

Money in Breeding Horses

J. Brown, Chateaugay Co., Que.

The first point which the breeder must decide is, What kind of horse will it be most profitable to raise? In my opinion, for the man who is engaged in mixed farming, and only raises a limited number of horses, the reasonable weight, draft horse weighing from 1,400 to 1,600 pounds is the most profitable to raise for the market.

If they are well fed and well cared for, they will be able to do their share of the farm work at the age of three years and continue to do so until they are fully matured at the age of six years. There is a ready market for horses of this age at prices around \$250, which should leave a good margin of profit, apart from the care and feeding of the colt until it is able to work. A neighbor of mine sold a gelding colt, two and a half years of age, for \$180, which goes to prove that there is money in raising horses for market.

The biggest drawback I have experienced in raising draft horses is in getting mares in foal when bred to heavy draft registered sires. Did owners of stallions lay less stress on keeping their horses fitted for the show ring, and adopt the practice that is followed in France of giving the stallion regular work, there would be fewer misses and the horse raising industry would be more profitable at all concerned.

The Horse in Demand

Albert Brown, Ontario Co., Ont.

The only way that we farmers can find out the class of horse that is wanted by our customers in the cities is to go to the city and discover the class of horse that is used there. I have been following the horse trade with Toronto for many years now, and one of the things that has impressed me has been the steadily increasing demand for heavy draft horses, weighing 1,500 pounds to a ton, and the equally rapid decline in the demand for light horses. Let us take a stroll down Yonge Street, Toronto, as I frequently do, or better still down Front Street, where you can see a dozen teams every five minutes, and what class of horses do we find? Almost invariably big, heavy Clydesdales. Now and again we see a light driving horse, but not often. The coming of the automobile has almost killed the demand for light horses. The Toronto merchant, professional man or capitalist who used to keep one or more horses for his personal use, now finds that an automobile answers requirements better.

The auto truck, however, has not been such a success. Cartage companies have found that a good reliable draft horse will do the work more satisfactorily than will an auto, and the demand for this class of horse is constantly increasing.

THE HORSES ON OUR FARMS

Have we the class of horse on Ontario farms to supply this demand for draft horses from the city? Ontario county is supposed to be one of the greatest heavy horse counties in Canada, but I believe that even here the majority of horses on our farms are of light build; what we would call general purpose horses. Horses raised from stock such as this are the kind that will sell on the market at \$150 to \$175, while the heavy drafter bringing \$250 to \$300 is a rare article indeed.

One of the first principles of marketing, I should say, is to give the customer what he wants. A visit to any city will convince you that what the customers want is a big stylish horse of good conformation weighing 1,500 or more pounds. This is the horse that we farmers want to get into if we would make any money as horse breeders.



There is Money in Breeding Horses Like These

The two mares with their foals, here illustrated, are pure-bred Clydesdales and are of the right conformation and weight to produce market sires, although a little thin when the photo was taken. Mr. John Brown, of Chateaugay Co., Que., the owner of these mares, was one of the competitors in the Interprovincial Fairs Competition conducted by Farm and Dairy.

—Photo by an editor of Farm and Dairy.

Judging Young Horses in the Show Ring

Chas. E. Porter, Halton Co., Ont.

A discussion of the subject of judging young horses in the show ring often leads to the question: Are breeders and exhibitors over fitting to flesh to meet with the competition of the show ring? My opinion is that some of them are. This is a mistake. There should be more care given to selection of foundation stock on the basis of conformation and quality in the establishing of a stud and less dependence placed on fitting.

The breeder who works for desirable qualities will make no mistake. Our experiences of late years at the Canadian exhibitions have made us more and more certain of this. The judges' careful examination of the colt or young horse is largely based on the following: General conformation, smoothness of bone, size of hoof-head, width of heel, fineness of feather, springy pasterns, and straight and even action. The amount of flesh expected is only to give an appearance fitting the development and normal weight according to age.

