

Itchy Legs

1. I bought a heavy Clyde mare, with beefy and very hairy legs. Until about three months ago she was used in a city. She bites and scrubs her legs until they bleed. The condition now appears to be grease.
2. Will this trouble render her useless in a short time?
3. How can the itchiness be prevented?
4. Would it be wise to clip her legs as soon as the weather becomes warm?
5. She is in very poor condition. What can I feed her to build her up?

P. R. D.

Ans.—1. Clydesdales with beefy legs, with coarse feathering, are greatly predisposed to itchiness, and high feeding acts as an exciting cause. No doubt this mare has been used for dray purposes in the city, and highly fed, until the legs became in such a state that she was no longer serviceable, and she was disposed of. When the stage known to veterinarians as "grease" has been reached, a cure can seldom be effected. The progress of the disease can be checked to some extent by daily attention, but, unless a man is looking for trouble, he should not purchase an animal with an eruptive disease of the legs.

2. This depends upon the stage the disease has reached. If it really has reached the stage that is properly called "grease," it will render her useless in a short time, unless the legs be well looked after and dressed two or three times daily. In case there are always raw surfaces or cracks, and in warm weather very careful attention is required to prevent fly-blow, which, of course, is soon followed by maggots. If this stage has not been reached, she should not soon become useless, and it is possible to cause a healing of the cracks.

3. Where itchiness is not accompanied by raw places or cracks, it can usually be checked and prevented by applying once or twice daily a solution of one teaspoonful of Gillett's lye in a quart of warm water; but, where rawness or cracks exist, this dressing is too irritant. Dress once daily with a solution of 15 grains of corrosive sublimate in a pint of warm water. The hair must be carefully parted, and the lotion rubbed on the skin, cracks, etc. In cold weather, keep excluded from draughts, and rub well after dressing. Do not apply ointments, oils, or anything of a greasy nature.

4. It is not considered wise to clip the legs of horses of this type, but it is hard to properly apply the dressings without removing the hair; hence, if treatment has not been successful by the time hot weather appears, it might be wise to clip.

5. Have her teeth examined, and, if necessary, dressed. Give her two ounces Fowler's Solution of Arsenic in damp food night and morning, for a week. Feed on good hay, oats, bran and a little linseed meal and a few raw roots. You must remember that high feeding tends to aggravate the condition of legs, hence, unless working regularly, do not try to fatten quickly. "WHIP."

LIVE STOCK.

What to Look for in Selecting Breeding Stock.

No man ever has succeeded, and no man ever will succeed, for any length of time in breeding live stock who does not have as his slogan that one word "utility."

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No man ever has succeeded, and no man will ever succeed for any length of time in breeding live stock who attaches his kite to "faddism," which is the tendency on the part of many men to disregard the really useful features in an animal, and go to the extreme on certain blood lines, color markings, shape of ear, head, etc.

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The longer I study and handle live stock, the more I am convinced that the first and most important point to be observed in all meat and milk-producing animals is a good middle. The signs of constitution and digestive capacity present their most visible manifestations in the body, and not in the extremities. The animal is simply a machine to convert feed into more edible products, such as meat and milk. Its capacity is governed almost solely by the size of the middle.

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We must pay more attention to the question of size and vigor in our animals. Size always has and always will be a vital point. It is usually associated with heavy and economical gains. Vigor is absolutely essential. It is associated with heavy gains, and also helps to safeguard the animal in time of disease outbreaks. One of the chief causes for deterioration in both size and vigor of our animals is the use of immature sires and dams for breeding purposes. While both sire and dam exert an influence, it has been clearly

