

### Stock.

#### Water for Stock.

When turning the stock on the pastures the water supplied ought to be looked to. Although a wholesome and plentiful supply of water is one of the most important matters to be considered in relation to stock, yet it is frequently neglected, and so long as there is water at all the owner is satisfied. There are few matters in connection with farming less understood, or at least less care shown for, generally speaking, among farmers, than the treatment of water for stock. Open drains which are oftentimes expected to give enough water for cattle during summer, are allowed to accumulate mud and all sorts of filth perhaps for years without a thought being bestowed on scouring or cleaning them up at the proper time. To such a state are those drains allowed to go, that they become choked up, the water of course remains stagnant and fetid, and for want of anything better the poor animals are obliged to drink it. Sometimes a certain distance along the line of drain openings are made, and some of the filth is cleared to make what is termed a "drinking pool." A drinking puddle would be more correct, and after forcing their stock to drink such stuff, people wonder at their cattle getting diseases evidently arising from blood poisoning, and brought on no doubt by having to drink water stagnant and polluted with teeming animal life, as well as the remains of myriads of defunct generations, which have already lived their "span," and instead of "sinking down to their home in the clay," have gone into the mud. Water intended for cattle drinking should be always running; we always feel pleasure in hearing the water stream "bubbling" through lands that the cattle are grazing on; it is a sure indication that if the source is good, the water is almost certain to be good for the stock. Then as to the source from which the water comes, it ought to be always a point for special consideration of the farmer, to see that no sewage can possibly pollute his water stream. For milch cows, above all others, it is particularly dangerous to allow them to partake of water containing sewage, as they may be the means of disseminating disease among those who may use the milk of such cows.

#### Age of Sheep for Fattening.

Sheep fatten most rapidly at two or three years of age. By feeding with rich fodder, one year old sheep will increase in weight more rapidly than when older, for the period of growth is not yet passed. Whilst they will also fatten at this age, the flesh is not esteemed as when older, as it is more watery. Lambs taken very young and fed high are fattened and made palatable. But when fattened for profit as well as palatable flesh, sheep, as of other animals, should be matured in growth first. It is also true that after animals have become too old, neither profitable fattening nor the most palatable flesh can be secured with the best of food. Whether for economy in feeding, or choice meat, the best is attainable when the animal is well matured; neither before, nor much after that period.

#### Gentleness with Horses.

A horse cannot be screamed at and cursed without becoming less valuable in every particular. To reach the highest degree of value the animal should be gentle and always reliable, but if it expects every moment that it is in harness to be "jawed" at and struck, it will be in a constant state of nervousness, and in its excitement is as liable, through fear, to do something which is not expected, as to go along doing what you started it to do.

It is possible to train a horse to be governed by word of mouth, almost as completely as it is to train a child, and in such training the horse reaches its highest value. When a horse is soothed by the gentle words of his driver—and we have seen him calmed down from great excitement by no other means—it may be fairly concluded that he is a valuable animal for all practicable purposes, and it may be certainly concluded that the man who has such power over him is a humane man and a sensible one.

But all this simply means that the man must secure the animal's confidence. Only in exceptional instances is he stubborn or vicious. If he understands his surroundings and what is required

of him, he gives no trouble. As almost every reader must know, if the animal when frightened can be brought up to the object he will become calm. The reason is that he understands that there is nothing to fear. So he must be taught to have confidence in the man who handles him, and then this powerful animal which usually no man could handle if it were disposed to be vicious, will give no trouble.

The very best rule, therefore, which we would lay down for the management of the horse, is gentleness and good sense on the part of the driver. Bad drivers make bad horses, usually.

#### Sheep Management.

An exchange says: The two most common methods of keeping sheep are first to raise all the best ewe lambs each year, and cull out the oldest ewes to be fattened and sold for mutton every fall; and in this way keep the flock of a suitable size for the farm. The other is to buy the number of ewes required from the stock yards or droves, and at the same time select a good thorough-bred buck to breed from. Have early lambs, feed them high and have all the lambs sold off early. Get the ewes fat and sold out of the way before it is time to lay in a fresh supply for another year. The latter method has perhaps rather more to recommend it than the former, if the sheep are kept solely for immediate profit. By this method we are able to keep more useful breeding ewes at the same time than could be done if raising ewe lambs, as it is not likely that over half of the yearlings will breed the first year. But to balance the want of lambs in the flock we may expect to get a much larger average of wool from the young ewes than will be realized from the old ones that are raising one or two lambs each. Perhaps you will wish to be able to say that you have raised all the stock on the farm—something that any real farmer would take pride in. If such is the case, you must keep all of the good ewe lambs, and if possible not allow them to breed before they are two years old. You will then get the best fleece they will ever make at one year old; and at two years will have a fine large lot of ewes able to give good lambs. A very successful sheep raiser has made it a rule to cull the ewes at shearing time and keep those who have a heavy fleece and good lambs, too, for a second year and no longer. By so doing he has for many years succeeded in raising an average of three lambs for every two ewes in the flock. In all cases the lambs should have their tails cut off when a few days old, as it is of great advantage if they are only to be butchered at a few months old to have a nice bunch of fat in the place of a long and dirty tail. If you are so situated as to be able to sell the lambs at 60 pounds or less, it will not pay to castrate the bucks. Should you intend to keep them for the fall market, never omit to castrate all bucks.

