

FARM AND DAIRY

AND RURAL HOME

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FARM AND DAIRY

PETERBORO, ONT.

HORSE INFORMATION NEEDED

That something ought to be done to improve and direct the horse breeding interests of this country becomes more and more apparent with each succeeding year. Horse breeding, as ordinarily conducted in these later years of remunerative prices, has fallen from any elevated position it may have had until now the chief aim seems to be to get a colt no matter of what breed or conformation so long as the service fee demanded by the stallion is considered low enough. Let any aggregation of stallions put up at the same stables and no matter what breeds are represented be they Clydesdale, Percheron, Hackney or "blooded" horses, whether pure bred or scrubs of mixed breeding and nondescript in type, each and all of them will get business irrespective of breed or desirable conformation.

It must of course be admitted that a man has a perfect right to breed his mares as suits him best. That is a privilege no man may be denied. It should be possible, however, to take some measures seeking to inform the one-mare and two-mare horse breeders

wherein they lose in breeding to unsuitable breeds, or types, and to protect them from unscrupulous groomers who misrepresent the breeding of the stallions they travel.

Notwithstanding the information gained from the special investigation on horse breeding in Ontario made in 1906, next to nothing has yet been done. No scheme whatever has been adopted, or even discussed, and the whole matter seems to have dropped from sight.

The majority of the horse breeders of Ontario are as one on the matter of a License and Inspection Act. Their lack of unanimity begins when the question of restrictions is brought forward.

Something ought to be done. In view of the unsatisfactory disposal of this important question, which we heard so much about in 1906 and 1907, possibly one of the best things that could be done is something along purely educative lines. The issuing of an up-to-date bulletin giving information touching upon breeds and breeding and also upon markets, types and the classification of horses generally, would be very much to the point. Such information as could be put before the farmers of this country in this way would at least tend towards the uplift of our horse breeding interests.

PROVIDE NOW AGAINST SHORT PASTURE

An abundance of pasture grass such as now prevails is not at all likely to be available continuously throughout the summer. With rare exceptions such has not been the case in past years, and it is not at all probable that it will be this year. A cow to do her best requires abundant forage. She may exist and possibly keep in fair condition on medium or scanty pasture, but sustained production with attendant profits is not possible under such conditions. The farmer of foresight has already provided, or will now make provision, for any exigencies relative to the feed supply that may occur.

Oats and other cereal crops already sown may be used to an extent required as a soiling crop during their respective seasons. The pinch, as a rule, is not felt, however, until after these crops have reached that degree of maturity where they are unsuitable for soiling. It is a commendable practice to seed a small area at about this time to oats and peas, which may be used if required after the main crop is past the proper stage for soiling purposes. This crop if not required may be harvested in the usual way for grain. The pinch usually comes during the first three weeks of July. Unless alfalfa is available, oats and peas as a soiling crop should be on hand to tide over this period.

Even a later sowing, in some cases, would be advisable. Corn is of little benefit until it has reached the tasseling stage and until then the late sowing of oats and peas will prove most valuable to maintain the milk flow while the corn is becoming ready.

Those who wish a crop that may be

pastured should resort to the one-year pasture mixture recommended by Prof. C. A. Zavitz of the Ontario Agricultural College, which is Siberian oats, 51 lbs.; Early Amber sugar cane, 50 lbs.; common red clover, seven lbs.; a total of 88 lbs. of seed per acre. This crop is ready for pasturing in from five to six weeks' time and has proven a valuable pasture mixture in the experimental work at the college.

THE AGE LIMIT FOR VEAL

The serious shortage of food animals, which has raised the price of all meat products, has tempted unscrupulous persons to prepare for human consumption meats that are unfit for food. Some serious allegations have been made by a correspondent in the Aylmer Express regarding the practice of selling veal of insufficient maturity. As a result of this and other disquieting statements to the same effect, many of our city cousins will be likely to lose their taste for veal.

This traffic in veal of doubtful maturity is no new thing. It is carried on more or less at all seasons, but of course the traffic increases at periods of high prices for meat products. Butchers who make their rounds in the country picking up newly born calves, which they claim to want to raise on some hard milking or kicking cow, are not unknown in most country districts. Just how this stock is disposed of has always stood as an open secret, and even if it were otherwise, it is surprising how many calves these hard milking and kicking cows can raise.

