

Feeding for Big Draft Colts

Begin 12 months Before the Colt is Foaled

No matter how well we feed a colt, if we have not the bloodlines to back it up, we are sure to fall far short of an ideal. However poor an individual may be, or however plainly bred, if we give it every possible advantage in feed and care from colthood on, it will make quite a respectable-looking horse, though never so good as it would have been with the right parentage. Inheritance does mysterious things sometimes, over which man has little control, but proper nourishment always works for the best, never backwards. Every breeder ean, if he will, feed his horses so that they will make the best possible growth.

so that they will make the best possible growth.

The time to begin to grow a good horse is 12 months or more before it is foaled. The mare should be put in strong, healthy condition before she is bred and kept that way from then on. I have found by years of experience that the pregnant mare can be overfed just as well as under-fed. During the winter months we keep our mares out of doors every day, unless it is storming. They run in the fields and around the strawstacks. We take particular pains, however, to keep them out of cold rains or wet snow and sleet. Even in the springtime, after the ground

out of cold rains or wet snow and sleet. Even in the springtime, after the ground is supposed to be warm and grass has started, we are very careful to get our mares in the barn if a chilly rain comes.

We feed less grain than most farmers do and yêt our horses are always in good condition. Here is the secret; we encourage them to eat all the clean roughage that they can. Plenty of salt and good water do wonders in stimulating a horse's appetite. In winter, our brood mares are given all the good alfalfa hay they will eat for the morning meal, together with a gallon and a half of oats and a little bran. This does not mean that because alfalfa is a good feed pregnant mares or even colts does not mean that because alfalfa is a good feed pregnant mares or even colts and dry mares should have all they will eat of it. Alfalfa being strongly nitrogenous is detrimental to the health of an animal when fed in too large quantities. About one-third of the roughage fed should be alfalfa for best results.

grain feed again at night, but instead of alfalfa all the good clover and Imothy hay mixed that they will clean up. If a storm keeps them in doors, we put clean oats and straw in their mangers. We never, if possible, feed the same kind of roughage twice the same day. Our aim is to change the roughage so that they will not be come tired of any one kind. This keeps up their appetites. We never feed cors to our brood mares in winter.

It does not cost much to keep our broad mares in this way, but it is not that which makes me follow this system. I am after results. Mares fed in this manner come out in the spring in nice, sappy condition. They are not burned out with corn. Their blood is pure, because they have had plenty of out-doer exercise and lots of water. They are healthy because they have been fed is nature's way—nutritious grasses and little grain. It does not cost much to keep our he

I do not want to be understood as being an advocate of light feeding, for I am just the opposite. I believe we should feed our horses as we feed queselves. Any one who knows that it would be unwise to sit down to a table and make a whole meal of fried ham. Yet we do what is exactly comparable when we try to grow draft horses of corn, a little oats and roughage of any kind that is landy.

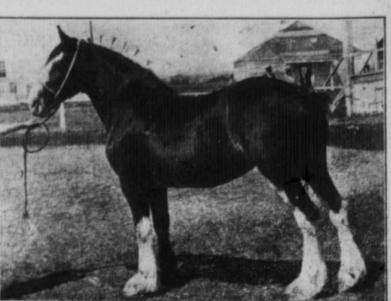
kind that is landy.

Poorly-fed horses and colt diseases go together. I am frequently asked what I do for navel trouble. Nothing, because our foals never have been bothered with this disease. I have always felt that the lack of foal ills and deaths on my farm has been due largely to the fact that we have kept our mares in a strong, healthy condition. Ten days before foaling, the daily ration is reduced half and kept there until the foal is about two weeks old, when the feed is gradually brought up to the full amount again. We are particularly careful to see that the mare's bowels are in perfect condition, with a slight tendency towards looseness. If her bowels are right and have been for some time, there will be little danger of constipation in her foal when it arrives.

An abundance of nutritious rough-

An abundance of nutritious rough

When the mares are out in the field in the daytime, they get no feed of grain at noon. They get the same



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