

Look Well to the Foals.

There is such a difference in value between a good horse and a poor one it pays well to prevent, as far as possible, a stunt in the foal's growth, so that all that is in him by breeding may be brought out. We believe the fall is the most critical time in a foal's career, especially on farms where the services of the mare are required. When the dam can be allowed her freedom, and gives a liberal quantity of milk, there is no hurry for weaning the foal; in fact, if it is allowed to almost wean itself the chances of receiving a stunt are very much in the foal's favor, provided good treatment be continued throughout the fall and winter.

A foal that has to be weaned young, or has a poor milking dam, should have, if possible, a few quarts of new milk each day until it has made a good start after weaning and has commenced to feed well. Two foals always seem to do better together than one alone, but each should have a separate feeding box if they have any tendency to fight at meal time. A younger or weaker foal will stand a poor show along with a stronger, greedy one, if attempted to be fed in the same manger. One must have an eye to these little points, instead of trusting to luck, as one is liable to do during the rush of fall work, especially before the other stock is housed and chores commence in earnest. If, after the weaning has been completed, a fresh clover pasture can be handily procured the foals will do better by being allowed to pasture during pleasant days, but they should be housed at night, if for no other reason than that of receiving their regular grain ration. Oats are without doubt the ideal horse feed. They should be fed boiled along with a little flax once a day, and crushed for the other two meals. It is well to prepare the colt's food so that it shall be palatable, nutritious, and easily digested. A good means of doing this is to mix fine cut clover hay along with oat chop, bran and oil cake; moisten this with hot water, cover up with a non-conducting material, and allow it to remain in this state for twelve hours, when it will be in a suitable condition to feed. A small proportion of wheat middlings will not be amiss in this mixture, nor even a few boiled turnips or carrots, providing they are found to give appetizing properties. Green corn and green clover prove very suitable fodder.

Regarding the best quarters for foals when housed, a good roomy, light, well-ventilated box stall, having a good-sized yard in conjunction, can hardly be surpassed; in fact, this is what is most generally used on large horse-breeding farms in England as well as in Canada. The aim should be in any case to keep the young things forging ahead without becoming fat. Good muscular and bone development are what are needed instead of too great weight, which often has an ill effect upon the lower joints.

The Breeding Flock.

The season for coupling the breeding flock is fast approaching, and the breeder will do well to prepare for it by giving the ewes the run of some fresh pasture, or of a piece of rape, to put them in improving condition, which will bring them in earlier and more uniformly. It is better to have ewes all to have their lambs within two or three weeks, if possible. This secures a more uniform crop of lambs, as to age and size, and if any losses of lambs occur there will be foster mothers provided, for separating twins or triplets or for orphans, and the season for night watching on the part of the shepherd will be shortened. As a rule, in most parts of Canada, March is the best month to have lambs come, though professional breeders who have warm quarters for their flocks prefer to have the lambing season commence early in February, and the average farmer generally prefers to have his lambs coming in April. As a rule, we believe that early lambs come stronger than later ones, and go on better if provided with suitable food, though the expense of winter feeding is increased. The abundant exercise which the mother gets during the early months of pregnancy, having the run of the fields before snow comes, has an excellent influence in strengthening the fetus, and the lambs come stronger than in the case of ewes which have been confined a long time in pens during the period of gestation. This period is usually about five months, or on an average about 152 days, so that to have lambs born early in February the ewes should be served early in September, and for early March lambs the service season should commence about October 1st, and if April lambs are preferred the 1st of November will be early enough for coupling. In preparation for this the tails of the ewes should be trimmed with the shears and any dirty tags found in those parts should be clipped away. The ram should be a strong and healthy one, in good thriv-

