

Hog Feeding.

BY J. J. PAYNE.

This subject naturally divides itself into two heads: Feeding for breeding, and for fattening; and as the former is in my estimation of far greater importance, I shall speak of it first.

"Contrary as a hog" has passed into a proverb, and hog raisers, as a rule, acting upon the principle that "like cures like," the hog generally has rough treatment and usage meted out to him. This is a great mistake, for in the care and feeding of brood sows nothing pays better than gentle treatment and kindness, so that in any system of feeding this should be a marked feature. The sows should always be kept separate from the rest of the hogs. In the summer they should have a clover lot, and if this is not convenient, then the clover should be cut and thrown to them, with feeds of bran, wheat middlings, supplemented by small feeds of corn, and as soon as roots are obtainable plenty of them, and at all times plenty of pure, fresh water. In the fall great care should be taken to see that the feeding of new corn should be done very gradually; and in no case feed soft corn to brood sows, as that, or too heavy feeding of hard corn, is very apt to cause a small litter. I prefer that the corn be shelled and soaked at least twelve hours. In the winter they should have warm, clean, comfortable pens, with plenty of yard room for exercise. Cooked food should be given at least twice a day; chopped clover dampened, a plentiful supply of roots, and corn once or twice a day. The advantage of cooked food is that it enables the owner to make use of a great many odds and ends that otherwise would be wasted, to say nothing about the disputed point whether it more readily assimilates or not; but in my opinion it not only more readily assimilates, but furnishes a much larger amount of nutriment. In regard to the temperature of the cooked food, I think that it should be neither too hot nor too cold, say about milk warm.

If you do not want hungry pigs, do not let your sows get hungry, and, therefore, feed regularly and plentifully; and in order not to make them too fat, feed less corn and more roots, bran, middlings, etc. Always provide plenty of charcoal for your hogs, and especially the brood sows, to run to. They will eat it greedily, and will run to it when let out of the pen. Let them have all they want, for they are not like "Pat with the whiskey," they know when they have enough. It is an excellent preventive of disease, and gives strength and stamina to the animal.

As regards fattening hogs it depends much upon the breed. In my opinion the hog for Ontario is the one that will at eight or ten months weigh from two to three hundred pounds. A litter dropped, say in March or April, is ready for the market in October, and can then be marketed before the glut takes place, which annually comes about the holidays. Thus the feeding of these hogs would be in the warm season. Plenty of clover or other grass, early peas, and roots with old corn, saved, because you did not have to feed it out in the previous cold November and December, places your hog on the market before the cold weather sets in, and before the overstocking of it, and the new corn can be more profitably used later on to winter over and spring feed the fall litter,

which can be profitably marketed in the early spring.

Breeding and feeding have become a science. Cause and effect have been carefully studied. The "hit or miss" plan has given away to the "business" plan, and the farmer who does not keep up with the progress of the times will be left. To the breeder is to be given the credit for the farmer's profit from the hog, and the breeder in return looks to the farmer for a part of his success. No argument should be necessary to induce the farmer to use the best stock he can purchase, and to keep on improving it. Experience has proven that it is practicable and profitable to do so. In a further article I may take occasion to discuss the merits and demerits of the favorite breeds.

The Paris District Breeders' Association.

The above Association has adopted what is a novel system to the horse breeders of the Dominion, but which is very similar to the plan in use in the best breeding districts of England and Scotland. We understand that the Association are indebted to Mr. Arch. Wilson, Paris, for formulating the rules whereby they intend to carry on their operations. Mr. Wilson is well known as a prominent buyer of first-class horses, having pursued the trade in exporting to England high class light harness, saddle horses, and hunters suitable for the English trade, for many years. He has always been considered an authority on horse breeding in all its departments, and he states that the worst drawbacks to the trade is the difficulty in finding suitable horses; and further adds that this is not caused so much by the lack of suitable brood mares as the difficulty in obtaining the proper stallions to mate with these. With a view to improving on the present system of obtaining the services of the necessary stallions, he prevailed upon a number of prominent horse breeders to form themselves into an Association whereby the best stallions of each breed could be obtained for the season of 1891. They have now got the scheme into proper working shape, with the promise of great success. It would be well that other parts of the country would watch the working of this Association through the season, as it appears that by the old haphazard system so long in use, if a good horse is brought into any locality he is often taken away for want of proper patronage, and that it is only by combined efforts of those interested the services of the best class can be obtained. At the present time, while ordinary horses are hardly saleable, all classes of good horses are bringing good prices. During the stallion show at Toronto draught geldings were being purchased for export to Glasgow, and as high as \$275 was paid. First-class carriage horses were never dearer, and there is likely to be a demand at the best prices for years. Owners of high class stallions have been complaining that through the number of cheap horses holding at low fees it is difficult to secure a living patronage. Joining together, as here stated, will soon drive the scrub horse to the wall.

