

Home Course In Live Stock Farming

XI.—Raising Draft Horses.

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Author of "Home Course In Modern Agriculture," "Making Money on the Farm," Etc.

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Raising draft horses is one of the most profitable branches of live stock farming. It can be carried on to good advantage in connection with general farming, since the brood mares can be used for field work. Five or six brood mares will easily do all the work on a quarter section. In this way they will pay for their feed and care, leaving the colts for profit.

In selecting mares from which to raise draft colts size is an important consideration. A horse has to weigh at least 1,000 pounds to come in the draft class. Every pound that he weighs over that will add at least 25 cents to his value.

Judging Draft Horses.

After size the next point to consider is appearance. A draft mare should be wide, deep and massive. She should be fairly low set, but not so short legged that she cannot move well. She should be symmetrical—that is, all parts in proper relation to each other.

Together with these other points should come draft conformation. The head should be of fair size, clean cut, with the face slightly dishd and the eyes large, bright and expressive. A small "pony" head is very undesirable. A draft horse with too much neck is seldom found, though over-short necks are rather common. The



FIG. XX.—GOOD TYPE OF DRAFT MARE.

neck should be full as well as long. The neck of a mare should not show any tendency to the crest that marks the stallion. Masculine characters in a mare or feminine characters in a stallion indicate that they will not make reliable or prepotent breeding animals.

The shoulder should be neither too straight nor too sloping. A straight shoulder interferes with action and is usually associated with a stubby pastern and generally with a long back as well. In light horses the more sloping the shoulder the better, since this conformation is favorable to long or high action. In draft horses too sloping a shoulder brings the point of draft too high and may even cause the collar to slip up and choke the animal. The face of the shoulder should be broad to give a good bearing surface for the collar. The top of the shoulder should not be open or coarse and should blend well into the back.

The back of the draft horse should be as short as possible from the top of the shoulders to the hips. A short coupled, compact horse can handle himself better than one with a long loose coupled and often swayed back. The ribs should be well sprung, long and close together. The space between the last rib and the pelvic bone should not be over three or four inches. The loin should be wide and heavily muscled. The region from the hips back, called the croup, should be broad, long and not too sloping. It is the hind quarters that furnish the propelling power, and size and massiveness here are all important points. The thighs should be heavily muscled both inside and out and should be broad when viewed from the side. The muscling on the inside of the thighs should extend well down.

Next in importance is constitution. This is indicated by a deep, wide chest a full fore flank, large nostrils and a deep barrel. A horse that is tucked up in the hind flank tires easily and cannot be kept up in flesh when at work. This is an especially bad fault in brood mares.

Quality is very important, as it indicates endurance or staying power. A small horse of good quality will do more work than a coarse, loosely put together animal 500 pounds heavier. Quality is indicated by a fairly thin, pliable skin; fine, glossy hair; cleanliness of head and clean legs. The tendons at the back of the legs should stand out clearly, giving the canon a flat appearance. There should be as little meatiness as possible at the hock and between the tendons and the canon bone. The hoof should be of dense, hard horn, and in hairy legged breeds the feather should be fine and silky.

There is an old saying, "No foot, no horse." The feet and legs are very important, since they must do the propelling and receive all the hard knocks of heavy service. The forearm and gaskin should be heavily muscled. The muscles in these regions cannot be easily covered with fat, so their size is an indication of the animal's muscling throughout. The forearm and gaskin

should be long as compared with the canon. The pasterns should slope at an angle of about forty-five degrees with the ground. A sloping pastern absorbs the shocks of traveling on hard roads and pavements. Unsoundnesses are very likely to develop on short pasterned horses. In moving the horse should go straight, with a long, easy stride.

Unsoundnesses.
Animals with serious unsoundnesses should not be used for breeders. Slight unsoundnesses in mares are not so objectionable as in stallions, since the mare does not influence nearly so many colts. Unsoundednesses are not transmitted to colts, but the weaknesses that are usually responsible for unsound conditions are often transmitted. The principal unsoundnesses are ringbone, sidebone, spavin, bog spavin, thoroughpin and curb.

Sidebone is a bony formation at the hoof head toward the heel. Ringbone may be found in the same place, extending all the way around, or it may be higher up on the pastern, in which case it is known as high ringbone. Spavin is a bony formation on the inside of the hock. Curb is a bony enlargement at the back of the leg just below the point of the hock. It is most usually found on "sickle hocks." It can be readily noticed by looking at the leg from the side. Bog spavin is a soft enlargement on the inside of the hock. Thoroughpin is a smaller enlargement extending through the joint, where it can be felt in the web of the hock. Neither bog spavin nor thoroughpin is serious unless very large.

