

HORSE

Breeds Percheron and Clydesdale Grades

EDITOR FARMER'S ADVOCATE:

Anent the discussions going on in the FARMER'S ADVOCATE of the merits of the Percherons and Clydesdales, I would like to say that during the past four years I have been breeding grade mares to registered Percheron and Clydesdale stallions and from eleven mares bred during the past three years I have the live colts. One mare slipped her foal at 7 months, but that is the only loss I have had. All these colts will make horses weighing from 1400 to 1600 pounds, when mature. I certainly consider the horse-breeding business one of the most profitable that a farmer can engage in, considering the prices at which they are selling now and have been for the past few years.

Man.

E. H. G.

British Clydesdale Winnings

The accompanying table gives a bird's-eye view of the winnings of the gets of the first ten Clydesdale sires in 1908, at the seven leading British shows of the season, namely, the Glasgow Spring Stallion Show; the Kilmarnock, Ayr, Glasgow and Edinburgh general shows; the Royal Show, and the Highland. The table shows little variation from similar tables for years immediately preceding. Baron's Pride (9122) maintains his position of unrivalled supremacy, and, among the first twenty sires, there are, besides himself, six of his sons, his two half-brothers, Sir Hugo and Baden-Powell, and several of his descendants. The best stallion of the year, individually, judged by his prize-winning record, was, in the final round-up, declared to be Baron o' Buchlyvie, the eight-year-old son of Baron's Pride.

SIRE	Total Prizes	First	Second	Third	Champion	No animals
Baron's Pride (9122) ..	61	26	5	9	8	30
Hiawatha (10067) ..	42	..	11	7	..	22
Revelanta (11876) ..	26	3	5	5	..	9
Baron o' Buchlyvie (11263) ..	24	3	4	1	3	16
Royal Favorite (10630) ..	21	3	7	4	..	9
Everlasting (11331) ..	19	5	1	6	1	10
Marmion (11429) ..	9	1	1	2	..	5
Silver Cup (11184) ..	8	..	1	4	..	6
Sir Hugo (10924) ..	7	3	..	2	..	5
Montrave Ronald (11121) ..	7	1	4	3

Should I Breed Two-Year-Old Fillies?

EDITOR FARMER'S ADVOCATE:

I have several young mares which I want to breed. Would it be injurious in any way to breed a mare at two years of age? Some tell me that a mare seldom raises her colt at three years of age. I would like to have the opinion of older horsemen on this point.

Alta.

BEGINNER.

This question is puzzling lots of people at this time of year. Age is not in every case the first consideration. Generally speaking, light active fillies are not sufficiently mature in spirit and body to make good dams at three years, while draft-bred fillies will generally raise as good a foal at three as a year later. The draft-bred fillies appear to mature earlier, or are less excitable. Of course, there are exceptions and a great deal depends upon the care and feeding, also upon the individual character of the filly. Often half-sisters will be quite different, one will be active and coltish at two or three, while the other will have quite a matured appearance at two. Then, if the fillies are to have no particular care or feed, breeding them at two is likely to stunt them and their foals are liable to be weak or small. Given a big growth, in a draft filly that is to have good care and feed, we would have no hesitation in breeding her, but a light, nervous immature filly that gets just average feed and care, would be better not bred until three years old. Quite often, fillies get into restless habits as yearlings and to quiet them down they are sometimes bred earlier than they would otherwise be.

Is Tame Hay Better Than Oat Sheaves?

In our issue of January 20th the following question was submitted and answers invited:—Which is the better to grow for horse feed, tame hay or oats cut green?

First and second prizes of \$3.00 and \$2.00 were offered, also a valuation of \$2.00 put upon any additional answers we published.

This is the second of these competitions; they are popular with readers and contributors, and make one of the most valuable features of the paper. Look up the questions for this week and remember that answers must be in our hands one week previous to publication.

The answers to the above questions are published in order of merit, first going to D. G. MacKay, and second to J. E. Slater. We also publish two other answers.

Tame Hay vs Oat-Hay

EDITOR FARMER'S ADVOCATE:

Without going into the details which would be necessary to conclusively prove a case for either of the above crops, and which would not be of much assistance to the average farmer in making a choice, the following principal points are touched upon as briefly as possible:

Feed values.

