

A Great Loss.

The following paragraph, from the Live-stock Journal, vividly portrays the immense losses sustained by horse owners and breeders in America, due to mares failing to breed:

"The greatest leak in American agriculture is that of barren mares. That the horse-breeding industry can stand such a waste of energy, money and time, is quite positive proof that the industry can be made one of the most lucrative of any carried on in connection with the work of the farm. The loss in Nebraska resulting from mares that do not reproduce themselves exceeds \$25,000,000 every year. In all the United States, the loss from this source will exceed \$350,000,000; and in all the horse-breeding districts of the world it reaches the enormous sum of \$1,500,000,000 annually."

Just how much of this loss is due to poor management is difficult to state, but there is little doubt that, with judicious treatment and more attention, the number of so-called barren mares could be reduced, and thus the loss would be partly averted. The stallion is often responsible for as much of this trouble as is the mare. Too much care cannot be given to the selection of the sire.

LIVE STOCK.

The compensations in swine-raising are ample for the man who desires to make his work a profession, as hundreds who have a just pride in their achievements can testify.—[Coburn's "Swine in America."

If the calves scour, it is always an indication that there is something defective in the feeding ration. In serious cases, one or two raw eggs, given with a little dried blood-meal, is good. Dried blood meal is sometimes effective alone in milder cases.

Live-stock husbandry represents a high type of constructive effort, and swine-breeding offers as much satisfaction and gain as any other branch. It may profitably engage the attention of the man who raises hogs merely for financial motives, but a breeder who attains a foremost place in his calling has an interest in his business not inspired solely by rewards in money.

In stock-breeding, do not be overanxious to get the animals producing at an early age. It should be remembered that early breeding often shortens the animal's period of usefulness, rather than causing it to run over a longer period of time, as many breeders believe. Early breeding puts a tax upon the animal's system which, in its young and immature state, proves a drain which the system rarely if ever entirely recovers from.

In summer cattle are often confined too much to a single food while it lasts. Owners should remember that variety is just as essential in summer feeding as in winter feeding, and that the greater the variety of grasses present in the pasture, the better. This adding variety to the ration can be accomplished very well by soiling crops, there being a number of crops that can be used for this purpose. Feeding some other feeds with the pasture grass is usually good practice. Palatable food generally gives better returns than unpalatable food, because it is more relished.

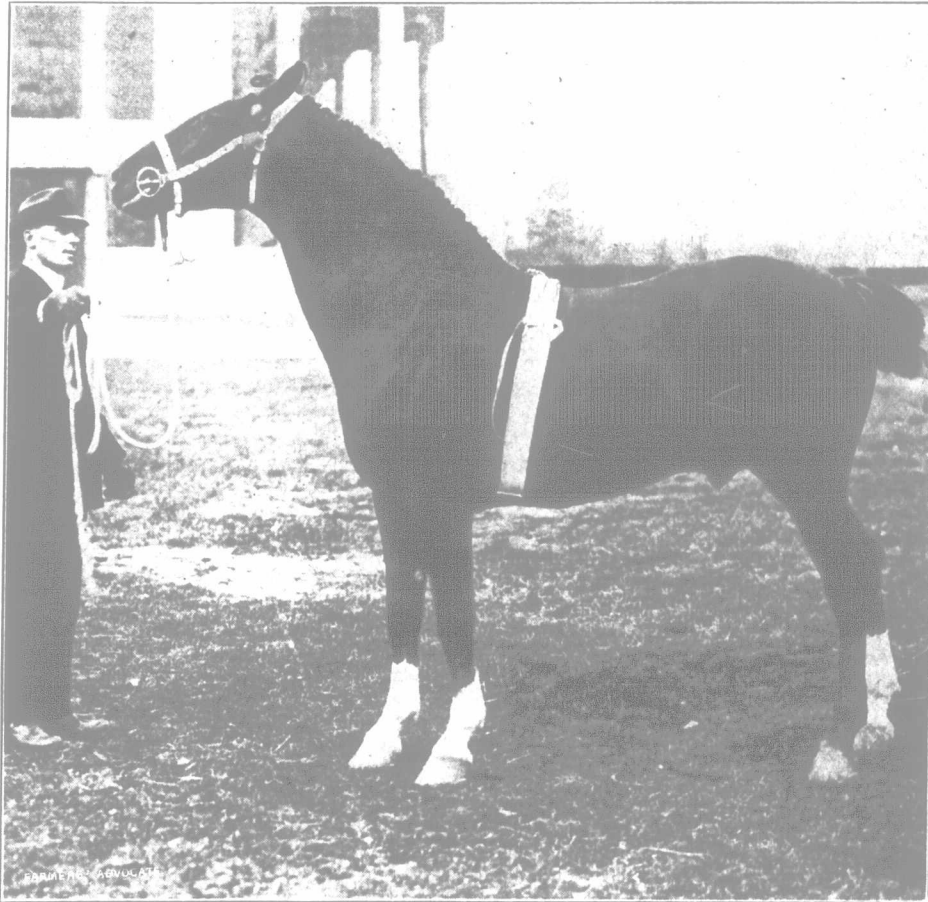
The straw crop is quite short this year, and, in order that the different classes of farm animals do not suffer from lack of sufficient bedding material, care should be taken to preserve the straw to the best possible advantage. Keep as much of it in the barn or shed at threshing time as you can, and if any must go into a stock outside, special care should be taken to get the stack properly built. It is disgusting to see animals compelled to make their bed in their own filth, and it is unhealthy and uncomfortable for them, and is not so conducive to rapid gains as where the animals are kept clean and comfortable. Straw is the one material on the farm for this purpose, and stock-owners should make it a point to save this material as well as possible.

