

underneath. Mares that are mean should not be allowed to run with others, and it may be necessary to let them have a small yard by themselves. Box stall doors should always be fastened open, before the mares are let in for the night and it is wonderful how soon each one will learn her place and seldom make a mistake, or get into the wrong stall. In regard to deep snow-drifts in yards, I remember seeing during the severe winter of 1896-97, snow fences in the yards of the largest horse farm in Iowa. They were built on the plan of snow fences in use on the railways, and were placed around deep drifts to keep the brood mares from getting into the deep snow.

I prefer earth floors in the stalls and alleyways, as the danger of slipping is less than on a plank floor, especially in winter when their feet on very cold days become balled up with snow and ice; sometimes elevating them from the ground three or four inches, and it often seems advisable to knock the balls out of their feet before they are let into the stable. The approaches to the stable door should be arranged so there will be no sill to step over, as a mare will sometimes get just a slight toe hold with one hind foot in going over a sill and slip off just when the most weight comes on the foot, thereby causing her to either knuckle at the fetlock, or causing abnormal extension of the hock and general concussion. As regards diet, we should be careful to see that the food is of the best, and that no smutty corn or rusty oats are fed. It is also rather dangerous to allow pregnant mares free access to straw stacks as is done in the West. Flax straw is particularly harmful, as is any food that acts as a purgative.

It will pay the brood mare owner to try his mares often in the breeding season, and the plan adopted by most breeding farms of any size is to try all of the mares twice a week, for example, say Wednesday and Saturday, which would be known as "trial days," and on these days each mare is caught and tried. This is kept up until it would be too late in the season to breed them again, even if they did come in heat. Most farms keep a "teaser" for this work. This method of trying mares obviates the necessity of figuring out trial days ahead for each individual, as they are all gone over every three days, and if one comes in heat she is sure to be noticed. I have seen mares that were bred in April refuse twice a week from May to July and then come in season. In cases of this kind it is probable that abortion takes place, but owing to the early stage of impregnation the external signs of abortion, such as soiled condition of vulva and tail and tucked up appearance of the abdomen, are not noticed. Sometimes a mare is noticed that it is almost impossible to determine whether she is in heat or not and will allow a horse to tease her and will stand perfectly quiet. The only way to tell is, that if she is not in heat she will object if the horse attempts to cover her; these kind of mares are a source of continual annoyance to all concerned.

In warm weather the best place for a mare to foal is out of doors on a good grass plot, but in the early spring arrangements must be made for foaling inside in a good sized box stall in which there should be plenty of bedding. Mares that foal inside should be watched both night and day, so that in case of non-rupture of the foetal membranes during labor they can be opened by the attendant before the foal suffocates—(this also applies to mares foaling out of doors). Another reason for requiring an attendant is to prevent the mare from lying down with her hind parts against the sides of the stall, thus interfering with the delivery of the foal; also to catch the foal from those mares that persist in foaling in the standing position and in so doing preventing the foal from falling and forcibly striking the floor. These are the principal difficulties met with by the attendant, exclusive of course of the many different phases of difficult parturition. Immediately after foaling, the foal should be carefully placed in one corner of the stall where the bedding is usually comparatively dry, the stall should then be thoroughly cleaned out, removing the after-birth and all of the wet straw and drying off the floor beneath as well as possible. The stall should be re-bedded with dry straw at once, before the foal attempts to

stand, as it is bad policy to allow a young foal to slip and sprawl about on a slippery floor. This should be done regardless of the time of night, or how sleepy the attendant may be, and it will be found that small attentions of this kind will go a long way toward making the business a success.

CORRESPONDENCE

Profitable Cows

To the Editor of FARMING:

I send you \$1.00 for your paper for 1900.

You have asked for statements as to how cows have paid during the past year, so I will give you mine. I had six cows, but two did not calve until June, so I will reckon five cows only. We made butter until May 1st, and averaged 15 cents per pound. We then sent to the cheese-factory from May to November and then made butter until the close of the year, at 19 cents per pound.

For the whole year we received \$161.89, or an average of \$32.37 per cow. We kept enough butter and milk to supply the family, and raised six calves, giving them new milk for three or four weeks. I fed no grain, but gave the cows plenty of good hay, corn and straw.

Now, I do not claim that these are large results, but I believe there are many farmers who have smaller, and, no doubt, it is your aim to know what the average farmer realizes. I have no doubt that I can do much better this year, by growing green fodder for the dry weather, and seeding grain in the winter.

CHAS. MACKEY.

Kinsale, Ont., Jan. 25th, 1900.

Assistance to Local Poultry Shows

To the Editor of FARMING:

As I wrote your report of the "Ontario" show, held at Peterboro' last month, I would like to say a few words in reply to Mr. Collins' criticism of that report. He says, in the first place, there were 1,339, instead of 1,008 birds shown. There were 1,339, if rabbits, guinea pigs, etc., are *birds*. There were only 1,008 entries of poultry. Next, he says, I was laboring under a delusion when I said the meeting called by the Peterboro' Association was held on "Tuesday." This is only a clerical error, and may have been the mistake of your proof-reader, or possibly I made the error in transcribing my notes. I might ask Mr. Collins who Mr. Boyne is, to whom he refers in his letter. No such man spoke at the meeting in question. I know the latter is a clerical error, and I would not have called attention to it, only Mr. Collins is a *young* man, and as he grows older he may learn how easy it is for these unimportant errors to creep into print.

I am very sorry Mr. Collins said anything about the meeting called at Peterboro' to discuss his resolution. Mr. Collins knows when he says that the amount of the grant to be asked for each county show was not mentioned in his resolution he is quibbling. In speaking to his motion he mentioned \$100 as a fair amount for each county to receive, and Mr. Bogue pointed out that that would require an aggregate grant of \$4,000, and suggested that it be made \$100 for each district, which would reduce the aggregate sum to about \$1,000. Mr. Collins refused to accept this, and pressed his motion. Now, Mr. Collins is a good fellow, and the poultrymen assembled did not want to hurt his feelings by sitting too heavily on his hobby, although the big majority of them looked upon it as a waste of time and energy. They pleased Mr. Collins by carrying his resolution (unanimously, I think), and then effectually killed it by refusing to appoint the delegates referred to, to wait upon the Government. When that meeting broke up there were very few there who believed the matter would ever be heard of again. It is as dead as