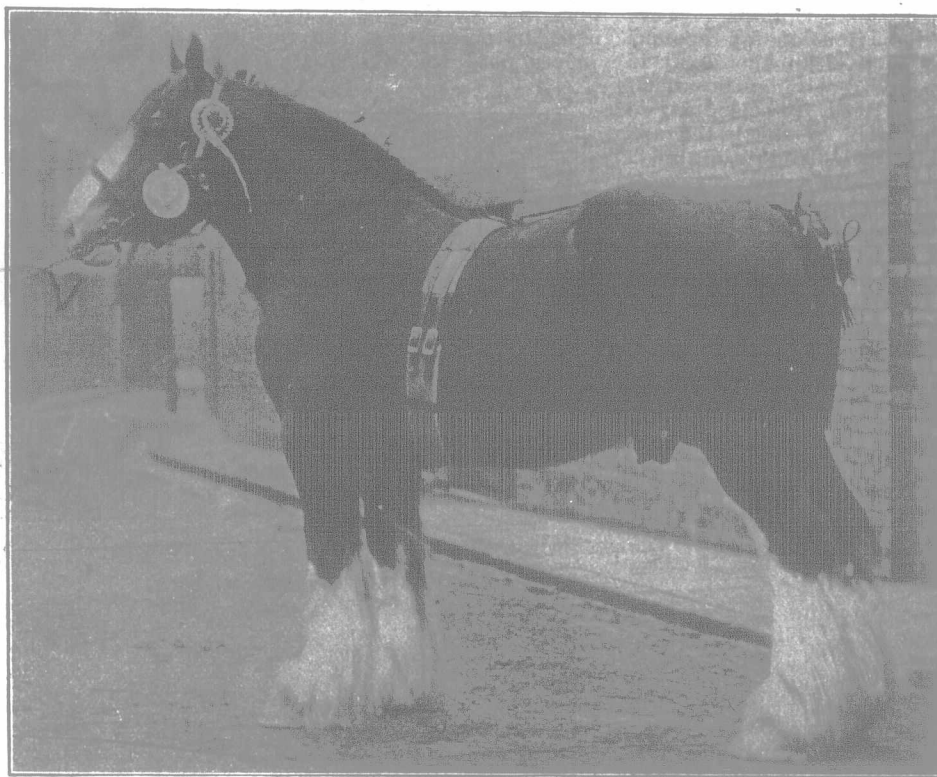
proven that the immature dam is the most detrimental to progeny. The continued use of immature sires and dams, especially where corn rations are fed, will seriously reduce both the size and vigor of any breed or class of live stock. Anything which lessens the size and vigor of the animal renders it less profitable on high-priced land. Too much attention cannot be given to the importance of selecting breeding stock from mature parents. In this way, and only in this way, can we retain size and vigor in our herds and flocks.

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Few lines of work offer greater financial returns for the capital invested than a good flock of breeding sheep. This is especially true when good mutton conformation is combined with a long, dense, fine fleece. The question of constitution is very important in sheep. In selecting rams, blockiness, lowsetness, wide backs, loins, and heavy, well-filled hind quarters should always be demanded. The head should be broad and masculine in appearance, the neck short, and the shoulder broad and compact. The legs should be short and straight, especially at the hocks. The skin should be pink in color, and the fleece long, dense, fine and uniform on all parts of the body. Too much attention cannot be given the importance of density of fleece. It insures a heavier clip of wool, protects the sheep from rain, snow and cold weather, and also sheds chaff and other foreign material so detrimental to the wool.

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Breeders of hogs will do well to pay more attention to the utility end of the business, and



Warton Draughtsman.

Shire stallion; four years old. First and supreme champion, London, England, Shire Show, 1912.

much less to the fad end, as illustrated by the pedigree craze, shape of head, ear, nose, dish of face, etc. The one great need to-day in the hog business is a hog with size, quality and prolificacy, combined with early maturity. In selecting breeding swine, attention must be given to size, quality, strength of bone, evenness of fleshing, and the use of more mature boars and sows. All pigs intended for breeding purposes should be selected from well-developed mature sows. If the sires are mature animals, so much the better. These pigs should be fed on rations calculated to produce bone and muscle, not fat alone. In this way we could materially improve our swine herds without changing breeds.—(From an address by Prof. W. J. Kennedy, Iowa State College, before the Interstate Breeders' Association.)

