

Experience in Feeding Work Horses and Colts.

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Some two years ago we adopted a method that was in a measure new to us, but it has proved highly satisfactory and profitable, and nothing would induce us to return to the old system. We employ, say 40 horses about our mills here in the summer season. In the rear of our stable we have a feed-room where our cut straw for bedding and our cut hay, oats and ground feed is kept; and here we have two mixing boxes where the rations for the horses are mixed before feeding. The cut hay is put into these boxes and is thoroughly soaked with water twelve hours before it is fed. The ground feed is mixed dry, and before feeding is thoroughly mixed with the wet hay. The ration we started out with was 4 lbs. cut hay, $\frac{1}{2}$ lb. bran, and 5 lbs. ground oats and barley to each horse night and morning, and 4 lbs. dry oats only at noon. Our horses are generally of large size and are doing excessively hard work, and we found this ration too small for them, and we gradually increased it until we have settled down to this: 5 lbs. hay, 5 lbs. ground grain and $\frac{1}{2}$ lb. bran to each horse morning and night, and 8 lbs. dry oats only at noon (no hay), and this we find ample for the largest class of horses doing the most excessive work. Our saving is at least 10 lbs. hay per day for each horse, and 6 lbs. grain for each. Not only is this the case, but our horses are healthier and better in every way. Under the old system it was a common thing for us to lose from two to five horses every summer, and sometimes even more, with colic and inflammation, but in the past two summers, under our new system, not only have we not lost one horse, but we have not had a sick horse. A much less ration than we feed would be ample for farm horses or for any horses doing ordinary work. We may add, also, that with this system of feeding hay, together with the free use of wheat bran and a little ground oats mixed with it, we find we can develop colts in a manner that we have never seen them developed before. The farming industry of Canada is truly passing through a most trying crisis. That our good farmers will survive all their difficulties, I have no doubt, but new and improved methods must be resorted to, and I can assure you that in the method of feeding horses that I have given you, as compared with the old and usual method, there is the difference between success and failure in the matter of raising colts for sale, and if what I have said is of assistance to any of our horse breeders or feeders I shall be greatly gratified. Through the many agricultural journals published in Canada and the United States, including the FARMER'S ADVOCATE, I am almost daily getting some new idea as to general farming, or the care and management of stock. These ideas come not only from the editorial pen of the several papers, but many of them from practical and experienced farmers all over the land, and had I the time and capacity to do something in return it would give me very great pleasure to do so. I am a firm believer in reciprocity. If in a national sense we cannot have this with our neighbors to the south of us, let us do the next best thing, and through the interchange of ideas among ourselves, build up a thoroughly advanced and progressive agricultural country. Our farm journals are doing much, and our Farmers' Institutes are also assisting;

but there is much more to be done, and every Canadian who wishes well for his country should do what he can to promote the improvement and advancement of our agricultural interests. In them are the foundation and very backbone of our country, and with few exceptions, indeed, will all our other industries prosper just in proportion as our agricultural interests prosper.

Chatty Letter from the States.

The Christmas cattle market this season was not as good as last year by about 25 to 40 cents per hundred pounds, owing to the general weakness in live stock values. Nevertheless, there were a good many sales of ripe, thick, fat 1,400 to 2,000-lb. cattle at \$5.25 up to \$6.40—the lowest prices being for the heaviest weights. To those feeders who had put lots of money, and time, and work, into making their twenty-hundred-weight beasts, it seems almost sacrilegious for the snug, stylish 1,400 and 1,500 lb. bullocks to walk off, as it were, with the prizes in the form of solid cash. Especially was it disgusting to the heavy weight advocates, since corn was so dear, and the cost of the last two or three hundred pounds on those massive bullocks is so much greater than the same number of pounds put upon lighter and younger animals. The top figure this year happened to be for Angus cattle, with Shorthorns next and Herefords third. This is rather a singular fact, when it was remembered that this order was reversed in a point of display at the late Fat Stock Show, though the best prize at that institution went to a Shorthorn.

A lot of 1,803-lb. three-year-old Shorthorns sold at \$5.40. They were Shorthorns indeed, because their breeder and feeder had cropped their horns at the poll, as he does all his feeding cattle.

