

THE HORSE.

Winter Care of Pregnant Mares.

Those who have had experience and observation in horse breeding have noticed that a considerable percentage of spring colts, especially those born before the mares have been on pasture for some time, are weakly, often not able to stand, and, in some cases, without sufficient ambition and life to nurse when held up and the teat introduced into the mouth. It will also be observed that colts of this description are usually those of dams that have been pampered and kept in complete or comparative idleness during the winter months; of course, there are exceptions, and it is not uncommon for a mare so used to produce a vigorous foal. Therefore, while it is not necessary in all cases that breeding mares should be given regular exercise during pregnancy, it is at least advisable, as it has a strong tendency to exert a beneficial action upon the progeny. In countries where the climate is such that horses can, with comfort, run out in the fields at least during the day, mares take sufficient voluntary exercise; but in climates such as that of Ontario this cannot be done, as occasionally conditions for weeks at a stretch are such that they cannot be allowed out in the fields at all, and if turned out into the barnyard (which, of course, is better than standing in the stable all the time) they take little exercise, but stand in the most sheltered place most of the time to be as much as possible out of the cold until they are again allowed to enter the stable.

The pregnant mare should be well fed on feed of good quality, and be given regular exercise or light work. The idea that a pregnant mare should not be "well fed" is not uncommon. A little consideration should teach us differently. The foetus is daily increasing in size. Thus growth does not occur without nourishment. The nutriment must be supplied by the blood of the dam, and, as nutriment is not a natural product of the blood, but is supplied by the feed that the animal consumes, we can readily see that the pregnant mare has not only her own tissues to nourish, but also those of the growing foetus, which, in the latter months of gestation is no small matter. Hence we see that the in-foal mare requires more feed than a gelding or un-pregnant mare of equal size doing the same work. While she requires more feed, greater care should be exercised in the selection of feed, all of which should be of first-class quality, of an easily-digested nature, and fed at regular intervals. All possible care to avoid digestive derangement should be observed, good hay and oats are the feeds to be relied upon to produce nourishment, and these should be fed in quantities proportionate to the size of the animal and the labor preformed. In addition she should be given a few raw roots daily, and a feed of bran with a cupful of linseed meal at least twice weekly. She should also be allowed all the good water she will drink, at least three times daily; still better if she can be allowed free access to water at will. She should have daily exercise. If there is regular light work at which she can be kept busy for a few hours daily it is better, but if not she should be driven a few miles. The work or exercise should be light. Work that necessitates excessive muscular or respiratory effort should be avoided; so also should plunging through deep snow, slipping on icy roads, etc., be avoided if possible. Excessive muscular exertion, plunging, etc., cause violent contraction of the abdominal and other muscles, hence tend to produce abortion. Care should be taken to not subject her to even moderate exercise shortly after a hearty meal.

Saddle work, especially during the latter months of gestation, should be avoided, as the mare has sufficient to carry without a man on her back. Where saddle work is given the use of spurs should not be permitted, as pricking the animal in her sides or flanks with spurs causes more or less violent contractions of the muscles and is liable to cause abortion. All nervous excitement should be avoided, as also should sights that frighten her; also foul odors. The odor of freshly-drawn blood tends to produce abortion in mares that are not accustomed to it, hence she should not be allowed near a slaughter house. All operations should, if possible, be postponed until after parturition, also the administration of purgatives, etc. When necessary to give a purgative to a pregnant mare it is well to give raw linseed oil in preference to aloes, as while it does not act so promptly, its action is milder and does not cause the gripping and contraction of both voluntary and involuntary muscles.

Towards the end of gestation still greater care should be taken, and while exercise up to the very last is advisable, it should be given more carefully, and less of it when she becomes somewhat clumsy and inactive on account of size and weight. But many of the most successful cases we have known have been where the mare has been unhitched when showing labor pains.

