

## STOCK.

## Wintering Horses of Various Ages.

Knowing that Mr. Wm. Rennie's system of wintering working horses gives good satisfaction on the Guelph College farm, and is withal economical, costing some 7 cents per day, we have submitted it to a number of successful horse-breeders for their judgment upon it, and have also asked their method of caring for all classes of horses found on the average farm. We are pleased to give as a result of our inquiry a number of helpful letters, which we hope is only the commencement of a discussion on this very important topic.

## A Good System Clearly Outlined.

To the Editor FARMER'S ADVOCATE:

SIR,—I believe Mr. Rennie's system of feeding horses to be a very good one for any person who has the feeders necessary to make up the daily winter ration mentioned, viz.: Cut hay, 12 pounds; ensilage, 17 pounds, and pulped turnips, 17 pounds, fed in three daily feeds, with three pounds of equal parts chopped grain and bran fed twice a day. We are wintering eleven horses with the following feeds: wheat, oats, and pea straw and ensilage, and propose mixing cut straw and ensilage in equal parts, and feeding twice daily, with three or four pounds ground grain and bran, giving one daily feed of uncut hay. I have never found much profit in cutting hay, but by cutting straw and mixing with ensilage they eat it much better. I feed as much as they eat up cleanly. The above ration is for work horses, mares and colts down to two years old, but for yearlings I give less straw, and prefer feeding foals with clover hay, oats and bran, and if we have skimmed milk to spare we give it to them, and find that they grow finely fed thus. We have a good well at the door of the feeding passage, and water the horses from a pail, giving them all they want before feeding. The brood mares and colts are turned out almost every day for exercise. Some of the horses we keep in a concrete basement, and others in a frame barn; some of them in boxes and some tied. We have one driver bred and fed specially for that purpose. We clip him about the beginning of November, and use a warm blanket all winter, and he will stand any reasonable amount of driving, scarcely ever sweats, and keeps in good condition. He is fed principally on hay, oats and bran. A driver should, in my opinion, be shod all the time, but work horses only when it is slippery, or when they are on the roads much in summer, but for working on the farm they are as well without shoes. It is well to have a chisel and mallet in the barn, and keep all the mares' and colts' feet trimmed in proper shape.

Middlesex County, Ont. A. B. SCOTT.

## Wintering Horse Stock in P. E. Island.

To the Editor FARMER'S ADVOCATE:

SIR,—I have nothing to say against Mr. Rennie's method of wintering horses. I have the very best respect for Mr. Rennie's opinion on any matter of farm economy, and I should say that idle horses, or even horses doing moderate work, should do very well indeed on Mr. Rennie's ration. We have four horses doing little or no work this winter. We have also a foal. We are wintering our horses on early cut, bright oat straw and turnips, and two quarts of oats. The oats are fed after watering, once a day. The foal gets some hay once a day besides the straw. Watered twice a day, and at once fed two quarts of bran and oats, morning and evening and turnips at night. Our horse stable is a very inferior building, and hence we cannot follow the best plan. They are tied up, but feel sure idle horses, and certainly colts and foals, would do better in box stalls if sufficient bedding could be spared. Have tried box stalls, but found they required too much straw for bedding. When our horses work they simply get an extra feed of oats. If they do a hard day's work they get three feeds of oats—about a half bushel. I own a driving horse that I value at \$300. I would not get more than one-fifth that amount for her at present prices, as she is "cross" and undersized. This beast is fed like the others, only that if she is to be hitched up for a drive she gets a feed of oats, about a gallon, about an hour before being hitched. If the mare has had a hard drive, or even a 15 to 20 mile drive, and has been much exposed, I like to give her a warm mess of boiled barley and potatoes when coming to the stable. I do not believe in grinding oats. Barley, I think, should be ground. Wheat, if fed to the amount of a quart and is hard and dry and mixed with other grain, I would not grind either.

We do not clip, but keep the horses blanketed; but if our stable were warmer I do not think we would blanket at all, unless it were a driving horse that we wished to look slick and show high spirits. I do not shoe any of our horses except when the roads get slippery in winter and it becomes absolutely necessary, as also when wanted to put on a tread power. We never shoe our horses in summer or autumn at all, nor in winter only when it becomes slippery. The driver has not been shod since last April, and she has done quite a lot of driving, is perfectly sound in foot and limb, and I cannot see that she has ever been injured by going without shoes. If the roads get slippery so that she, as the others, must be shod, then on go the shoes.

King's Co., P. E. I. J. A. MACDONALD.

