

bition birds and there are also several exhibitions, but none of these exhibitions fulfills the functions of a provincial poultry show. True, we have a provincial poultry show in name, but apart from the fact that it is held at different places each year, it can hardly claim to be provincial in nature. There are many things to be said in favor of holding a poultry exhibition at different points, but it is also true that the travelling poultry show in Manitoba has not increased in volume as fast as the development of the poultry industry would warrant. The trouble in getting a suitable building, and of attracting visitors from outside points, the changing of secretaries, involving a change of management, are handicaps that a show can hardly be expected to live through.

But there is a building in Manitoba eminently suited to holding a poultry show, and, in addition, this building is crowded for four days with farmers and stockmen and poultry men from all parts of the province, a more suitable place to hold a provincial poultry show could not be imagined, yet the display of poultry there is under local auspices and does not receive a grant from the provincial legislation to help swell its prize list. If the poultrymen of Manitoba would consult the best interest of the breed and forget a lot of personal and local pride, they could have a poultry show at Brandon in connection with the winter fair that would be a credit to the province and a boost to the poultry industry.

## HORSE

### Answers to Questions Competitions

The subject for discussion in this issue, is upon the advisability of clipping horses for spring work, and, as we have not received any positive evidence that the practise is harmful or even undesirable, we award the first prize to Mr. Alex Duncan, of Sask. and the second to J. Richardson, Oakland. Mun., Man.

### Clipping for Spring's Work

EDITOR FARMER'S ADVOCATE:

I may say I am in favor of clipping although I used to be against it. In the rush of seeding every available horse is generally put to work and the majority of these horses having been practically idle for four or five months, not getting the care or feed that they otherwise would had they been at work. They have had an opportunity to eat a great amount of roughage or coarse feed around straw stacks, etc., and being uncared for, and also out in all sorts of weather they have grown a heavy coat of hair for protection which has had a weakening effect on the entire system.

We can overcome this to a certain extent by judicious feeding for sometime before work commences having in our minds that in fitting a horse for work is a different thing from fitting a steer for the butcher's block (the horse having a much smaller stomach than the steer and not being a ruminant, he cannot digest such a high percentage of roughage) he must have exercise daily, so that he will be accustomed and hardened to the work. However, even with the very best of care he cannot be thrown, as it were, into hard work without showing the weakening effect of his enforced idleness. He may have enough ambition to carry him along all day, but with a long, heavy coat of hair he sweats very easily. At night he is too wet to give a thorough grooming and perhaps in the morning he is still wet, or if not wet, he has such a heavy coat that the cleaning has not the desired effect which is necessary to maintain a healthy and vigorous animal.

In a climate that has such extremes as ours, I prefer to only half clip at the first, that is, clip the legs from below the knees upward to the body, clipping belly and up to about a line even with the flank and the point of the shoulder, also clipping shoulders under the collar. This is much better than clipping all over at once. As I have said before, our climate has such extremes in temperature, that if we have our

horses fully clipped, we are liable to have a smash-up some cold morning. I know I have been kept guessing to get four horses hitched to the drill on a cold morning, and a great majority of our farm hands are unaccustomed to handling horses, so it takes some of them all their time to handle a quiet team even with their hair on.

All horses are not alike, some are short and thin in the hair. Horses that have been working all winter, and carefully fed may shed their coats much earlier than others; such horses do not need to be clipped. Neither would I clip mares that were in foal (to foal early) as they would be turned out most likely with their foal when they would probably get a cold which might result in, perhaps, the loss of both mare and foal.

A horse that is half clipped in the early spring needs less attention as far as grooming goes. A teamster has generally to clean and harness four or more horses every morning, he cannot possibly do justice to a horse that has a heavy coat of hair all over him, but when half clipped, he can use the comb well on his back, and with a Dandy, or corn brush, give his belly and legs a thorough brushing. He can soon have his skin in the very best of shape, the horse will feel better and do better every way.

I commence clipping about the first week in April or, according to the season, and as we generally have frosty mornings when we cannot do much on the land. An hour extra spent on the horses, clipping, cleaning, etc., is generally well repaid.

After the weather gets warmer and if there are any that do not shed their coats freely I clip them all over.

