try a sire of another breed, and thereby mongrelize the produce. Stick to type and breed and success is sure to follow. There are good home and foreign markets for a good draught horse of any breed, and while probably the Clyde is most favored in this province, principally from the facts stated, there are other places where the Percheron or the Belgian draught will demand higher prices, but there is no market where a mixture of the breeds is favored; hence, we repeat, having decided upon the breed to produce, select suitable mares and stay with that breed, even though your neighbor is making more profit out of another breed. Stay with the breed, and select parents intelligently, and success will follow.

\*\*\*

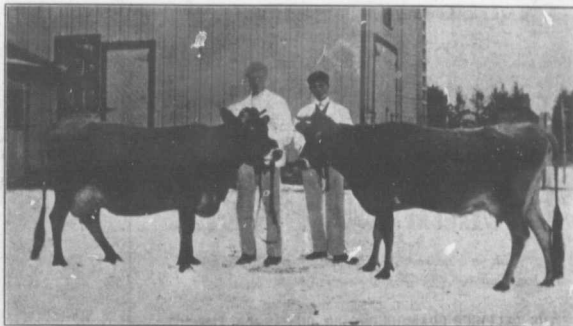
Keep plenty of grain over this spring to feed to the young pigs on the grass so as to have them ready for early market, when the price is best. By paying attention to these things as well as others we have not space to mention, our profits might be greatly increased, and our losses reduced to a minimum on the farm.—W. Simpson, Prince Edward Island.

\*\*\*

Cows are not like men, they seldom "kick" without a cause. Sometimes their teats are sore or tender; rough handling hurts them. Sometimes the milker pulls the long hairs on the udders when milking. Shear off the long hairs, cut off the long finger nails, bathe the teats in warm water, grease them with vaseline and you will cure many kicking cows.—R. C. Misener, Lanark Co., Ont.

\*\*\*

"I am much interested in the articles that are appearing in The Canadian Dairyman and Farming World on Free Rural Mail Delivery. Many of our offices here in the West are in stores. The store managers envy the departmental stores. Departmental stores, however, are a good thing for us as our local stores charge us so high for everything. I believe the time will soon come when gasoline engines will deliver the mail as they are being used successfully here for plowing purposes. Things look bright for us here in the West."—Henry Wilson, Star City, Sask.



TWO OF THE JERSEYS IN THE COLLEGE HERD AT GUELPH

These two cows have been added to the herd in connection with the Ontario Agricultural College with the past year. The one, "Dewdrop's Aggie" was bred by Geo. Latch, Freeport, Ont., and the other Sign's Ramona was bred by Israel Shantz, Waterloo, Ont. They were especially selected for the College by representatives of the Jersey Cattle Breeders' Association.