



## HOW TO GAIN THE MOST FROM THE HORSE SECTION OF A SHOW

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Exhibitions are supposed to be instructive, one must, however have an intelligent idea of what is required before he can gain any great benefit from the show. Then, to gain the most, one must go to the show to work.

While agricultural exhibitions are supposed to be both entertaining and instructive to the visitor as well as profitable to the successful exhibitor, we are of the opinion that a large percentage of the visitors attend with the idea of being entertained rather than instructed. The man who attends such exhibitions with the idea of seeing his friends and having a good time will give a casual attention to the departments that interest

improve his knowledge of horses. We must admit that at many of the small agricultural exhibitions where there are not classes for the different classes of horses, and as a consequence animals of different classes are exhibited in the same section, and where the judge is either not allowed to or is not competent to disqualify those not properly classed and explain why he has disqualified, but continues to judge with the too common idea of

the individuals of each class and compare them. He has decided that it is wise to look over the entries while standing as he will not have a favorable opportunity to do so while they are on exhibition. Having examined them as closely as circumstances will admit he will decide which in his opinion, should be 1st, 2nd, and 3rd. Of course as he is not able to see action he must judge as to probable action, indicated by general conformation and by the manner in which they stand. While it is not possible to correctly judge action in this way, in most cases the line or truthness of action is strongly indicated by these points. However, the height of action cannot be fairly estimated.

### ATTENTION AT THE RING

Having carefully looked over the different individuals of each section and having decided which, in his opinion, should win and having made notes of the same, he takes as favorable a position as possible to observe the individuality and action during the exhibition before the judges. He will doubtless in some cases be compelled to change his placing when he sees the style and action of the entries, as in many cases an individual that appears somewhat plain and common when standing in the stall is very stylish and a good actor when in harness or saddle. Hence the student must not necessarily adhere to his first impressions. He should note carefully how the awards are placed and if at variance with his ideas. He should try to observe as to why this variation.

### CATCH THE JUDGE'S SYSTEM

Provided the judges are systematic the student will soon be able to see the system upon which they are acting, as regards size, type, action etc. He must remember that in all classes of horses, while size and general type are important, action is of paramount value. This applies to all classes but more particularly to the lighter classes. He must also remember that height of action and flash action, even in the heavy harness classes, in order to be perfect must be true and extensive, and that in order to correctly judge truthness of action, it is necessary for the judge to see the animal go straight away from, and towards him. As the observer at the ring side has not the same opportunities to do this as the judge in the ring, he must not be too ready to adversely criticize the judge because he does place the animals as he (the student) thinks they should be placed. By paying strict attention to the horses being shown and the awards being placed, the student will at least be able to learn the ideas of the judges and the type of animal and action they consider are demanded in the different classes.

In conclusion we may say, what probably we should have said at first, that in order that a student may be able to gain instruction in horse judging by attending an exhibition of horses, he must have an intelligent idea of the desirable characteristics of the different classes. While such exhibitions are supposed to be instructive, they are not schools of instruction, and in order that a student may increase his knowledge of the different classes he must have a reasonable knowledge of what is wanted before he attends; else he will become so confused that his observation will be useless.



Plowing for Fall Wheat on a Brant Co. Farm.

The plow shown in the illustration is a large walking gang. It turns 22 inches in two furrows. By attaching a seat from the corn binder in front of the foremost plow, the outfit can be ridden. With a smart walking 4-horse team, such as shown, an acre can be plowed in two hours by means of this gang. It easily averages four acres a day. The plow costs about \$30 when new. Photo by our special representative.

him, but pay particular attention to none; probably sit on the grand stand or stand by the horse ring while the attraction classes are being exhibited and doubtless criticize the judge or judges if the awards are not being placed in accordance with his hastily formed judgment. This is part of his programme. He likes to see good horses, likes to find fault with the awards, etc.; he is not there for instruction or to gain knowledge regarding horses. He probably thinks that he knows more about horses than the judges (and in many cases he may be correct); he is out for a good time and he is having it according to his ideas and that ends it.

### GO TO THE EXHIBITION TO WORK

We wish to discuss briefly the man who, while he has an intelligent idea of the desirable characteristics of the different classes of horses wishes to improve himself and visit the exhibition for that purpose. He is there to gain all the instruction he can, we may say he is there to work. He will be able to gain considerable enjoyment and entertainment but his main object is to

planning what he considers the most valuable animals, more or less regardless of their special fitness for the specific class in which they are being judged. The person who is present for the purpose of being instructed must of necessity become confused, as he cannot see why certain animals are placed above others. The judges are practically paying no attention to type or action, in fact are acting upon no system except the probable market value of the exhibits regardless of class.

In order that the student may receive valuable instruction in judging horses he must visit a large exhibition, where there are sections for all the recognized breeds and classes and where the judges are competent and honest. At such exhibition the horses of each breed and class are supposed to be stabled as nearly together as circumstances will admit. The man who is out to gain knowledge, having made up his mind that he will devote his time to the horses and allow other attractions to go unseen, should first of all visit the horse stables, select as nearly as he can