An Iowa farmer and hog feeder thinks reckless marketing of pigs and the hoarding of corn is liable to make a boom in hogs and a comparative depression in corn. At this writing lots of good hogs are selling for less than country cost, and therefore heavy losses are being made. Those who can feed and hold their stock in the country would certainly be taking no greater chances of losing than by acting as they are, and they would stand the chance of doing much better. Western hog feeders have not been more sorely pressed in many years than at present. When it was learned that the corn crop was so short, there were hundreds of men who firmly believed hog prices this winter would range above \$5.00, and many looked for \$6.00. On the contrary, they are nearer \$3.00. The present prices for hogs are the lowest in twelve years, while the cost of making pork has not been greater in that time. Hundreds of thousands of 50 @ 150-lb. pigs have been slaughtered this winter, as farmers did not have money or corn, or faith to hold them till matured. There are strong probabilities that hogs will be worth much more money before many months, and the cause of this unfortunate state of affairs is twofold. Pigs were unusually plenty, and the general tightness of the money market prevented them from being worth much. Then again, the enforced marketing, owing to the sickness and fear of sickness, caused a tremendous rush of unmatured stock to market.

The sheep market has lately been firm. For the holiday trade some 130-lb. Shropshire grades sold at \$6.00; some 161-lb. California sheep sold at \$5.00; screening and corn-fed Wyoming and Montana sheep, averaging 120 @ 140 lbs., sold at \$4.50 @ \$5.00, with sheep direct from the ranges, suitable for store stock, at \$3.50 @ \$4.15. Lambs made \$5.00 @ \$6.00 per hundred pounds.

Shire Horses and Improved Yorkshires.

The two branches of English live stock industry, in which there is anything approaching a boom, are the Shire Horse and the Improved Yorkshire departments. The autumn shows of the first have been complete successes where there was no attempt to dabble the public with the so-called unreserved sales, some of which might be thought to deserve a far less complimentary name, owing to the running up, buying in, and other practices said to be pursued at a portion of them. Public form has been verified, the best Sires, such as Harold, Salisbury and a few others of our finest stallions, have proved the most successful getters. The two or three principal autumn sales, such as Mr. George Lewis' and Lord Belper's; the last conducted by Mr. German, proved that Shires, good in themselves and in their pedigrees, are dearer than ever.

Of the demand for Holywell Manor Improved Yorkshires there is no end, but unfortunately there is of pigs for a time; three or four months will soon rectify it. A fortnight since I could find only twenty to complete an order for thirty-five for the Italian Government (old customers, and good ones), as only a few days before I had picked out twenty-one boars and one yelt to partially fill two orders from Denmark, one for thirty boars and the other for a boar and a yelt. I had another order recently from Denmark for four boars about six months old; these I have not; so that within three weeks I have been compelled to refuse orders from abroad for no fewer than twenty-nine boars and yelts. SANDERS SPENCER.

Do Not Sacrifice Your Young Pigs.

The pork packers of the Dominion are indebted to you and others for your efforts to induce the farmers to raise and feed hogs more largely, and this they have done to a considerable extent; but, not having followed the advice given as a whole, that is, in having them for sale prior to 1st Oct., they now find that the market has gone dead against them, and apparently in a panic, they are killing off their young pigs.

We see dressed hogs weighing from 140 lbs. down on sale at the commission stores, and at the cattle market thousands of mere shotes offered for sale, with a result of a loss to everyone who handles them. The same course is being followed almost universally by farmers in the Western States. No less than 7,000 pigs, as they term them, little bits of things, have been on sale there daily, and it is the opinion of competent observers that the pig population will be almost annihilated.

It is our opinion that the farmers of Ontario, instead of getting rid of their young pigs and stopping or lessening the raising of them, should go into the business more largely. We prophesy that next summer hogs will be as high. Again we urge farmers to have them for sale at a time when all concerned can make money, say from 1st May to 1st October.

There is no doubt that the stock of young pigs all over this continent has been most seriously lessened, and packers are bound to pay the piper next summer and fall. To use the expression of our St. Louis agent, "You will hear music shortly." In proof of what we say, prices in Canada are already beginning to advance, and we dare stake our reputation on the prophecy that those who have good hogs to sell, from 1st of May to 1st of October next, will be well pleased. WM. DAVIES & Co.