The stallion should possess the same general characteristics as the mares. He should show masculinity in a strong head, a nose inclined to be Roman rather than dished, a fairly heavy crest and a large chest. In selecting a stallion to breed to do not pick out the cheapest one in the neighborhood. Five or ten dollars' difference in the service fee will mean \$50 to \$100 difference on the price of the colt when it is four years old. If there is not a good stallion in your immediate neighborhood, take your mares ten miles or more if necessary, but do not use an inferior stallion. Often fifteen or twenty farmers can go in together and buy a company stallion. Do not buy a horse that is "peddled" by a smooth tongued agent. Such a horse is likely to be one that could not be sold in any other way, and you will generally pay twice or three times what it is worth. The best plan is to organize the company first and then send a competent man to some reliable horse establishment to pick out the stallion.

The Value of a Pure Bred Stallion.

The question of breed is largely one of individual preference. If the mares of the neighborhood are nearly all grades of some particular breed it will pay to get a horse of that breed. Be careful in the selection of a breed and then stick to it. Nothing will produce a mongrel lot of horses more quickly than changing breeds every few years. Above all, get a pure bred. A grade may be a good enough individual, but he will not have the long line of improved ancestry back of him on both sides to give him the prepotency that a pure bred has. The grade has mongrel blood in him, and it is bound to crop out in his colts.

Entirely too much stress is laid on the value of imported stallions. For all practical purposes home bred animals are just as good and can be purchased for much less money. Size in a stallion is all important. A horse that weighs less than a ton in breeding condition should not be used. The mere fact that an animal is bred in a foreign country cannot add anything to his actual value, and the reasons that such an importation is rated higher than the domestic product are chiefly sentimental. It is time that this unwarranted discrimination should be brought to an end.

Never patronize an overfat stallion. Fat is a convenient means of covering defects, but it is hard on the animal's breeding powers. When the stallion is not in service he should be given plenty of exercise, preferably at some kind of work that is not too severe. He should be in good condition and good spirits when the breeding season opens. During the breeding season he should be given regular exercise and plenty of it. His feed should consist largely of oats, with a little corn, and an occasional mash with a little oilmeal added. Good, bright timothy or clover hay in limited quantities will make up the roughage part of the ration.

The stallion should be well trained and kept under perfect control. Not more than two mares should be served

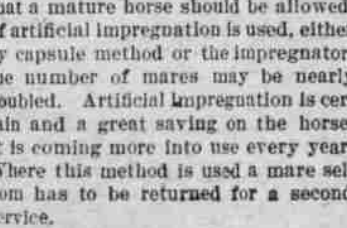


FIG. XXI.—GOOD PERCHERON STALLION.

In a day, and this but seldom. A hundred mares during the season is all that a mature horse should be allowed. Artificial impregnation is used, either by capsule method or the impregnator, the number of mares may be nearly doubled. Artificial impregnation is certain and a great saving on the horse. It is coming more into use every year. Where this method is used a mare seldom has to be returned for a second service.

SCHOOL NOTES
Activity in spring athletics has commenced in real earnest at the Oregon Agricultural College. Fielder Jones, the famous ex-manager of the world's champion White Sox base ball team, who has been secured to coach the college boys, has taken charge of the squad and put his candidates at work. All but two of the men who played on the team last year are available again this season. With the peer of all baseball coaches as leader and with a splendid schedule of games, the hall promises to be a popular place of sport this spring. The track men

have also commenced work. The squad is not as strong as could be desired. Bergman, who holds the Northwest record in the hurdles, and Euberg, who has done good work in the weight throwing events, are the only experienced men on the team. There is, however, some promising new material which may develop into collegiate caliber.

CEMENT See Oregon City Commission Company.

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We have just succeeded in making a bargain purchase from the traveling representative of a large Eastern manufacturer of 150 Ladies' and Misses' Suits. They are fashioned right up to the minute, all in the latest fabrics. The contrasting checks, the mixtures in black and white, the soft new grays and blues, the shepherd, the tan and the plaids make a pleasing selection certain. We obtained these suits at one-third less than regular whole-sale price, and are going to put them on sale, \$12.00 and \$15.00 Suits.....

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Happenings at Canby

Live local news by our special correspondent

John R. Newton is busy this week setting out strawberry plants. He has charge of the Pacific Coast branch of the R. M. Kellogg Company's strawberry nursery, and in the next few days will have set out ten acres or more of these thoroughbred plants, which have a world-wide reputation. Mr. Newton is satisfied that Canby's soil is as well adapted as any he has seen for raising well-rooted healthy plants.