Economy of production.

Ease of handling.

Effect of the crops on the soil.

The crops as means of controlling or eradicating weeds.

FEED VALUES

On account of the number of contingencies affecting oat-hay, it is difficult, if not impossible, to make more than an approximately correct comparison of the feeding values of this fodder and tame hay. In a number of analyses oat-hay is assigned a nutritive ratio of 1 to 11.6 and that of tame-hay, taking the average of brome-hay, western rye grass hay and timothy, may be fairly expressed by the ratio of 1 to 15.1. This shows an appreciable difference in favour of oat-hay, but it must be borne in mind that to attain to a ratio of 1 to 11.6, oat-hay must be made at a time when the nutriment stored in the grain allowed to form, has not been secured at the expense of a heavy loss of nutriment, palatability and digestibility in the straw. The feed ratio of oat-straw allowed to ripen is 1 to 33, so it will be readily seen that a serious loss takes place when the nutritive constituents are drawn from the head, which, although retained in the grain, leave the straw very low in digestible nutrients.

As comparatively few of the crops of oat-hay would be cut on the day when they had attained their maximum feed value, it is safe to assume that the analysis of the average would not show a higher nutritive ratio than that of tame hay, so for the purpose of this article, it is assumed that tame hay and oat-hay have an equal feeding value.

ECONOMY OF PRODUCTION

In so far as economy of production is concerned, the argument must favour the hay field, as after the seeding of the grass seed there is no further expense for cultivation or seed until the field is plowed up. Then, in the event of there being a surplus, tame hay would be more easily disposed of and would sell for a much higher price per ton than oat-hay, no matter how well cured. Most grasses also afford considerable pasture after the main crop has been cut—a valuable consideration. Taking everything into account, we feel sure that in an average of, say, five years, ten acres of hay land would produce as many tons of fodder as the same area sown to oats. In some years when rains are late, the oats would probably produce nearly double the tonnage of the hay-field, but on the other hand, with a good rain early in the season, followed by dry weather in July, the reverse would be the case. If oats were invariably sown on well fallowed land the average of production would undoubtedly be in their favour, but in nine cases out of ten, this crop is sown on stubble-land plowed 4 inches deep in the latter part of May or the first of June. As is now generally well known, a satisfactory catch of grass-seed can be secured in any part of the country.

EASE OF HANDLING

There is not much difference in the labor required to handle the two crops, both coming in at a time when no other crop is requiring attention and there is usually very little difference between the weather of the haying season and a couple of weeks later when the oats would be ready to cut.

EFFECT OF THE CROPS ON THE SOIL

In addition to the foregoing, the effect of the crops on the soil and the value of both as an aid in the eradication of weeds, and more particularly weed oats, should be taken into consideration. Without going into details, it may be said that in so far as the farmer is concerned, everything is in favour of the tame hay crop. Seeding to grass is one of the most valued parts of a rotation and in the older parts of the provinces, where maintenance of the remaining fertility is more than ever a live question, it will be seen that the grass and hay crops, whether it be brome, western rye, timothy or alfalfa, are bound sooner or later to play an important part.

THE CROPS AS AN AID TO CONTROLLING OR ERADICATING WEEDS

As a means of controlling or eradicating wild oats and other noxious weeds, both the grass plot and the oat crop may be made to serve a very useful purpose, but along slightly different lines. Where a systematic attempt is being made to clean up a dirty field, the grass-plot will hold the weeds in suspense until they can be attended to in detail and for the purpose of eradicating weed oats there is probably no better plan than cultivating a well made summer-fallow three inches deep just before seeding, and sowing clean oats about the 10th May, cutting them before the kernel has formed and again cultivating the field. The next spring, cultivate again and sow to oats, barley or any crop that can be ripened or cut for feed before the wild oats have a chance to mature. This plan, if persisted in for two or three years, will almost certainly result in the cleaning of the field.