#### Consumption in Cows.

Of all diseases which cow-flesh is heir to none is more to be dreaded in a breeding herd than tubercular consumption, while in a milking herd, if the recent assertions of veterinarians and physicians of "the continent," perhaps of England also, prove well founded, the danger to be feared is not so much the spread of the malady among the cattle as its communication through the milk to children and delicate persons who partake of it. The speedy death of young pigs to which the milk of ailing cows was fed has been reported in this country, and the cows proved to have consumption, while the pigs died of some lung trouble, but were not examined. This is one of those diseases especially likely to affect the cows kept in badly ventilated stables, and liable to render the milk utterly unwholesome and repugnant if not deadly, and not only the milk but the flesh; and yet, such cows are systematically milked as long as possible and then killed, and the meat, if of fair appearance, sold openly.

Consumption in cattle may be communicated "in ordinary generation" like "original sin" by both sire and dam. It may also be communicated by the breath; a consumptive cow giving it to those standing next her in the stable.—[American Dairyman.]

In a state of rest, animals should be allowed as much water as they will take, but when they are likely to be called upon to perform severe exertion, smaller quantities are advisable, and in which case the allowance should be repeated at short intervals.

#### Pare the Toes of Colts.

It is not generally recognized how much harm comes to horses from the simple overgrowth of the toes; and yet, in the case of young and unshod horses especially, hardly anything is more destructive to their soundness and permanent utility. Judging from the number of colts turned out everywhere with the whole winter growth on their toes, there seems to be a surprising amount of ignorance on this matter; and it becomes the more necessary to draw special attention to the need of paring.

A good average slope for the front of a healthy hoof is one forming an angle of 45° with the ground on which it rests. In other words, if a perpendicular line were drawn upwards from the toe, the line of the front of the hoof would be midway between such vertical line and the flat surface of the sole or ground. But the average foot grows far more rapidly at the toe than the heel, and wears off much more slowly. The heel, too, as it grows, turns inward, so that even with an equal growth, it never projects as does the overgrown toe. As the foot increases in length, therefore, the effect is shown and felt especially at the toe, and with addition to the length of the toe, the front of the foot and of the pastern recedes further from the vertical position, and approaches nearer to the horizontal. So much is this the case, than an increase of 1½ to 2 inches at the toe will often diminish the angle formed by the front of the hoof and the ground by one-third. In other words, the angle formed by the front of the hoof and the ground becomes about 30°, instead of 45°. This increasing obliquity of the foot and pastern throws a greatly increased strain on the cords supporting the fetlock and pastern joints, and gives them an enormously increased predisposition to sprain and injury. But this evil of increased obliquity in the pastern is seriously aggravated by the length of the toe. An increased length of two inches, as suggested, together with the greater obliquity, throws a line rising vertically from the point of the toe at least three inches further forward from the shank, and increases the leverage exerted by the toe to an equivalent amount. If we now consider that this lever is acted on by the weight of the body, and that the fulcrum is at the fetlock and pastern joints, we can see plainly enough how overgrown toes so constantly determine ruinous ringbones in young animals. The extra strain consequent on the increased length and obliquity must be borne by the posterior and lateral ligaments of the fetlock and pasterns; and as these latter come from the sides of the pastern bones, the consequent injury determines inflammation and bony deposits on the sides of the pasterns. Similarly, the back sinews, which act as supports to these joints behind, become sprained, thickened, and shortened, inducing knuckling over at the knee, and general unsteadiness of the limbs.

In paring, remove the whole projecting lower border of the hoof wall down to the junction with the sole. The greatest danger is from the toes; but overgrown heels curled in on the sole, imprison masses of hard, flaky horn, bruise the sole and determine corns and a train of evil consequences. The process should be attended to in winter as well; but it is especially in summer, when the colt is running at liberty in the fields, that the effects of undue length are to be feared.—[Ex.]

#### Demand for Heavy Horses.

The demand for heavy horses at present exceeds that of any former year. Buyers are scouring the country for "big" colts. A word of caution is not out of place here. Breeders are sometimes apt to overlook quality provided they find size. Discrimination should be used in selecting stallions of this kind as well as other kinds. The strong demand is calculated to make buyers less exacting in regard to quality, and this will not fail to result, in some cases, in loss by and by. The shrewd breeder will look out and select his breeding stock with a view to securing all the weight desired combined with attractive and desirable points that will insure a saleable horse at any time. Witho it disparaging horses of other heavy breeds, it is proper to say that the English draft or shire horses are rapidly gaining in public favor, as they seem to combine the desirable qualities for improving the small common stocks in the United States. They are very compact in construction, heavy in bone and muscle, are very active and have a strong constitution. Breeders will do well to look into the merits of the English draft horse.