

The Cultivation of Corn

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As we are engaged in dairying, and have been in the dairy business for years, we have grown a large acreage of corn each year during that time to furnish fodder for our cows. Each year as the year went by, we have learned something new in regard to corn and its culture. Probably no "wrinkle" in the handling of corn has been of greater benefit to us nor has returned greater results than that of making use of the ordinary spring tooth cultivator to cultivate our corn. As it has done so much for us, I take the liberty of passing it on and trust it may be of use to some of your many readers.

Until two years ago, we had been accustomed to cultivate our corn by means of the common one-horse scuffer. This was not a bad method of cultivating corn by any means, but, the one we use at present is much better. The common one-horse scuffer is a slow machine to get over the ground, besides it is hard work for the man who holds the scuffer and follows it for many days throughout the cultivating season, as well as being hard upon the horse. We began to realize the truth of this more fully as time went on and at length we began to consider whether or not it would pay us to install a regular two-horse corn cultivator. As these machines were somewhat expensive and they could not be used to advantage for other purposes, we were loath to make a purchase of one. About this time, we read of some one having used the common cultivator to cultivate their corn. We thought it worth a trial at least so out went the cultivator to the field. Here we carefully adjusted it to fit the rows of corn as we had sown them. This was but the work of a few moments and then it was only a matter of attaching a team and putting a careful driver upon the seat when two rows could be cultivated at a time with little effort upon the part of the driver and with comparative ease on the part of the team.

With this method of cultivation there is no need to rest the horses or driver. A three mile rate or better may be insisted upon and kept up throughout the day. The cultivator covers a little corn, it is true, and it might be well to arrange some sort of a shield to protect the corn. However, we have found that the corn in most cases soon straightens up and recovers from any ill-effect of a slight covering. The spring tooth cultivator makes a perfect job of cultivation. It is our practice to set

the thing at a good depth to start with and run it fairly close to the rows. With each succeeding cultivation, we set it a trifle shallower and have it a slightly greater distance from the corn, thus doing no injury to the roots of the plant.

To all who are in the habit of cultivating their corn by means of the old-fashioned scuffer, I would strongly urge them to give the spring tooth cultivator a trial. It may cover some corn for you, but with the average corn field, some of it will stand destroyed, and if a few plants here and there are blotted out, the ones next to them will attain much greater size and produce ears more abundantly. Aside from these advantages, it reduces the labor to a minimum, the operation of cultivating takes on a more attractive aspect and you will accomplish much more for your day's work. Besides your corn will be cultivated much more frequently when the spring tooth cultivator is used in place of the old time one-horse implement. When the corn gets too high for the spring tooth cultivator it is then quite time enough to bring into use the trusty old scuffer.

The General Principles of Horse Breeding

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That horse breeding has not generally yielded the average farmer as much profit as breeding other classes of stock cannot be denied. The reason is not hard to find. It is simply from the fact that his operations to this line have been somewhat haphazard. He has not given it the intelligent consideration that he has to the breeding of other classes. There are few prosperous farmers in the province who have not pure bred cattle, pure bred pigs, pure bred sheep and I may say pure bred poultry, but I think I don't exaggerate when I say that not more than one per cent. of those farmers has a horse that is registered or eligible for registration in any recognized stud book. Not only are the horses not pure bred, but little or no attempt has been made to intensify or increase the blood of any one class or breed of horses in generation after generation.

In the first place prospective breeders do not pay sufficient attention to the dams. A mare that is not useful for work on account of unsoundness, the predisposition to which is very liable to be transmitted to her progeny, is too often considered good enough to breed. A gentleman brought to my infirmary last winter a mare that had got down in the

deep snow and cut herself very severely. This mare was a cripple, having two large bone spavins and one ringbone and while she had, even under these conditions given some good service, she was of a very undesirable conformation generally. At the wound was severe and would require attention for several weeks, I told the owner that I did not consider her worth treatment and as she was practically done any way it would be better to destroy her. In answer he said, "Yes she is done, but she is not old and she will make a good brood mare." When I told him that I would not like to breed her for fear she would produce something like herself, he became annoyed and said, "She is one of the best mares I ever owned, even though she has some bunches on her joints." Well, the result was treated her in my infirmary for six weeks, after which she was taken away and will doubtless be bred this season. It is not hard to imagine the quality of stock she will produce.

KEEP THE BEST FILLES

Another reason why we have not a better general class of horses is the fact that even those who breed intelligently and produce good fillies, instead of keeping them for breeding purposes and breeding them to good sires of their own class and thus intensifying the characteristics of the breed in generation after generation, sell the fillies to dealers or consumers and continue to breed the old mares. The reason for this, of course, is that the fillies, being better individuals than their dams, will sell for higher prices and the breeder being in the breeding business for profit sells those that sell best. But if he must sell some of his fillies, he should sell the old ones even at a low price and keep the younger and better ones for

breeding? The man who expects to breed horses with reasonable prospects of profit must have one or more mares that are at least fair representatives of their class. If pure bred, of course, it's much better, but the purchase of good pure bred mares of any bred entails greater expense than the average farmer cares to stand, but while not pure bred, the prospective dams should have the characteristics of their class fairly well marked and, of course, be free from all unsoundness, the tendency to which is liable to transmission, such as spavins, ringbones, sidebones, blindness from disease, roar and heaves. This also applies to sires. It is unwise to breed diseased animals of either sex.

SELECTION OF SIRE GOVERNED BY DAM

The selection of a sire should be governed largely by the individuality of the dam. If the mare be of the general type and conformation that is desired, a sire as much like her as possible should be selected, but if there be any undesirable qualities about the mare, an effort should be made to overcome these in the progeny by the selection of the sire, on the principal that "Like begets like." If the mare be weak in some point as back too long, croup too short, and drooping, hocks weak and upright, feet small and narrow, shoulder, too upright, a sire that has the opposite conformation, even to an extreme degree, should be selected in the hopes that in the produce an average may be noted. In the selection of a sire a few dollars in stud fee should not be considered when it means the services of a superior instead of an inferior animal. We claim that if a mare about to be bred is not good enough to warrant the payment of a reasonable stud fee,

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