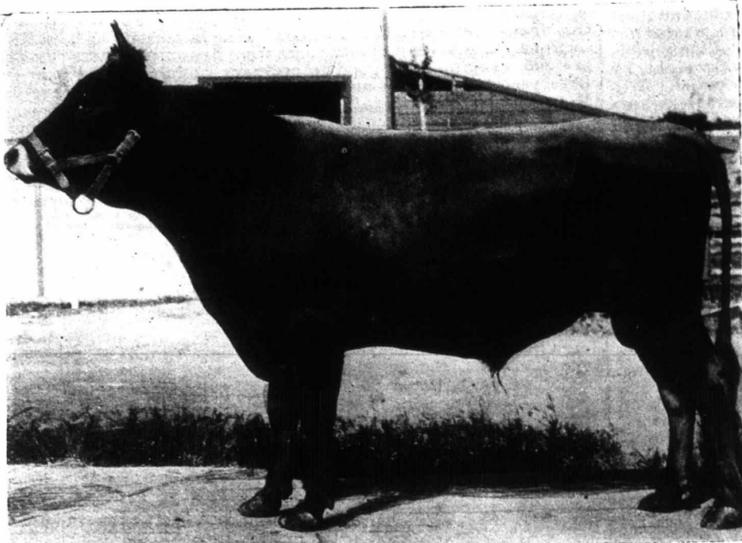
ing condition, but not overfat. If the pasture is good and the number of ewes not over 50 for a yearling or older ram, or 25 for a strong ram lamb, he may run with the ewes during the breeding season, and this is the most convenient and least troublesome system, and, as a rule, is quite satisfactory; but the ram will be the better for a feed of oats and bran once a day. If the ram is one that has been fed highly for show purposes, or a larger number of ewes has to be attended to by one ram, it will be almost necessary that the ewes be brought up to the pens every morning and those found in season picked out: the ram being kept in, and the ewes in season turned in with him singly at intervals of an hour or two, allowed one service, and removed. By this means a strong ram may serve over one hundred ewes during the season and prove reasonably sure. Sometimes a ram with an apron securely fastened around him is used as a "teaser" to find the ewes that are in season, his breast being colored with lamp black or red lead mixed in water to mark the ewes. In any case it is a wise precaution to color the breast of the ram to see if the ewes "come back" at the end of sixteen days. The usual way is to use three colors of paint, say blue, red, and black. The breast or sometimes the inside of one fore leg of the ram is first rubbed with blue for rather more than two weeks. Red is used for the next sixteen days, and black for a third period. The ewe's rump is thus marked, and according to the color of the last

Lamb Rams as Sires.

It has been generally believed by English sheep breeders for a long time that in order to induce early maturity in lambs or other stock young sires should be used. No doubt the practice has been much abused to the extent of using males too young and to too many ewes, with the result of tending to undermine the constitutional vigor of the breed. In our opinion a well-grown early lamb, if he possesses uniform and desirable development, may be quite safely used to not more than 20 or 25 ewes. In this connection we observe that Mr. E. Prentice, Secretary of the English Suffolk Sheep Society, has made an extended and careful examination of the lambing returns of the sheep registered in the Suffolk Flock Book, the result of which inquiries he gives in a recent issue of the *Live Stock Journal*:

"As there was reason to believe that breeders' methods had of late years altered somewhat, under the influence of registration, two periods were selected, the six years 1887-1892 and the four years 1893-1896. The ewes in these two periods were about equal in number, and the total was a little over 100,000. In order to ascertain the respective influence of the younger and older rams the produce returns for the ten years were abstracted under four heads, namely: (1) in which lamb rams only were used; (2) in which 50 per cent. or over were lamb rams; (3) in which under 50 per cent. were lamb rams; and (4) in which the rams were all shearlings or older rams. In each period the rams in the fourth division yielded the highest percentage of lambs. In the first period the percentage by the rams in divisions second and third was below those of the rams in first and fourth; but this difference was not the case in the second period. It was found that there was a larger proportion of dry ewes among those in the first and second divisions than in the third and fourth divisions. The smallest number of dry ewes occurred in the fourth division. It has been the custom to breed an average of 45-63 ewes to a lamb ram, and in 1896 lamb rams formed no less than 55 per cent. of the total number in use. Mr. Prentice is of opinion that if the lamb rams were limited to 20 or 25 ewes better results would be obtained, and the improvement of the flock would proceed at a more rapid rate. This inquiry shows at a glance how different are the systems followed by the British sheep breeders and those of Australia. Among the merino flocks it is by no means an uncommon thing to find an eight-year-old ram at the head of the flock, while in this inquiry shearlings are placed in the fourth division as old rams."