The desire to have young horses in extreme flesh is dangerous, being liable to weaken the constitution, which defect cannot be reclaimed at a horse's maturity. The positive fact should therefore be given careful consideration. Expert judges do not often give awards for the amount of flesh carried, without satisfying themselves that horses of any breed or size are absolutely sound, this being necessary for the highest market demands.

Fall Feed for Lambs

F. Birdsell & Son, Peterboro Co., Ont.

Fall pasture for lambs may be provided by sowing rape or, better still, by seeding everything sown with clover, about three pounds to the acre. Best of all, grow lots of alfalfa. We cut the first crop for hay. If we are scarce of winter feed we cut the second crop also. We pasture after the field has gotten another start. We turn on our lambs, whether kept for breeding purposes or for sale to the butcher. We get quicker returns from our alfalfa in this way than if it were cut for hay.

I know many people are opposed to the pasturing of alfalfa. After over a quarter of a century of pasturing we have not changed our minds.

Feeding Holstein Cows for Large Official Records

"Tell us how you feed your cows and handle them so as to secure the splendid records you are making at Woodcrest."

Thus said an editor of Farm and Dairy recently while at this place question Mr. A. S. Chase, manager of the Woodcrest herd and farm at Rifton, Ulster Co., New York State. Mr. Chase replied, "We have no secrets. We are glad to tell you all. Everything is open and above board, and it is a pleasure even to put ourselves out to help a young breeder and to give him of our information at any time."

Just then our editor got real busy, and took down the following: "It is utterly impossible to get the best that is in a cow unless she be in the best of physical condition. This fact cannot be put too strongly. Cows must be in good condition before they freshen, else it is unreasonable to expect to make good records from such cows when they freshen."

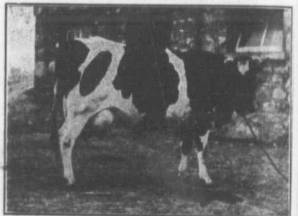
"We aim to have our cows secure plenty of exercise. We want them in a laxative condition. There is no danger of getting the cows too fat, provided they are kept in a laxative condition by feeding ensilage, roots, etc., and not cottonseed or corn meal hominy."

"When the cow freshens we start in milking her four times a day. By milking four times the cow will do better than on milking three times. We do not hurry a cow along too much on her feed. We let her take it naturally. Many cows are put out of business completely by hurried too much on the start."

SUCCULENT FEED PLAYS IMPORTANT PART

"We very seldom use salt or other laxatives to keep the cows in an open condition, but we regulate their bowels by the succulent feed we provide as a part of their everyday ration."

"Two weeks before the cow calves we cut down her feed to a light bulky ration, with plenty of oil meal to make it laxative. This



Evidence of the Value of Good Breeding

This grade Holstein heifer, owned by W. B. Watson, York Co., Ont., produced 1130 lbs. of 4 per cent milk in her first lactation period. In Farm and Dairy of Aug. is appeared an illustration of a half-sister of this heifer that produced 1230 lbs. of milk as a two-year-old. They are both sired by the same bull. One can have better evidence of the value of the pure-bred sire."

ration is not changed much till a week after freshening, and then we gradually work up to a high protein ration.

FOR DRY COWS AND GROWING STOCK

"One of our rations we use for dry cows and young growing heifers is as follows: Wheat bran, 100 lbs.; Hominy, 100 lbs.; Ajax Flakes, 100 lbs.; Ground Oats, 100 lbs.; Oil Meal, 20 lbs. Of this ration we feed as much as the cow will eat up greedily. There is a big difference in individual cows. With some of them one would want to start with about 6 lbs. a day; others would take 12 lbs. and others 17 lbs. or more of this mixture per day. We believe in letting the cow be the guide in this particular, and have found this to be a pretty good practice. No one should attempt to lay down a strict rule for feeding. This would not be possible even with people at the table. It is the

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