

Amongst the Dorset Horn breeders, who made a very good entry, indeed, Messrs. Jas. Attrill, W. R. Flower and E. A. Hambro were the principal winners.

Lincoln sheep made a particularly good entry of high merit and quality. Messrs. S. E. Dean & Sons won champion honors for yearling ram. Mr. Tom Caswell took the r. n. of this honor with his first-prize two-shear ram. Mr. H. Dudding was also well to the fore in the yearling class. Messrs. Dean & Son were first for pens of five. Mr. C. E. Howard was first and second for yearling ewes out of the fleece, and also first for those in the fleece. Mr. Dudding was first and second for ram lambs, and first for ewe lambs.

In the Leicester classes, which were good in merit and number, Messrs. Simpson, G. Harrison, E. F. Jordan and J. Cranswith, English breeders, were the leading winners.

The Border Leicesters made a particularly good and strong entry—quite one of the best we have seen at the Royal for many years—the Rt. Hon. A. J. Balfour winning first in old rams, Messrs. Cameron & Sons taking the same corresponding position in the class for yearling rams and for yearling ewes.

A small but good entry of Cotswold sheep was present, Messrs. W. T. Garne & Son winning first and second honors in three out of the four classes, and Mr. W. Houlton in the fourth.

The Kent or Romney Marsh sheep made a very large entry—quite one of the largest ever seen at the Royal; it was also of very high merit and quality. Messrs. C. Pile, who was first with two-shear rams for the third year in succession, H. Riedon, J. B. Palmer, W. Mullin, and W. M. Cazalet, were the principal winners.

The Wensleydale breed were well represented. Messrs. W. J. Wheatley, Lord H. Bentinck and the Executors of T. Willis were the leading winners.

The South Devons made a small but good entry, Messrs. J. F. Harris and John Stooke dividing the honors.

A large entry of Cheviot sheep were present. They were of striking merit and outstanding quality. Messrs. J. C. Smith, John Elliot and John and Jacob Robson were the leading winners.

SWINE.

The entry was a large one. It was also a good one, and, as the parson says, in the third and last place, it was thoroughly typical of the breeds of British pigs.

The large White breed (Yorkshire) was well represented, six classes being well filled. Messrs. A. W. White, R. R. Bothwell, D. R. Daybell, the Earl of Ellesmere and Messrs. Wherry were the principal winners.

In the six classes of Tamworths, there was a good entry, Messrs. E. J. Morant, R. Ibbotson, Sir P. C. Walker and Sir O. Mosley being the leading winners.

The Berkshires made a particularly good entry, in which Messrs. J. Jefferson, G. J. R. Chetwynd, Lord Calthorpe and C. Raphael were the principal winners.

Six classes of Large Black pigs were provided, in which was found a very excellent and high-class entry. Mr. C. F. Mariner, Mr. T. Warne, Mr. H. J. Kingwell, Messrs. Whitely and T. Goodchild were those that owned the principal winners.

The Lincolnshire Curly-coated pigs made a grand entry. Messrs. T. Warne & Son, George Godson, S. E. Dean & Sons, H. Seollar, H. Caldwell and J. H. Smith were amongst those that took the leading position in several classes. W. W. C.

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SCOTTISH CROP PROSPECTS

Taking a general survey of Scottish counties, average weather from this week onwards would give the earlier localities a start with the grain harvest about the middle of August, or practically a month in advance of last year's set off to work, says the *Glasgow Herald* July 14. It is rare in North Britain to have a fairly early and at the same time a bulky straw crop. Taking this country as a whole, the cold of May and early June, along with the succeeding remarkable spell of sunshine, have resulted in general lack of bulk, except on lands of a deep, easy, and naturally cool or drought-resisting nature. The season has dealt somewhat severely with the very stiff clays and the thin porous soils.

Large breadths of the oat crop have suffered from the effects of weak seed, grub, and drought. The results are thin and unevenly developed plants. There is a great deal of very good early sown barley, but thin wheat is very common.

Beans may pod well; they are certainly to be much lighter than last year's crop in straw.

In the majority of counties there are moderately stocked fields of late potatoes, but on the whole that crop has an excellent appearance, and the showers have helped it very considerably.