The Easter services at the M. E. church on Sunday were well attended, both morning and evening, especially in the evening, when the seating capacity of the building could not accommodate all present. The sermon of the morning was a logical discourse on "The Resurrection" and Rev. Creevey, the pastor, entered most heartily into it, showing that he had made all possible preparations and that he was able to meet any who might be skeptical in regard to the resurrection of Christ. The church has been prospering to a remarkable degree under the present leadership. Three were received into church fellowship at the close of the service. An annual subscription for benevolences was also taken during the morning service. The day was fittingly crowned with an Easter program by the Sunday school, assisted by the choir. The services in every respect were successful. The solo by Miss Alma Knight and the duet by Mrs. O. F. Romig and John R. Newton were much appreciated by the attentive audience. \$8 was received in the evening offering, which offering goes to missions.

Services in the Church of Christ of this place were well attended on Easter. One was received into the fellowship of the church at the morning service. The pastor, Rev. Swain, spoke eloquently on the subject of the "Empty Tomb" in the morning. The evening subject was, "The Birthright Sold." It seemed that all Canby turned out to church Sabbath and worshiped with one of the churches of this place. The Christian church will hold regular services this coming Sabbath both morning and evening. The subject for the morning

sermon, "Voices of the Dead," that of the evening will be "The Dividing Line." All are cordially invited to attend these services.

Albert Walberg and family have arrived in Canby from Saskatchewan, Canada, and have purchased through the Canby Realty Co. the forty-acre farm formerly owned by John Samuelson. We are pleased to add to our population such enterprising persons as Mr. Walberg.

The Ladies Aid Society of the M. E. church met Tuesday instead of Wednesday with Mrs. Creevey, the reason for the change being that Tuesday was the pastor's wife's birthday and the ladies all went with baskets well filled with supplies for dinner, taking Mrs. Creevey altogether by surprise. Today was a most enjoyable one and will be long remembered by the ladies. W. H. Bair is active now-a-days trying his new auto. It is certainly a beauty.

The Demon of the Air

is the germ of a gripe, that, breathed in, brings suffering to thousands. Its after effects are weakness, nervousness, lack of appetite, energy and ambition, with disordered liver and kidneys. The greatest need then is Electric Bitters, the splendid tonic blood purifier and regulator of stomach, liver and kidneys. Thousands have won that they feel better, stronger, more energetic, build up the system and restore health and good spirits after an attack of grip. If suffering, try them. Only 50c. Perfect satisfaction guaranteed by all druggists.

Rock salt placed in boxes in the stables or in the lots is a good thing for the cows and horses. We are apt to forget to salt often enough when granulated salt is used, but with a ramp of rock salt always before them the animals will never be without this needed mineral.

For ORCHARD SPRAY see Oregon City Commission Company.

The report on the soil survey of the Klamath Reclamation Project, Oregon, by Messrs. A. T. Sweet and I. G. McBeth, of the Bureau of Soils, U. S. Dept. of Agriculture, has recently been issued and is now ready for distribution. The report is accompanied by a soil map showing the location and extent of the various soil types found in the area. The following is a summary of the report:

"The Klamath area has an elevation of over 4,000 feet, consists of several valleys separated by hills and mountains (the eastern outliers of the Cascade range,) and abounds in lakes and marshes.

"On account of its isolation, settlement has been very slow, but has been recently stimulated by the extension of the railroad, by its selection as a reclamation project, and by a thorough advertising of the country.

"The climate is semi-arid and temperature variable, yet on account of frost the growing season is short. "Agriculture is comparatively undeveloped, but through the extension of irrigation, the introduction of alfalfa, and successful grain growing, general farming in the valleys is rapidly taking the place of exclusive stock raising. The country seems well suited for this especially for the development of an important dairy business, but there is much opportunity for improvement by the adoption of more intensive methods of farming and by the introduction of new crops, of which Canadian field peas, sugar beets, timothy, and alfalfa for seed are among the most important.

"The soils consist of marsh soils and upland soils. The upland soils, being composed of disintegrated basalt, volcanic ash, and diatomaceous earth, are friable, easily cultivated, and in general productive. The marsh soils contain a high percentage of organic matter, and although they have been used to only a small extent, it is believed that when reclaimed they will also prove rich and productive.

"Of the upland soils the more productive are the deep r, well drained and alkali free sands, sandy loams, and the sandy loams, all of which are especially well suited for the production of alfalfa.

"The water supply is abundant and the tenancy is toward over irrigation with serious results following from lack of drainage and the surface accumulation of alkali."

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