The calves must be kept growing and thrifty. This is a critical time in their lives. The pastures are short and dry, and the flies are very troublesome. Where possible, keep the calves inside during the day, and at this season it is often just as well to keep them in comfortable, well-bedded box stalls all the time—that is, provided they are given plenty of green feed. Corn is now ready to feed, and the calves should get a liberal ration of it, together with alfalfa or second cutting of red clover, and a light grain ration. Few grains are relished by calves so much as oats. The skim-milk supply may be falling off now, and, as the

milk ration grows less, other feeds must be increased. Under no circumstances can the owner afford to limit the calves' ration beyond that point at which they are making the best growth and development. With calves of the dairy breeds, too much fat is not believed to be in the best interests of the calf, if it is to be kept for milk production, but few skim-milk calves ever get over-fat. The opposite condition is more often found.

A Good Time to Cull the Flock.

This season of the year, following the weaning of the lambs and preceding the breeding season, is a very opportune time to go through the flock and discard all those individuals which, because of age, sickness, faulty conformation, or other reasons, are not suitable to be used as breeders any longer. It is generally wise to turn over to the butcher all ewes which did not breed last season, if this has not already been done. All those ewes which have not brought forth a desirable class of lambs should also be culled out, as well as any whose teeth are so badly gone as to make keeping them over another season risky. Of course, with high-class, pure-bred breeding stock, a ewe that has proven herself an exceptional breeder is often profitable even after her teeth are very badly gone, but with sheep of indifferent breeding and uncertain value as breeders, it is very seldom advisable to take any chances on defective specimens.



Terrington Lucifer (imp.) [374].

Hackney stallion owned by Mt. Victoria Stock Farm, Hudson Heights, Que.

If the lambs have been weaned early, which should always be practiced, the ewes will pick up in flesh rapidly, and they are soon in good condition to be disposed of to the butcher. Besides their being in good condition, the fact that mutton is usually a fair price at this time, is also an advantage to be gained by disposing of the undesirable breeders at this time. Not only should the old ewes be turned off, but very often there are shearlings in the flock which are scrubby individuals of defective conformation, which, if used as breeders, would be a detriment, rather than an improvement to the flock, and all such individuals should be disposed of. One sometimes hesitates to part with a young ewe, but if she does not give promise of becoming a good breeder, the sooner she is expelled from the flock, the better. Many two-year-old ewes which have produced scrawny lambs should go with the other poor ones. Nothing but the best type of strong, healthy ewe should ever be kept for breeding purposes; and, to bring the flock up to the highest possible condition, and keep it there, requires severe yearly culling, and few other seasons offer as good an opportunity for this as does the time just previous to the breeding season in the fall.

These dry, hot summers of short hay and light straw crops serve to impress upon stockmen the need of something which can be cultivated throughout the season, and thus not suffer from the drought to such an extent. Corn fills the bill.

Select the Boar Early.

The swine breeder who selects his male hogs early, even some time before he really needs them to go into service has a decided advantage over the man who leaves this selection until late in the season, and then rushes out to procure an animal which is to be placed immediately into the breeding pens. A boar should really be kept on the farm some time before going into service. Some breeders claim that the shortest possible time that the boar should be in the pens before being used in the herd is two months, and they claim that if this practice were more closely adhered to the number of complaints of incompetency in boars would be greatly lessened.

A pig like every other animal when transferred to new quarters, is restless and seldom contented. This has an effect on the animal's entire system. Good boars have been known to be very materially injured by being put into immediate service in new and strange conditions. To do the best service, the hog must be in a state of contentment, and also in the highest physical condition, which seldom applies to a hog placed in new surroundings and among strange animals of his kind.

Perhaps the greatest advantage of early buying is that the purchaser is almost certain to get a better individual, because the breeders have not sold all their best animals, as is often the case when the buyer seeks a new herd-header. The pig that is a good one at the age they are generally placed into

service is far surer to be capable of continued development than one of the culls which has been left after several buyers have made their selection. Therefore, it is in the purchaser's best interest to make his choice before the seller's herd has been culled. If possible, be the first buyer there, and secure the best that the breeder's herd has produced.

Hogs vary in their individual habits, and it is the duty of the owner to become as familiar with them as possible. The result of the breeding operations is largely dependent upon the care and handling of the breeding animals, especially the boar. Intelligent handling is only possible when the various traits of the animal are known and complied with. Buy the sire early, and avoid being forced to take an inferior animal. Besides a

limited number to select from, those who buy late often find breeding stock scarce and high in price.

THE FARM

The Motor Car and the Road.

Editor "The Farmer's Advocate":

I have read with interest your editorial, and letters of correspondents in recent issues, relative to the effect of motor traffic on roads, and the damage caused by dust deposited by them on farm crops. I confess it is difficult for one interested first in agriculture to discuss this subject without warmth, because everyone who comes near a running automobile, except its passengers, has to put up with more or less discomfort. The man who owns and runs a car excuses and tolerates the odor of the smoke emitted by the motor, just as the smoker is not offended by atmosphere made vile by the pipe of another. The automobile is a highly useful vehicle, and a blessing in many ways, but this does not counteract its evil effects upon roads and upon crops growing near the highway.

I agree with your correspondent, Ed. J. Carty, that an effort should be made to overcome the dust evil, but I am sure he underestimates the damage done to the roads by motor cars. We have in Ottawa about fifteen miles of driveway constructed and maintained by the Ottawa Improvement Commission. This is constructed on