

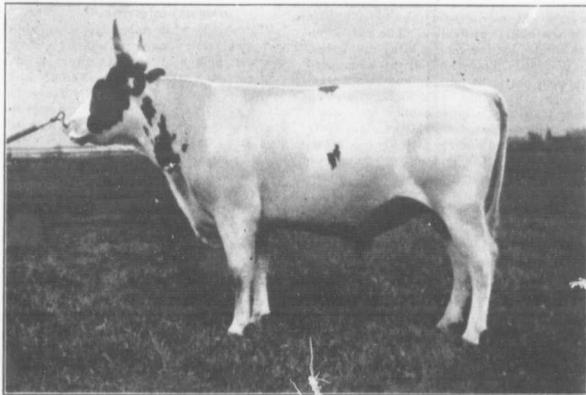
Expert Counsel About Buying Horses

If you are not conversant with the anatomy of a horse you had better not try to buy a horse on your own judgment unless you are purchasing from a responsible horse or a well-known dealer who has a reputation to uphold. But if you are an enthusiastic buyer on your own account, perhaps the writer can give you some hints that will be useful, and it may be, save you loss.

After you select the horse which you think has captured your fancy it might be best to have him brought out for a careful examination. Be sure that he is cool and not in a heated condition; remember that horses are subject to every ailment and disease that human flesh is heir to; that he has temperament, disposition, individuality and needs to be very carefully bought.

The first thing you look at is his foot—no foot, no horse; it should be on the concave order, a deep sole and not too narrow; this denotes breeding. Run your hand down his forelegs, examine for splints; if on the lone they will never hurt him; but if on the tendons drop him like a hot potato, no matter how small the splint.

To save the time and trouble have him jogged



A Three-Year-Old Ayrshire that Sold for the Record Price, \$2,600.

September 1st, 1910, this illustration from a photo taken by an editor of Farm and Dairy was published in these columns over the caption, "An Exceptionally Strong Animal that gives Promise of a Great Future." This bull, Bargenock Victor Hugo (Imp.), one of the Robt. Hunter & Sons' herd, sold at their public auction dispersion sale two weeks ago, for \$2,600 to Mr. P. Ryan, of Brewster, N.Y.

quietly down on the floor, on stone or cement if possible, and look for lameness, and see if his style of going suits you. Now examine his coronecs for sidebones; take a look at his eyes, and that very closely. Stand in front of him to see that he has a full chest; glance between his forelegs at his spavin joints; run your hand over his kidneys and press hard as you do so; pass behind him and see that he stands square; examine for curbs (a curb will never hurt a horse after he is six years old); feel his hocks for incipient spavins or bruises on the cap of his hocks, which require a satisfactory explanation from the owner. Don't forget to look for thoroughpins and bog spavins; look carefully at his hips that they are both alike; personally I would never buy an interfering horse, or a horse that shows symptoms of it.

See that your intended purchase is well ribbed up; long backed, narrow-gutted horses are bad feeders and doers and cannot stand their work. See also that he has plenty of neck, good, high shoulders and sloping back. Then proceeding, ask the holder of the horse to walk quick into his flank both ways, turning him quickly; then back him while you look carefully for symptoms of springhalt or cramps.

If up to this time the horse has borne inspection favorably put a man on his back and gallop him as fast as he will go to test his wind for a whistling sound. If all right have him put in harness to see if he has any vice. Stable habits, such as weaving, wind sucking, cribbing and halter pulling, must be left to the voracity of the seller's word, as they are only to be detected when the horse is standing quietly in the stable.

In the matter of age four years old is not preferable. You are taking chances with the young horse. I had rather buy a horse at eight than five, as he is then in his prime, and his habits are all developed; if a horse has arrived at that age and maintained his soundness, you can rely upon his being a good one. If he fills the bill, buy him; good horses are scarce.—"Dick."

Harvesting Alfalfa Without Hand Work

"Most of our neighbors think that we put too much work on our alfalfa when cutting it for hay," said Mr. H. Glendinning, of Ontario Co., Ont., recently when in conversation with an editor of Farm and Dairy. "We do put a lot of work on our alfalfa, but very little of it is hand work.