Indemnity for Sheep Destroyed.

Editor "The Farmer's Advocate":

I have been reading several articles lately in your valuable paper, encouraging farmers to go more into keeping sheep, and all admit the greatest drawback to the sheep industry is the dog nuisance. Now that we have compulsory taxing of dogs for the protection of the farmer who keeps sheep, and for the encouragement of the sheep industry, is there any just reason why the farmer who has his flock destroyed by dogs should be compelled to take two-thirds their value, as he has to under the present law. I would like to see all farmers that are interested in keeping sheep take this question up, and ask the Government to so amend the Act that the owner of sheep worried or killed by dogs shall get a fair

value for his sheep, which I think would be a great encouragement to the sheep industry in Ontario.

ONE WHO IS INTERESTED.

[Note.—If all men were absolutely just, there would be good reason for raising the proportion of indemnity, but human nature being what it is, we have to be more careful not to make sheep more valuable dead than alive. A self-interest motive must also be preserved to insure vigilance on the sheep-owner's part.—Editor.]

Handling Early Litters.

Winter pigs are often about as interesting a proposition as winter chicks, seemingly out of season, a little previous, judging from the heavy mortality among February and March litters, and the results with the few surviving pigs. Notwithstanding that it is a comparatively easy matter to bring a litter along to weaning age in a fine and thrifty condition during the warmer season, we consider many advantages are to be gained by having the first litters of the year arrive at an early date. On the dairy farm skim milk is generally plentiful during the early spring months, and by having the pigs for summer feeding as early as possible, they are able to make much better use of this than were they later. Again, for winter feeding, in order to have the feeders in best condition, fortified against constitutional weakness, it is imperative that they be allowed a run out of doors during the fall months, while if they arrive too late climatic conditions at weaning time are unfavorable for such young pigs outside, and they are deprived of this essential towards their development. We

also look forward to giving the fall pigs a nice start with skim milk again, and this being plentiful early in the fall season, the feeders are better for an early start, in order that they may dispose of the whole supply to best advantage. Profitable gains are made by the growing youngsters if there is a piece of clover aftermath in a not too distant field, while over the corn field, root field, orchard, etc., they act the part of scavengers, turning to profitable account what would otherwise be wasted.

For market reasons, also, it is well to have the pigs farrowed in time to avoid late fall prices. After September, the market does not revive until past the New Year. From this resume of the advantages of early farrowing, we see that it is worth trying and trying hard for success with February and March litters. In order to obtain best results with winter-farrowed pigs, we must at least have the largest and strongest youngsters possible to start with. Weaklings at this season, above all others, are to be avoided, and in eliminating this failing in the young things, we must first discriminate in the selection of our breeding stock, selecting only those which, under favorable conditions, are most likely to produce litters of uniformity of strength, size and vitality in a large degree; while, secondly, these dams must be properly cared for previous to farrowing to ensure such results.

During this time our sows are not kept closely confined, nor are they housed inside, where the winter feeders are kept. A colony house, that serves as a summer shelter from the hot sun and cold rains of autumn is hauled near the feeding pen on the approach of cold weather, a heavy curtain hung over the entrance, any battens replaced that may have been loosened, and a good bed of straw provided, which completes arrangements of winter quarters for the breeding stock. The feeding trough is at a distance of a few rods from this house, sufficient to afford a good deal of exercise in the fresh air in travelling from their sleeping quarters to their feeding trough two or three times a day in severe weather, while on a mild day much more outdoor exercise is taken.

These sows are fed a good nourishing ration of ground barley and oats, a little corn, and what skim milk can be spared. Otherwise water is the substitute. We are not at all afraid of getting them too fat when wintered in this way. Wintered inside, without exercise and fresh air,