If, perchance, there comes a stormy time after our horses are clipped we do not turn them out on the prairie for exercise but take them turn about, and we generally find something for them to do.

We never keep blankets on our work horses in the stable. At ordinary farm work they do not get overheated, but if out in a heavy cold, rain or wet snow, then they require a blanket to thoroughly dry them out. Teams that are required for wagon work, after being clipped, should be blanketed when loading and unloading, but a horse is not as liable to catch cold unless stood in a draught.

In buying horse blankets it is necessary to procure them long and deep enough so that they can be pinned in front and will hang down to protect the flanks and belly from searching winds.

Sask.

"ELRICK FARM."

### By All Mean's Clip

EDITOR FARMER'S ADVOCATE:

Should farm horses be clipped? I should say most decidedly, yes. Especially, horses that are a bit low in condition, bad doers and horses that are not quite up to weight for the work they are required to do.

Nature has provided horses, as other animals, with a thick, heavy coat for the winter, and if left alone, this coat would be cast off about the latter end of June, but as the horse is wanted for the work in early spring, this coat must be removed artificially. This can be accomplished in two ways. First, and hardest, is by good feeding, and plenty of hard grooming, morning and night, and exercise six weeks previous to spring work. By this means the winter's coat can be taken off without clipping, but it is hard and tedious work and can only be done by a man that takes a pride in and loves his team.

The other way is to get the clipping machine to work about the beginning of April. Now, there are three ways of clipping horses; first, all over, including legs; second, body, but not legs; third, half clipping, that is, from six inches above knees and hocks up to half the body. The first method, I do not approve of for farm horses, as by leaving the hair on legs they are not so liable to have cracked heels. Second method, which is, perhaps, mostly used, is to clip the body but not the legs. This is all right provided you have blankets sufficient, of which there ought to be two sets, one for sleeping in, and the other set for going to and from work, and to be kept on the first round in the morning. The third method is the best for the average farmer, as it does away with blankets. But any of the methods are better than not clipping. Clipped horses dry quicker, eat better, rest better, feel better and do better work. There is nothing worse for a horse than sweat, sweat, sweat, and dirt. There is nothing more discouraging to a teamster than having his team always wet with sweat and cannot clean them, and last, but not least, there is nothing more expensive or annoying to a farmer than having a horse played out, either through bodily weakness, through sweating or sore shoulders. So I advocate clipping by all means, when every horse and every day means dollars to the farmer in the spring.

Oakland Mun., Man.

J. RICHARDSON.

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The Clydesdale Horse Show Society reports that its membership of 1,679 is the largest in its history. The exports of Clydesdales for 1908 were 531—a large decrease from the previous year.

Canada was the best customer, taking 386, the U. S. took 76, and the Argentine, 47. The breed is still the most popular abroad of the three British varieties of draft horses, and occupies a strong position in Scotland, and the northern countries of England.

### Believes that Clipping Pays an Actual Cash Profit

EDITOR FARMER'S ADVOCATE:

For several years now I have followed the practice of clipping my horses before spring work began, and as you invite some discussion on this matter I shall outline as well as I can what my experience has been. In 1904, a neighbor and I purchased a horse clipping machine, and clipped our horses for the first time that year. We had some difficulty at the start because both the operators and subjects were new at the business, but we soon got so we could skin the hair off in first class style, and quite rapidly. We clipped that year about the middle of April, completing the job the day before work on the land commenced, and we clip each year as nearly as we can before starting work.

One of the first beneficial results I noted from the clipping was that the horses came into working trim more quickly. I haven't much work for horses during the winter season, and, as a result of their idleness for several months, they go into the spring work soft, and sweat out a good deal before they get into working form. The clipping didn't altogether put their muscles into hard shape, but it seemed to help them to get into form. I had a theory when I bought the machine; in fact, I bought it because I was pretty well convinced of the soundness of my theory, that a horse coming into hard work in the spring, muscles flabby, perhaps loaded with fat, hair long and very likely the skin loaded with dirt, must have quite a job getting the perspiration out through the pores of his hide, a job that required force of some kind, and very likely the waste of energy and feed. The results have borne out my theory pretty well, for I find much less lathering up of my horses on warm days at the beginning of seeding than I did before.