A Handsome Jersey Bull.



BELVEDERE SIGNAL—45699—A. J. C. C., OWNED BY JAMES WALSHAM, PORTAGE LA PRAIRIE, MANITOBA.

The animal above portrayed is the handsome young Jersey bull, Belvedere Signal—45699—owned by Jas. Walsham, Portage la Prairie, Manitoba; bred by Mrs. E. M. Jones, Brockville, Ontario; sired by Signal of Belvedere 24800, he by Sir Signal 3018, out of Miss Satanella 31544; dam Miss Satanella 2nd 69086, he by Canada's Sir George 18290, out of Miss Satanella 31544. It will thus be seen he is closely inbred. He has a long list of tested cows in his breeding. Belvedere Signal won first prize in yearling class and sweepstakes silver medal at the Winnipeg Industrial, 1897.

marking the time of lambing is calculated approximately, a record of the dates of the changing of colors having been kept. A ewe marked twice should be put to another ram for a third trial.

Horse Breeders Meet.

On Sept. 7th the Canadian Horse Breeders' Association held a semi-annual meeting at Toronto. Mr. Robt. Davies occupied the chair, and Mr. H. Wade acted as secretary. The following resolutions were carried:

"That the Canadian Horse Show being now established, it is the opinion of this meeting that it should be continued, and that the Government should be again asked for a further grant for 1898."

"That this Association desires that the judging of all horses be done in the future in one ring, and on the second week only; and that a programme be drawn up, and be strictly adhered to, arranging the time for each section of a class to be shown."

It was also recommended that the fence around the new ring be reduced in height for the comfort of the spectators, and that a twelve-foot board walk be provided around the outside of the fence.

Genuine Gold.

Every subscriber who sends us the name of one new subscriber, accompanied by the dollar, shall have his own subscription extended six months, and the new subscriber will receive the *ADVOCATE* for the balance of 1897 and all of 1898 for the dollar. No time to wait. Secure the names at once, and we will allow you cash commission or premiums as preferred. Write for agent's outfit.

THE WILLIAM WELD CO. (Limited), London, Ontario.

A Correction.

Mr. Robert Shortreed, Guelph, Ont., a portrait of whose gold medal farm appeared in September 1st issue, writes us that the 40 head of cattle fattened last winter, and referred to in one of the closing sentences of our article on page 376, should have read 140 head.

Prof. Robertson on Canadian Bacon.

Prof. Robertson, being interviewed by a *Mail and Empire* reporter upon his return from his recent trip to England, is reported as follows on Canadian bacon and the feeding of hogs in order to produce the best results:

"Canadian bacon is taking a relatively better place in the British markets than it has done hitherto. A great advance has been made during the last two years, and particularly during the current summer. In this product also I found that there is a very great difference between the prices obtainable for the finest quality and any seconds, 'fats,' or 'softs,' as they are called. It will pay the Canadian farmer to select, rear and feed so that they will have a large number of hogs of fairly uniform quality. They should be what are called of 'flesh' hogs. These are obtained chiefly through feeding the young hogs after they are weaned on skim milk or buttermilk, and allowing them a great deal of exercise. Then they should be fattened on mixed grains, with a quantity of skim milk or buttermilk, or whey, mixed with them. The best bacon pigs are those which would, when ready to kill, weigh from 160 to 180 pounds, live weight. These are also the pigs which yield the largest profit on their feeding. At that time they have given a larger increase in live weight for the amount of food consumed than they could at any later period of their growth."

"There has been a considerable increase in the number of swine fattened in Canada during the summer in connection with dairying, and the prices during the last month have been remunerative. At Toronto No. 1 hogs selling as high as six cents per pound, live weight, according to their actual value for making bacon for the British markets. No. 1 selected hogs, weighing about 160 pounds, are worth about one cent per pound, live weight, more than those which are too fat, soft or rough."

Under date of September 9th, 1897, Mr. R. J. Potter, of Cardwell Co., Ont., says: "Am much pleased with the *ADVOCATE*, and would not like to be without it."