Turnips are extremely varied, even along the eastern seaboard, where the drought was most severely felt. Forfar and the best parts of Fife have a flourishing outlook, but late sowings in Lower Nairn, Moray, and Banff, also along the Howe of the Mearns, East Lothian, and a considerable section of Berwick have either been a partial failure in the braiding or have refused to move until set agoing by the showers.

A comparatively light crop of ryegrass hay has been cut and cooled under perfect weather conditions. Much of the grass land was very bare over a week ago, but it is now making a very fair recovery.

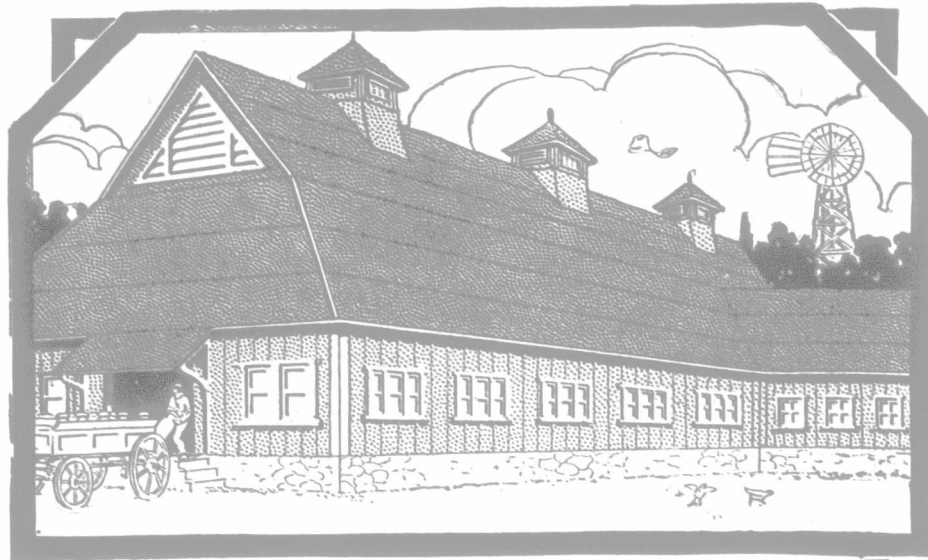
THE PERCHERON HORSE

One of the most numerous breeds of draft horses is the Percheron, known the world over for his uniform excellence. His origin is located in the district of Perche, in the southern part of Normandy, France. This is a broken country, abounding in nutritious grasses and streams of pure water, and presents an ideal locality for the evolution of this celebrated breed of horses.

History informs us that as early as A. D. 732, when the French defeated the Saracens, they utilised the Arabian horses of their vanquished foe to improve the breed of horses of Perche. It is to the intelligence, docility and endurance of the Arabian horse that the Percheron is indebted for his excellence as a draft animal. An infusion of Arabian blood is noted as late as 1820, when the famous gray stallions Godolphin and Gallipoli were extensively crossed on Percheron mares. Through Arabian crosses a fixed type was established of horses suitable for coaching and agricultural use. So great was the demand for these horses from foreign countries that to preserve the Percheron from deterioration the government established studs and purchased the best specimens of the breed, and offered their services to farmers at nominal figures. The government also offered prizes at agricultural shows and inaugurated a system of inspection and licensing stallions that prohibited using unsound animals for breeding purposes.

It was not until 1883 that Percheron horses were recognized by the French government under that name, this noble steel having been previously called Norman or Percheron. The first volume of the American stud book was published as Percheron Norman, but now the French draft horse is classified in stud books, fairs and exposition schedules as Percheron.

A potential factor in the contribution in evolving the Percheron horse to his present degree of excellence is government supervision and regulation.



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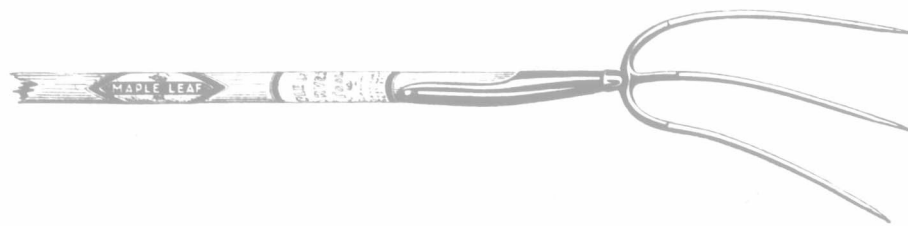
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