The Paris Association has secured two of the best horses for the coming season, viz., Wild Harry, sweepstakes coach horse at last Industrial, and winner of both first prizes, being first offered by the Provincial Spring Stallion Show, the other the \$30 offered by the Canadian Coach Horse Society at the same show. The draught horse selected is the beautiful two-year-old Crosby Chief, winner of fourth prize in imported Clydesdale class.

We append the rules which are given on the back of entry form of the Paris District Association:—

MEMBERSHIP RULES.

1. Persons desirous of becoming annual members of the society must pay an entrance fee of 50 cents, and will be supplied with a form on which they will state the number of mares they intend to breed and what horse they intend using; or, if both, state how many for each horse, then sign the form.
2. Members will be held responsible for all mares bred to the Society's horses not in their possession at the time of collecting fees, unless they can give sufficient evidence that they are not in foal.
3. All members who enter their names on the Society's books will be held responsible for their guarantee, unless in the case of death or disablement, when notice must be given to the Secretary of the Society.
4. Members will receive notice from the Secretary two weeks before the time of collecting fees. The owner of the horse to collect all demands unless otherwise ordered by the Secretary.
5. That the Society give a guarantee of not less than eighty, and not to exceed one hundred, mares, for insurance for each horse on terms not to exceed fifteen dollars, and that a meeting of members of the Society be held on the 27th February to sum up the entries and appoint three of their number as a deputation to attend the stallion show at Toronto, or elsewhere, for the purpose of selecting their stallions.
6. It will be the duty of the deputation to select two horses of superior quality and breeding, registered in their respective stud books, and to receive a certificate to that effect signed by the owners of the horses.

STALLION RULES.

1. That the horse "[]" " ()" has been selected by the South Dumfries and Paris District Horse Breeders' Association, and to be wholly under their control for the season 1891.
2. That this horse be at the service of the Society not later than the 17th of April till the 17th of July, or till such time as he has duly fulfilled his contract with the Society.
3. That this horse travel on the route laid out by the directors, and be within reach of all the members at least once a week.
4. That the groom be supplied with a list of members and all the necessary information as to his route, and the meeting of members outside his route.
5. That the owner of the horse pay all travelling expenses, and, when the horse has secured a regular night stand with any member of the Society, one mare to be served free, which will be included in the guarantee.
6. That the directors have power to withhold any part of the fees for any default of the groom in charge, who must act according to the orders of the directors.
7. If this horse becomes disabled through any unnecessary cause or mismanagement of the groom the owner must replace another horse of equal merit or forfeit any terms that he may have served for.
8. The groom must not on any account accept mares from non-members without the permission of the Board of Directors, as the horse is strictly held for the use of the Society.
9. In a case of extra demand for the horse it must be arranged to serve one mare for each member, and extra mares according to the number of brood mares they possess.
10. That the owner of the horse collect all fees due to him on the date he may specify, but he must at least give two weeks notice, and the directors shall hold themselves responsible for any outstanding fees.
11. Should the owner of the horse make any incorrect statement to the deputation as to pedigree, stud book, or number therein; or, if the horse should be suffering from any contagious disease, to the owner's knowledge, the directors will have power to cause the horse to discontinue his route, and the owner shall forfeit any claim he may have on the Society.
12. That the directors have all the power of settling disputes.

The first question asked, from a subscriber to the ADVOCATE, Toronto, was:—"Is the White Plymouth Rock equal to the barred variety, and what do the breeders claim for it?" Not having bred them myself, I went to the trouble of interviewing some of the leading breeders of that useful variety of fowls. They claim all the good points of the barred variety and earlier maturity in the white; better layers if anything; in fact, a decided improvement all round. Another question I have been often asked, "Should the ring (white) on a Rouen drake's neck go completely round the neck?" The American Standard of Excellence says the neck should be long, slender and neatly curved, and in color rich, lustrous green, with a distinct white ring on the lower part, not quite meeting at the back; the breast broad and deep; beautiful claret color, extending as far as possible towards the legs; bill long, broad, and greenish-yellow in color, without any other shade except the black bean at the tip.