## Wintering Horses in Nova Scotia.

To the Editor FARMER'S ADVOCATE:

SIR,—Have had no experience in feeding ensilage to horses, but would consider 17 lbs. of either ensilage or turnips too much to keep a horse in good health for any considerable length of time, though it would no doubt be a cheap ration. I use hay, oats, bran and turnips. We feed idle horses rather sparingly of hay, and about six pounds of chopped oats and bran mixed in equal parts and fed in two equal feeds. We feed brood mares about the same as above, except when working, when we feed whole oats with the bran and increase the amount of grain. Colts get all the hay they will eat up clean, unless they get to eat more than is good for them, and three or four pounds of crushed oats and bran with occasionally a few turnips. When foals are weaned I give them about two quarts of bran, into which I pour a quart of milk and a little molasses twice a day, gradually changing to bran and crushed oats and a little pulped turnips if I can get them to eat it. We water idle horses and colts twice a day, working horses three times a day, from a running brook in mild weather and from a spring in cold weather. We generally keep the brood mares working sufficiently for exercise. Colts and horses that are not worked are allowed to run in the yards on fine days and kept in box stalls when possible. We keep the horses in a frame stable and try to keep the temperature always above the freezing point, but not very warm. Working horses get what hay they will eat up clean and from eight to twelve quarts of oats in three equal feeds and about one quart of bran in each feed, increasing the amount of oats if the work is hard and steady. In winter we always blanket but never clip our working horses. The working horses generally have to be shod quite frequently to keep them sharp. I think shoes should never stay on a horse longer than six weeks without being removed, and in most cases once a month is better. We let the work horses go barefooted during April and May. I consider a few turnips excellent feed for any kind of horse, especially during fall and early winter.

Cumberland Co., N. S.

C. H. BLACK.

## Mr. Rennie's System Approved, with Modification.

To the Editor FARMER'S ADVOCATE:

SIR,—For four years I have used with success a ration similar to the one mentioned. My experience teaches me that 17 lbs. ensilage and 17 lbs. turnips is too much soft feed for horses even when idle, and will at occasional times cause slight scouring. I use ensilage, oat straw, threshed clover (not fine chaff), turnips, and grains. For a 1,200 lb. horse I feed 3 lbs. cut threshed clover, 3 lbs. cut oat straw, and 6 lbs. ensilage, all mixed, and fed morning and night, with 2 lbs. equal parts ground oats and bran added; 12 lbs. turnips at noon. To colts I give about half the quantity of coarse fodders, with 3 lbs. ground oats and bran morning and night, with about 3 or 4 lbs. good clover hay fed whole with the turnips at noon. Water from a trough in shed at the stable door morning and night before feeding. Horses are all tied in stalls and colts generally in box stalls, being tied occasionally to accustom them to the halter and handling. All are allowed to exercise themselves in the barnyard for about an hour daily. I house in stone stabling above ground, being both warm and dry, at a temperature of about 60 degrees.

I have very little teaming and driving, hence feed similarly as above mentioned for idle horses. If going on a journey I feed more dry fodder and less succulent for a day before, and while driving. Keep one team shod in front always, and behind only when required to travel on slippery or rough, hard roads. I clip all before seeding; but as the stable is warm, we do not blanket. If the hair is long and horses sweat in the stable during winter we also clip and keep blanketed.

Ontario Co., Ont.

G. A. BRODIE.

## Prefer Loose Boxes for Brood Mares and Foals.

To the Editor FARMER'S ADVOCATE:

SIR,—I think Mr. Rennie's system a good one. Do not think it necessary to cut hay for idle horses, have never fed ensilage to horses. I would add a little salt to oats and bran when mixed. To idle horses we feed hay 12 lbs. (not cut) a day; straw, 2 daily feeds; oat, barley, and wheat straw, 3 ordinary turnips not cut, 2 daily feeds of oats, 1 lbs.; bran, 2 lbs. a day, mixed with wheat chaff, a little salt added. Brood mares get a little more. Colts, more or less, according to size and condition. Foals get clover hay twice daily; pulped turnips, 20 lbs.; chopped oats, 5 lbs.; bran, 5 lbs.; mixed; fed 3 times daily; a little salt added. Water before feeding 3 times a day. We turn out to a spring close to yard, which acts as exercise as well. We prefer loose boxes for brood mares and foals, and like a good, warm, frame stable. Working horses get hay, 15 lbs.; oats, 13 lbs.; bran, 3 lbs.; fed 3 times a day. More or less, according to work. Prefer singeing and blanketing to clipping. It is well to keep working and driving horses always shod in front and mostly behind, providing they are not too handy with their heels in the stable.

