

OF INTEREST TO FARMERS

HORSE FEED WHEN OATS ARE SCARCE

Of all the grain feeds used in any country where horses are used, oats are in higher repute with horsemen than any. Many horsemen have not only the best single grain feed for horses whether kept in stable or for road purposes, but have also stated time and again that horses fed upon oats display more life, keep in condition and endure worse weather during hot weather better than do horses which receive a grain ration made up of other grains chosen as substitutes to take the place of oats when scarce, or calculated as too expensive when grain prices are high. Feeders of farm horses are accustomed to accept the general opinion that the oats are the grain of choice for horses, and when that grain crop fails, they are not sufficiently confident as to what can take its place as a substitute. One farmer told a representative of this paper recently that owing to the scarcity of oats he was feeding his horses on shorts. Shorts is not at all a suitable horse feed and no reason was offered why it was chosen to take the place of oats, but it was made apparent to the writer that the scarcity of oats, in some districts, raising the price of collecting another grain or grain to use in horse feeding that is equally as efficient and economical. Whether feeds are scarce or are high or low in price, it is well worth care for feeders to exercise great care in the selection of rations that are most efficient and economical. With the present high market prices for all kinds of millfeeds that farmers may attempt to use a place of oats for horses, it is especially important that a judicious selection of feeds be made, for much waste and result is attention is not given to this phase of stable management.

A great deal of experimental work has been done in comparing corn with oats in the feeding of work horses. A study of the chemical composition of corn and of oats has shown that the reason for the exceeding high price of corn which oats are held, or for corn considered so totally unfit for the use of horses, especially when at work. It has been claimed that oats contain a stimulating principle known as "avenine," which gives great spirit to horses. The effect of this stimulating principle has not been proved, and it is safe to say that it does exist, there is no evidence to indicate that it would have any special bearing on the practical feeding of work horses.

Corn Takes the Place of Oats

The widespread prejudice against corn that hitherto has been held by many horsemen is gradually falling away. Even in the Old Country where oats have been for all time accredited as the only grain suitable for horses, corn is largely used with mature horses as a ration to finish and fit horses for endurance work in Western Canada where oats are abundant, and meantime at low prices, corn is found to be a profitable and efficient addition. In the United States magnificent specimens of horses come from districts where the grain ration is entirely made up of corn. In France

the home of the massive Percheron horse, corn is considered a valuable feed for horses at hard work. Extensive experiments on the substitution of other feeds for oats have been undertaken in that country and have given results very favorable to corn feeding. In view of the results obtained after many years' trial, the opponents of corn are now forced to admit that it is a suitable feed for draft horses. Meanwhile, at the prices of corn and oats in Eastern Canada, there is economy in using the former. One hundred pounds of corn cost about \$1.40, while the same weight of oats are around \$2.00. Also corn and oats are quite similar in composition, and the nutritive ingredients in corn are much more assimilable than is generally supposed. As regards physical characteristics, corn contains an average 70 to 75 per cent of kernel and 25 to 30 per cent of indigestible hull, which can, as a general rule, be applied in large quantities without producing any but a beneficial result.

FOURTEEN HINTS FOR PRUNING

1. Proper pruning gives more and better fruit.
2. It costs less to spray and pick a well pruned tree.
3. All varieties are not pruned alike.
4. Heavy pruning tends to increase wood growth, and may be used to rejuvenate a run-down tree.
5. The growing habit of a tree varies with its age.
6. Water sprouts are usually the result of heavy pruning. Those sprouts near the base of the tree should be removed.
7. A limb grows more to the tip than to the base.
8. Fruit buds form on the older wood.
9. Fruit may be thinned by pruning.
10. Keep the top of the tree somewhat open. This helps to make extra fruit.
11. If the buds on your peach tree have been killed and the fruiting wood is in the upper part of the tree, "delion" your tree back heavily to limbs, one inch in diameter.
12. Learn the principles of pruning. The details will vary with the tree.
13. Common sense and good judgment will help a great deal.
14. There is no good reason why you should not do the work yourself.

HOW OLD IS YOUR HORSE?

There is only one way to tell the age of a horse, and that is to look at the teeth. This assertion may not be accepted by the person with limited experience, who most often has unlabeled facts in a horse's age by his teeth. The age of a horse is an important factor in determining his present and prospective value. Familiarity with the characters that indicate age are, therefore, extremely useful. A knowledge of these characters are not difficult to acquire, but skill in their application depends much on continued practice. There are several things that indicate a horse's age with a fair degree of accuracy. In very old horses, the teeth are usually worn around the temple, the eyes, the nostrils and elsewhere; the poll or top of the head becomes more prominent and often strongly curved downward, and the animal does not stand squarely on his legs, which show more wear. But the leading indication in determining a horse's age is the teeth. In different people the same teeth will vary several months to a year or even more; the same irregularity exists in the horse. The difference is out quite so great in the horse as the human, so no doubt, the great difference of the ages, the composition of the teeth has a marked influence. Some are exceedingly soft. Others are correspondingly hard.

DO FERTILIZER RESULTS LAST? HOW LONG?