I believe that clipping pays in actual dollars and cents, as represented by the extra work one can get out of his horses, and I am certain that it pays indirectly in affording coolness and comfort to the horses. I would no more expect my horses to go into the work of seeding with the coat of hair on their bodies than Nature produced for their protection from cold during winter, than I would expect to start work in the spring myself as heavily clothed as I was during zero weather. Reverse the circumstances. Put yourself in the horse's place, and see how long you would like to work in heavy woollens and a coon coat in summer temperatures.

I clip only in the spring. I have seen horses clipped in the fall and winter but believe it is a mistake. After clipping, if the weather is cold and wet, a horse needs blanketing in the stable, and if he is left standing for any time outside, whether he is accustomed to the use of the blanket in the stable or not. I never noticed any ill results from clipping, that is, such results as colds, influenza, etc., nor any skin troubles. One thing about clipping, that appeals strongly to me, is the ease with which I can keep my horses clean. Grooming an outfit of four or five horses, and making a good job of it, as one should, was a before-breakfast chore that I never particularly relished, and I know that sometimes the horses didn't get all the cleaning they required. A clipped horse, however, can be brushed out in short order and better work done.

I have no particular remarks to make on the operation of clipping the hair off. My neighbor and I don't try to break any records for speed. We both work together and clip our two outfits, generally spending two days at the job. Ours is a Chicago clipper, and it works well. We simply followed the directions sent us with the machine and had no difficulty in doing a good job after we got accustomed to its use.

Sask.

A. L. MCGREGOR.

### Brittle Feet—Forging—Knee Action

1. Four-year-old mare has very hard, brittle feet, and they are contracting at the heels. She is not lame, but lies a good deal. Her mother has been tender in her feet for years.

2. Roadster clicks or strikes fore shoes with hind shoes when trotting.

3. How can knee action be increased?

G. W. M.

Ans. 1.—This filly inherits the predisposition to foot trouble from her dam. The contraction of the feet is due to an inflammatory action within the hoof, and it will require great care to prevent ultimate and permanent lameness. If you do not require her for work, remove her shoes and get the heels pared and rasped down as low as possible without reaching sensitive tissue. The inferior border of the wall will, of course, need to be rasped off, too. Then apply a blister to the coronet. Clip the hair off all around the hoof for about two inches in height. Make a blister of 2 drams each of biniodide of mercury and cantharides, mixed with 2 ounces vaseline. Tie so that she cannot bite the parts. Rub well with the blister once daily for two days, and on the third day apply sweet oil. Turn her into a loose box now (one with an earthen floor prefer-

able), oil the parts off. Then tie up and blister once monthly, rest. In the meantime pared down. The blister of horn, and ten also allays internal inflammation, all that you as soft as possible, by seed meal every night, shoeing-smith keep it safely do. In the summer wear bar-shoes. W pal points are to keep standing on hot, dry shod.

2.—This is called "f" is very hard to check, or preventing depends of action. In some cases with rather heavy shoe the toe of shoe round the feet more promptly fore the hind shoe co. In other cases, very little toe calks, do better feet, the same may cases heavy, and in some needed. The shoeing and, when he finds the that suits the horse, he in that manner. The one, though not dangerous when driven sharply men care to drive them when jogging the horse or weakly horses forge stronger the habit ceases.

3.—The manner of forging, depends to considerable individuality and peculiar principles, weight toe action—that is, and the toe of the shoe crease action. The worst the best results can be shoes of different weight with 1½-pound shoes, and other with winter time, when he better to have no slightly swaged at the driven with a little curb up fairly high, and double tension on bit, and highest. I might say action, and, at the same is, to some extent, adaptability and expect a man who has an intellectual actions of the line has good light hands; them, as the extent to action in a horse is as great a degree upon as upon his limbs and a horseman knows as horse's mouth to such act well with either same time, any horse principles of action, tion, should be able sonable extent, prov patience to devote to

### Fault in F

EDITOR FARMER'S AD

Two years ago we that was very lame in pling her almost entire ness could not be found be normal, except being making very rapid g a low-calked shoe and tow and tar. Black good hoof application walls of hoof before s. This treatment started In about three months inner side of the hoof of an inch deep and a ning parallel with the this could not be noticed from above with the mare foaled in May, moved, and she did all summer. By fall entirely out of her h straight. The lameness