York Co., Ont.

J. M. GARDINER.

By renewing your subscription promptly, you will confer a favor on the "Farmer's Advocate."

## Ensilage and Turnips Not Approved Of.

To the Editor FARMER'S ADVOCATE:

I consider Mr. Rennie's a good ration, with the exception of the ensilage and turnips. I think good, clean oat straw, cut and mixed with hay, better than ensilage, and carrots are much better for horses than turnips. They should also receive about three pounds of chopped oats and corn, with some bran, twice daily. I have a large quantity of good clover and timothy hay, and some clean oat straw, upon which I propose feeding my horses this winter. I intend to feed my idle horses about 15 pounds of cut hay and 10 pounds of cut straw, mixed together, and fed daily. I feed my brood mares same ration until a month or two before foaling time, when they receive all hay. My yearlings and two-year-olds are fed the same as my idle horses, only probably in less quantity, according to size and age of colt. I think that foals should receive clear hay all winter. I always make it a point to water my horses twice daily in winter while they are idle. I water them about nine o'clock in the forenoon, and at five in the afternoon. They are never brought out to water when weather is very bad, but are watered inside.

Horses should not have too warm a stable, neither must it be very cold, but free from drafts and dampness. I believe in frame stables, which are the driest. Brood mares and colts should be left loose at least in the daytime, and permitted to have lots of exercise out in open yards when weather permits. If it is necessary that they be tied, they should be taken out and given plenty of exercise daily. Two years ago I had a call nearly every day to attend to horses that had taken sick, because of not exercise enough and improper feeding.

I feed my working team in winter hay and oat straw cut and dampened, with three quarts of chopped oats, corn and bran, mixed with hay and straw, fed three times a day. My driving horse gets about 12 pounds of good hay, with four quarts of whole oats, three times daily. It is also a good plan to have some salt, copperas, soda and ginger mixed together and placed in a small box in each horse's stall, so they may eat a little at will. This might be the means of saving a doctor bill.

I think it a good plan to clip horses that are going to be used regular throughout the winter, but clipping should be done before the weather gets very cold, so the hair gets started before weather is severe. Clipped horses should be well blanketed so they may not get chilled in any way. All horses that are used in winter should be blanketed. All horses that are working in winter, as well as driving horses, should be kept sharp shod, so they will not be afraid to travel on the hard frozen ground, and will not be in danger of a strain from slipping. Do not drive your horses on the frozen ground without shoes until their feet are sore.

Great care should be taken to see that the horses are properly shod, and not have their feet utterly destroyed by the blacksmiths, as is too often the case.

HENRY BENNETT.

Norfolk County, Ont.

## Much Outdoor Exercise for Brood Mares.

To the Editor FARMER'S ADVOCATE:

SIR,—I consider Mr. Rennie's winter ration for idle horses a good one, and is also cheap, although I have never had any experience feeding ensilage to horses. Our stock of horse fodder consists of hay, oats, oat straw, bran and turnips. Our idle horse ration is very simple and serves to maintain the teams in good health and nice condition during the winter months. It consists of top-threshed oat sheaves run through the cutting-box and sprinkled with water slightly salted. Each horse gets six scoop-shovels full per day in three feeds, and one turnip in the morning. When the teams are working they get three gallons of oats per day and all the timothy hay they will eat up clean. The driving horse gets three gallons of oats per day in three feeds and a good forkful of timothy hay at night. This keeps him in fine condition for the roads, always feeling well, never lazy, and seldom sweats to any extent.

The brood mares are fed much the same as the idle work horses, and get much outdoor exercise. This we consider very important, as it keeps them hardy, vigorous and in fine form to nourish their growing foetus. We seldom have accidents with brood mares, and our foals almost always come strong and healthy. The foal, yearling, two-year-old and three-year-old offspring of our road dam Maud secured good prizes at last Toronto and London exhibitions. Yearlings and two-year-olds are fed on cut oat sheaves and bran mixed and fed often in small quantities. They also get plenty of good oat straw to pick over. Foals get ground oats and bran fed often in small quantities and a warm scalded bran in the mornings. They also get good clover hay for their night feed. We are very anxious to have our foals grow rapidly, as they invariably do on this ration, which fits them for rapid development during the following summer and in shape to keep on growing the following winter on the much coarser feed. We value wheat bran very highly for all young horse stock, as it is not only healthful but it tends to rapid and substantial development. We water all horses before feeding.

With regard to stabling we may state that our idle horses, working team and driver are tied in