This has been a live question for many years. The opinion of a prominent English Agricultural Chemist is valuable. In an article entitled "Unexhausted Soil Values" Prof. James Hendrick of the University of Aberdeen gives the following conclusion:—
Note: Prof. Hendrick uses the word "exhausted" to mean a soil that has been treated separately from indigestible. The digestible nitrogen leaves little or no residue in the soil after the first crop. On the other hand, the indigestible nitrogen, together with the phosphate and potash, are only gradually exhausted, and may be allowed a period of at least four years before exhaustion is complete.

Winter Hard On Baby

The winter season is a hard one on the baby. He is more or less confined to a stuffy, badly ventilated room. It is so stormy that the mother does not get him out in the fresh air as often as she should. He watches colds which rack his little system; his stomach and bowels get out of order and he becomes peevish and cross. To guard against this the mother should keep a box of Baby's Own Tablets in the house. They regulate the stomach and bowels, and break up colds. They are sold by medicine dealers or by mail at 25 cents a box from The Dr. Williams' Medicine Co., Brookville, Ont.

Tree Surgery in The Orchard

By HENRY J. MOORE.

Assuming that there are rotten snags on your orchard trees to remove these should be the first step. To remove or to shorten heavy limbs which are likely to break should be the next. Dead branches whether large or small should never be permitted to remain on the trees, neither should those which are unhealthy or diseased. Trees which are unhealthy or diseased are likely to be attacked by insects or other harmful insects, and these will be attracted to the decayed wood. The decayed wood, in turn, will be attacked by insects, and these will be attracted to the decayed wood. The decayed wood, in turn, will be attacked by insects, and these will be attracted to the decayed wood.

Practical Knowledge

While out doing his day work one day last summer, a reader of a farmer who had his hay rope broken and was endeavoring to splice it. Having some little experience in splicing ropes, I did the work for him. He was evidently quite pleased, and asked me where I had learned to splice. I replied that although brought up by the sea, I could not splice a rope properly until after I had started farming when I had the opportunity of learning the trick from an aged fisherman.

He Knows What To Do For Backache

That is why S. Sivy recommends Dodd's Kidney Pills. A Saskatchewan man tells why he is so glad to come to know and to use Dodd's Kidney Pills. Brombury, Sask., Feb. 24th (Special)—Like every other town on the prairies Brombury has as its proudest boast what is outspokenly called "Kidney Pills." Mr. Sivy is the local enthusiast and he says: "Oh, what a good medicine Dodd's Kidney Pills are. When I have pains in the back I take Dodd's Kidney Pills and the pain goes. I am very thankful that they came to use Dodd's Kidney Pills."

Handling The Boar

A Boar is usually able to give service when five or six months old, but he should not be required to do so before his eighth month of age, and should be used on no more than one or two sows. The amount of service that he may do will depend on his development and condition. Careful watch must be kept to see that he is not losing in flesh in the day, and keep on at that rate for a considerable length of time, if conditions are in every way favorable. To ensure the boar keeping in good service, he should have plenty of exercise. To permit this a good, roomy pen or yard should be provided. The boar should have a small pasture where in to roam and root at will. The boar should have sufficient food to keep him growing rapidly and to gain flesh, but not such foods as are likely to make him fat.

TO THE POULTRYMAN:

A Weekly Letter Containing Practical Pointers in the Management and Care of Standard Bred Poultry, Taken From the Daily Log Book of Sunny Crest Poultry Farm, Bear River, P. E. I. by the Manager.

There are many things that have to be considered when a start is made to comb over the flock with a view to selecting the birds that are to be used as the breeders for the hatching season. In a previous article I think I mentioned three of what I considered the most necessary qualities in breeding stock, namely constitution, vigor, egg size, and size. At the present time the great cry is to breed from high production, and of course it is only natural that the chicks from the best producing hen will stand a better chance of making a good year's record, but to the one who does not use the trap nest this is a question of the quality, not of the quantity. Note the matter who starts to produce early in the fall and as soon as you are sure that she is keeping at it and not merely making a false start, but a hand on her about the first of November, you have a sure firm foundation and it is only a matter of careful selection for birds which have the qualities most desirable to you.

I am going to list a few outward signs or characteristics which I think will be helpful to you in making wise selection, but it must be understood that these are supplementary to what we can learn from the first three necessary qualities, and also please remember that this is written as applying to the selection of breeders for egg production. From the time the chick is hatched and right thru the brooding and growing period the weak ones tend to be culled out and gone away with, they will soon fall behind the rest of the flock and be noticeable in many ways such as slowness in feathering, bowed disposition, and a tendency to lag behind the others in work or play. You will find them sitting around when the others are busy searching for food, careful attention on this part of the culling will save lots of trouble in fattening. The fact of it will save culling in many succeeding generations for the weak chick will often pick up and be in apparently good shape by the time you are ready to select the following spring and although you may get eggs from that chick and to all outward appearance the

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Y. M. C. A. NOTES

As Chairman of the World's Student Christian Federation, and Secretary of the International Missionary Council, as well as General Secretary of the International Christian Association, Dr. J. B. Conybeare, of San Francisco, Feb. 21, attended the conference of the Federation at Peking, April 4-9, and National Christian conferences during May at Shanghai and Hankow. The World's Student Christian Federation represents the Christian student movements of the world, embracing nearly 60,000 students and professors of the world's colleges and universities, and more than 2,500 universities, colleges and higher schools. Delegates from over thirty nations will attend the Peking conference, through which it is sought to exert a greater influence in promoting the Christian solution of international and inter-racial problems.

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