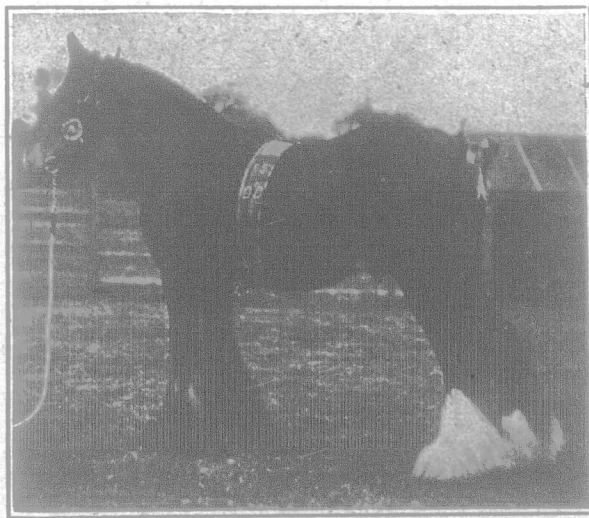
After the birth of the foal the mare should not be worked for at least two weeks, and if she can be allowed idleness until weaning time all the better. Many farmers who breed one or more foals have sufficient horses to do their work and driving without using the pregnant mares which are, as a consequence, allowed to remain in almost complete idleness. We repeat that this is a mistake, and that while all horses are the better of a certain amount of regular exercise, it is better to allow the geldings and non-pregnant mares to live in idleness than the breeding mares.

W.H.P.

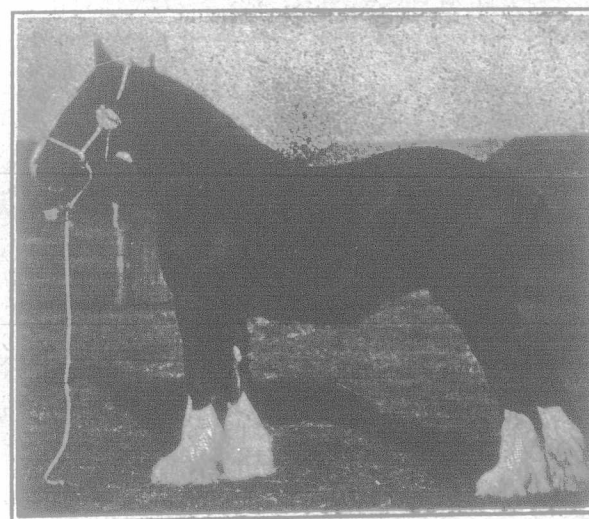
What Did He Mean?

Breeders of Shire horses were jubilant when Wm Dunlop, Dunure Mains, Ayr, Scotland, purchased two of the best Shires at the Royal Show, England, last July. The question was (and still is so far as we can learn,) "What is Mr. Dunlop, one of the world's best known Clydesdale breeders, going to do with those Shires?" Patrons of the Shire breed said he is going to breed Shires in preference to Clydesdales, and others said he is going to cross them with his "Clydes" to get a breed with more scale and substance than is possessed by the horses for which he is noted.

Clydesdale admirers laughed at the idea of the owner of Dunure Footprint ever taking any real interest in another breed and said that he simply intends to breed Shires so as to capture the highest honors with them at the Royal show, as he has done with Clydesdales. Time alone will solve the riddle and reveal Mr. Dunlop's purpose when he made the purchase. At any rate he obtained the champion Shire stallion, and the reserve champion mare or filly, both of which are illustrated on this page. The outcome of this pilgrimage of two high-class breeding Shires into Scotland will be watched with interest.



Fenny Emperor.
Champion Shire stallion at the Royal, 1919.



Pendley Princess 4th.
First prize two-year-old filly at the Royal. Both animals were purchased by Wm. Dunlop, of Ayr, Scotland.

LIVE STOCK.

When the weather is not too chilly the young pigs are better in the paddock.

A little machine oil or oil out of the crank case of your car will kill lice on the hogs.

Provide a dry place free from drafts for the sheep. The building should not be warm.

Be careful not to allow feed to drop upon the sheep's neck and back if clean wool is wanted next spring.

Pulped mangels or turnips are good for growing pigs and brood sows. They help reduce the amount of grain in the ration.

The offering of sheep and lambs on our large markets more than double that of last year. This does not auger well for the 1920 crop of lambs.

The Ontario Provincial Winter Fair, Guelph, is the largest show of its kind in Canada. Are you planning on attending? The stock is judged on December 8 to 11 inclusive.

Give the calves all they will eat. The poorly-fed calf does not grow into a desirable breeding animal. Clean utensils and clean mangers before feeding are essential.