The farmer cannot be blamed for selling animals that he does not want, to willing buyers. The consumer must rely on efficient inspectors for protection against meats unfit for food. At prices that now prevail, however, much loss is suffered by those who dispose of their calves in this way. They ought to be kept until after the accepted age limit of three or four weeks, when they could be disposed of at additional profit.

REMARKABLE DIFFERENCES IN COWS

One of the strongest sets of arguments in favor of cow testing ever published from an experiment station are included in Bulletin No. 322 of the Geneva Station, N. Y., entitled "The Individual Animal as the Unit in Profitable Dairying." From the investigations made, some of the conclusions arrived at are that one man with eight cows received \$877 in one year, while another man with 22 cows only received \$368. The best cow in only experiment station gave 10,150 pounds of milk testing four per cent. fat, on \$53 worth of feed; the poorest individual gave 3,850 pounds testing 5.8 per cent. on \$52 worth of feed, or the best cow gave three times as much milk and more than twice as much fat on only one-tenth more feed. If in the poorer half of the herd there had been cows equal to those in the better half, the revenue would have been \$237 more if milk had been sold, or \$379 more if butter had been sold,

at an extra expense of only \$40 for feed.

As regards the cost of production, the best cow produced milk at a cost of 65 cents per 100 pounds and fat at 16 cents a pound, while the poorest cow produced milk at a cost of \$1.83 per 100 pounds and fat at 33 cents a pound.

The dairy business has become a much more complicated financial proposition than it was years ago at its inception. The individual producer can do little to increase the price obtained for his product, and with the ever-increasing price of labor he cannot expect to reduce materially the cost of feeds. Practically the only opportunity for increasing his profits which is within his control, is in increasing the productivity of the individual cow by keeping and breeding from his best and eliminating the ones that are not making sufficient returns for the food consumed.

The cow testing movement is making headway among Canadian dairymen. It does not progress, however, with the rapidity that its importance would warrant. The facts as discovered from time to time by our dairymen who test their cows emphasize the great necessity of this work and of weeding out the poor cows if the dairyman is to produce milk at a profit.

REAP PROFIT FROM SPRAYING

The extensive apple grower has long since learned that it pays to spray. Some go so far as to say that the insects and fungous diseases affecting the apple are blessings in disguise, since they make spraying necessary. It is not alone in checking the ravages of insects that spraying is of benefit. The general health of the tree is much improved when sprayed with Bordeaux mixture, with the lime-sulphur wash, or other standard mixtures used as a general spray to check the advance of diseases common to the apple.

Some years the value of spraying can be reckoned up to the price of the full crop itself; other years again the effect may not be so noticeable. It is like insurance; and like insurance, spraying, to be successful, must be continuous—practised regularly year after year.

The Bordeaux mixture, which has for so many years been the standard spray, is made of four pounds blue-stone, four pounds lime and 40 gallons of water. If the spray is for insects as well, add to this four ounces Paris green.

The lime-sulphur wash has in late years become more or less popular with some of the leading growers. It may be used in the home-made or commercial form. For summer use, it must be applied diluted to at least three times as much as for winter use. There are other commercial preparations also that are giving satisfaction. These are advertised from time to time in Farm and Dairy.

To be effective, spraying needs to be thoroughly done. The half-hearted, indifferent, empty-the-barrel manner in which many of our smaller orchards are sprayed is not conducive to the

best result that the farmer can get. Not certain to spray, or to spray only smaller orchards, or to spray only of larger orchards, or to spray only with the best material.

Agriculture

I. F. Metzger

The idea that the ideal is to be found in the rural life is a very old one. It is the ideal of the farmer, the ideal of the country, the ideal of the life that is not of the city, but of the country. The ideal of the farmer is to be found in the life of the farmer, in the life of the country, in the life of the life that is not of the city, but of the country.



The illustration depicts a scene from the agricultural world, showing a group of people, likely farmers, engaged in a task, possibly related to the article on spraying.

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