If the foregoing be accepted as true, it would seem that tame hay should invariably have the preference; but while maintaining that every farm should have a hay field, we do not believe that in every case it would be wise to place entire dependence on it. If a farmer has a hay-field, the matter of fodder for his stock is usually settled one way or the other sufficiently early in the season to permit a crop of oats being sown for hay, in the event of a dry spring and the consequent certainty of the failure or partial failure of the hay crop. That is, if May and the early part of June are dry and the condition of the hay crop indicates a partial failure, a few acres of stubble-land plowed 4 inches deep and seeded with 2½ to 3 bushels of oats per acre could be depended upon to help out the supply of fodder.

To summarize, every farmer should have a tame hay field on his farm, because, on the average, it will produce as heavily and more cheaply than oats sown for hay; the crop is easily handled; a catch is easily secured; it is the equal of the average oat hay in feeding value; it is invaluable in a rotation, or as a means of restoring humus to the soil; it may be made of great assistance in checking or holding weeds in suspense until they can be properly attended to and because the surplus, if any, is more saleable and fetches a higher price than oat-hay. But, as circumstances indicate, he should sow oats for hay the year the grass seed is sown, as there will be no hay crop till the following year; as an adjunct to a short hay crop, and as a means of assisting in the eradication of weed oats, care of course being taken to sow only clean seed and to prevent any part of the crop going to seed.

Sask.

D. G. MacKAY.

Manitoba Farmer Favors Oat Sheaves

EDITOR FARMER'S ADVOCATE:

In reference to your question as to which is the better to grow for horse feed, tame hay or oats cut green, I would like to say that, in my estimation, the green oat sheaf out-classes, in almost every respect, any variety of tame hay that has, as yet, been proved adaptable to the Manitoba climate. As timothy is a typical hay and seems to be the most popular and most widely grown hay in this part of the province, I will take it as a standard against which to build up an argument in favor of green oats.

In the first place, I should judge that all advantages and disadvantages ought to be considered, to give a fair test—particularly those to the horse, to the land, and to the farmer. Also that the question should be considered in the light of existing circumstances, taking the average farmstead as a basis, rather than that of the few up-to-date farms with all modern conveniences.

We shall first consider the horse, upon which the differences are of least consequence, as here the pros and cons in both very nearly balance

nevertheless, there are in favor of the sheaf.

You have a uniform bundle, to be fed the handled, and there is under feed being given and wet the weather out-of-sorts you may of greenness, just whe color, the horse will e is no waste—no old stu with it; weeds are also green oats will smot reverse sometimes ha Another advantage is eating as soon as he ge waiting for his oats. clean make a splendid mares and young colts, nourishing properties. better or cheaper food green oat sheaf, whe kept in good conditio easily handled than t and are not so liable t being off oats all win about a month before the horses a healthy an work. Besides being feed for winter, oat s venient for away-from hauling or road wor important advantages r

We shall now consid to the land. The land two crops should be ab to ensure a good crop. you sow on a piece of d wild oats, false flax, s what are the results? with a proper method, especially the wild oat pletely eradicated. (T proved by a unique m lowing by the aid of t believe it to be one of t ever used in combatti a certain amount of ex are worth it. Some of these methods.) Now grass seed (timothy) is in a nurse crop. Two taken off. This gives t no cultivation, making ground for the above r the wild oats. These li generally make their ap ing wheat crop. The l stronger. But, if you v sive wheat crops after them with the two wh two green oat crops, everything into consid difference in the profits of working the green oa proof for this.

Let us consider the farmer. All those advan of course, sum up to h advantages besides those the horse and the land. be found in the outlay presume that the farne were he to do so, the cost in either case, for thoug t est to grow, it leaves the Some might contend th one seeding is an adva But this advantage is mac consider the facility with the minimum amount o harvesting the two sepa comparison to the work and the need of cultiva weeds. (I would consid obtained in preparing for a benefit rather than a lo clean the ground and p Allow me to contrast the In the seeding you sow th of the early morning, o a drill with a grass seed a sow it—such an implem to get hold of, in this crop is sown similar to an late in the spring after th It is also cut before the ha is stacked shortly after all work is not nearly so hea coiling and stacking hay. are the handier, especiall