Experiments in fattening lambs conducted at Iowa

State College showed that it paid well to use linseed oil meal or some other protein feed as velvet bean meal or peanut meal in the ration.

Feeders of quality are being picked up rapidly. There is, however, a large number of inferior feeders in the country which cattlemen are loathe to put in their stables fearing market conditions next spring and summer. The mediocre steer or heifer does not make as economical gain as the breedy animal. Better bred bulls in our commercial herds would improve the quality of feeders offered.

Our Scottish Letter.

October, as a whole, has been a delightful autumn month. The main work on the farm has been potato-lifting, and with rare exceptions the weather has been ideal for the purpose. In some few cases one hears the strange complaint that a little rain would be useful. This week we had one day on which enough rain fell to satisfy most men for a while. That day was Thursday, October 23. In this City we experienced something like a cloudburst. The sky became overcast, and it became so dark in the City that the electric light had to be turned on. On the following day we had a breeze from the north, and the inevitable cold from that region. Harvest is still proceeding in the North, and on the upland areas, but with a continuance of this hard drying weather the cereal crops will soon be everywhere safely secured.

LABOR CONDITIONS.

Labor conditions are still unstable, and the demand for shorter hours, or for what is called a forty-eight-hour week, continues with unabated force. Here it is somewhat surprising for us to learn that employers in the United States are still resisting the principle of collective bargaining. As I understand it, that means that employers are resisting the claim that trades unions should be recognized in the arrangement of conditions of labor and its remuneration. The inference is that labor has not the same organized influence in the United States that it wields in this country. It is to be presumed that American employers are willing to discuss and arrange such matters, each firm with its own employees, but that they decline to make agreements with labor unions. Collective bargaining was conceded in this country long ago. Its sequel has not been an unmixed blessing. In too many cases agreements made with labor representatives on behalf of their unions have been repudiated when found inconvenient. It is possible that such experiences on this side have strengthened the determination of American employers to refuse recognition to the principle of collective bargaining. So far as agricultural labor here is concerned, there has been success in arriving at mutual agreements. Wage Boards have been constituted by statute in connection with the Corn Production Act, and in spite of many difficulties it has been possible hitherto to settle all questions without resort to anything so savoring of a strike or lock-out. At the moment there is an agitation for what is called a forty-eight-hour week in agricultural employment, but the employees generally have manifested reasonable spirit and matters have never got beyond control. The strange theory is advanced in political quarters that men will produce more if they work less. Of course, as applied to healthy outdoor occupations, such a proposition is simply nonsense. It can never be put forward by anyone possessed of true statesmanship; it is the stupid cry of the politician angling for votes.

Referring to politicians, I was interested to read this week of the success of the Ontario Farmers' Unions in connection with provincial elections. If I understand aright what was read, the Farmers' Unions have successfully asserted themselves, so that they now hold the balance in provincial politics. I hope this means fairer dealing to farmers in securing machinery and implements. A galling thing about the pre-war policy of "dumping" which gave farmers in this country cheap implements was the knowledge that such as were sent here were the overplus, and that Canadian farmers were being charged extortionate prices for those which were supplied to them. If the farmers' unions are able to compel fairer treatment, and so to influence Dominion politics so that this vicious system come to an end, it will be satisfactory business for all concerned.

OCTOBER LIVE STOCK SALES.

October has been the great month for stock sales. The railway strike in the last week of September and the opening days of October necessitated the cancelling of many events, and the readjustment of many dates. The Aberdeen Shorthorn sales were postponed for a week, and the Lanark Clydesdale Horse sales for a fortnight. The dates of the great North of England sales at Penrith, Carlisle and Wigton had also to be revised. The result has been a certain dislocation of business, and in the case of Penrith Shorthorn sales loss has undoubtedly been sustained. The aftermath of the ram sales has been noteworthy. All the three breeds indigenous to Scotland have made record prices. An Overshiels Blackface shearling ram made £450, a New-mains Border Leicester shearling made £600, and a Millknowe Cheviot dinmont (one year old) made £620. In each case these figures represent a reward of long-continued sound methods of stockbreeding. There was nothing haphazard about the methods adopted by the successful breeders.

All cattle breeds are sharing in the prevailing effects of enhanced values. The Red Poll dual-purpose cattle of East Anglia have invaded Scotland and are making headway. Suffolk horses, although they have not