"We have now used the same method of curing alfalfa for three years and have not heard of a better one. We start two mowers in the morning as soon as the dew is off, and cut until two or three in the afternoon. The tedder is started soon after the mowers. We go over the field with the tedder in the afternoon. The alfalfa is raked into windrows that night with a side delivery rake. The following morning the tedder is run lengthwise of the windrows and again in the afternoon. It is left in this condition the second night, tugged the next morning, and then hauled into the barn. As we use a hay loader, the only hand work is on the load and a little in the mow.

"It is a general opinion that as much tugging as I give my alfalfa is not advisable in that the leaves will be knocked off. I do not find that the leaves are knocked off. Tedding merely gives the leaf an opportunity to perform its normal function. The function of the leaf in curing hay of any kind is to carry off the water. If the alfalfa is left in the windrow, as is so commonly advocated, the leaves are exposed to the rays of the sun for a long time and are killed. The water then has to come out of the stalks by some unnatural method, and a poor hay results.

By constant tugging the leaves are not exposed to the direct rays of the sun for any length of time, and the alfalfa cures more quickly and more naturally. I used to avoid tugging whenever possible, until one day it struck me that I was not giving the leaf an opportunity to perform its natural function. I changed my methods entirely, but my new method was so out of the ordinary that it was several years before I advocated it in public."

Profitable Lessons From Cow Testing

W. H. McGregor, Prince Co., P. E. I.

Mr. Mitchell of the Dairy Department lectured on dairying here in July, 1909, and induced us to organize a cow testing association. It was August before we got our equipment. My best cow gave in that month 780 lbs. of milk; the poorest 140 lbs. The same cows in August, 1910, gave 510 and 820 lbs. of milk respectively, having been better cared for during the previous winter and plenty of peas and oats provided for summer feed.

Since we started weighing and testing the milk from individual cows we do not let anything prevent us from getting the feed in for the cows each night and morning, thus keeping them from shrinking, which they will do very quickly when the grass gets dry and the flies bad, although the shrinkage may not be noticed where the scales are not used.

One thing I have learned since starting a test is that the most profitable time to have the cows freshen is in the fall or early winter. I had heard this fact stated time and again, but it never appealed to me until last winter, when I found out by experience. I had a heifer that lost her calf by some accident two months before it was due. She came to her milk and in 12 months she gave 5,380 lbs. of milk, was dry six weeks and freshened again. This I know is not a large yield by any means, but is 2,000 lbs. above the average for the province and is 2,000 lbs. or more better than she would have done freshening in May.

Another cow that freshened four months before we began to test gave in 14 months without freshening 8,000 lbs. of milk. This cow, barring accident, will give about that amount in the next 11 months if she keeps along as well as she is doing at the present time. Were I not weighing the milk I am sure she would not give more than two-thirds of this amount, as she would not be fed as well as we are feeding now when we know what we are getting for it.

We bought a cow some time ago without testing her milk. When she freshened in 1909 she gave a very small amount at each milking. I made up my mind right away that she would go off in the fall, or before, if possible. When we began to test, the manager of the factory asked me over the phone how much I would take for No. 1 cow. I replied that I was looking for something I had a grudge against and that that could have her pretty cheap. "Well," he replied, "her milk tests 5.0 per cent." At the end of the year she was only 20 lbs. of fat behind the best cow, her milk going up to 6.0 per cent fat. Needless to say I have not given her to the other fellow yet.

We have increased the milk yield several hundred pounds per cow since testing systematically and we have also got a great desire for better and more productive cows. This desire may be in the mind of every dairyman; they will tell you so at all events. But they are not working for improved stock, for when they are requested by a representative of the Dairy Department to keep a record of the production of their cows they will have some excuse, such as lack of time, and that they know their best cows well enough. The time taken does not amount to much. When the help get used to weighing the milk they rather like it.

The serious flow through until next spring when milk gets hot from two years ago covers) as to dried up, however.

It seems a little extra at this absolutely net profit, keep them milk next winter will then give me the progress and Dairy paper perhaps more.

I count on a just such content is large enough. This I find to be wished by the peas (these are together with enough to cut cows milking. Later on, as so then I have lot upon which the

I have written who has not made his cows other ture. To these better use of coming out in and feed to the ter to feed it although if you and extra work just over the fence side of your pavement, cut it haul it to the co

FREE If green feed tage of the hay be worth while to return fed, now meantime have of suitable fodder fed just now, as milk feeds. A li calculating where larly will soon te may not use and Now that the again and are su to take precauti proprietary mixtu Of these I would small quantity at is recommended. some of these, so have found out th

On dairy farm are the main sou count they need as if anyone shoul