

BY THE HORSE.

Some Don'ts For His Owner That All Horsemen Should Remember.

The following "don'ts" which the horse gives to his owner are well worth heeding, says Farm Journal.

Don't leave me hitched in my stall at night with a big cob right where I must lie down. I am tired, and I can't select a smooth place.

Don't compel me to eat more salt than I want by mixing it with my oats. I know better than any other animal how much I need.

Don't think because I go free under the whip I don't get tired. You would move up if under the whip.

Don't think because I am a horse that weeds and briars won't hurt my hay.

Don't whip me when I get frightened along the road or I will expect it next time and maybe make trouble.

Don't trot me up hill, for I have to carry you and the truck and myself too. Try it yourself some time. Run up hill with a big load.

Don't keep my stable very dark, for when I go out into the light my eyes are injured.

Don't say "whoa" unless you mean it.

Teach me to stop at the word. It may check me if the lines break and save a runaway and smashup.

Don't forget to file my teeth when they get jagged and I cannot chew my food.

When I get lean it may be a sign my teeth want filing.

Don't run me down a steep hill, for if anything should give way I might break your neck.

Don't be so careless of my harness as to find a great sore on me before you attend to it.

Don't forget the old book that is a friend of all the oppressed that says, "A merciful man is merciful to his beast."

Care of the Sow.

Good sows are often ruined at weaning time by the pigs being suddenly taken away while there is still a large flow of milk. This will tend to produce inflammation or udder, and a number of blind teats may be the result. The plan of removing all the pigs with the exception of one or two is also objectionable. It is a sudden check to the ones removed, and the remainder will not, as a rule, take all the milk, besides running the risk of spoiling the sow. When possible provision should be made during the summer to give the sow the run of a small grass plot or field, where she will be free from annoyance from other farm stock. In the winter and early spring the barnyard may be used for this purpose when the cows and horses are not at liberty.

THE SWINEHERD.

Sows and pigs should be given a good pasture with a shelter to lie in as a refuge from the hot sun and from rains, says the Farm Journal.

There should be running water in the pasture. If there are no streams or springs, fresh water should be supplied in troughs.

Fresh clean water is absolutely essential in keeping pigs in good health.

Clean earth, clean, pure water, grass and grain, with common sense handling, will make a success of pigs.

The place of the pig on the farm cannot be filled by any other animal. He eats much that would otherwise be wasted.

Feeding pigs before they have learned to eat checks their growth. They should have a trough of their own as soon as they are big enough to use it.

The hogs in the orchard not only damage the wormy fruit, but fertilize the soil.

Running on pasture with pigs should be given some grain. A slop bucket of corn or of cornmeal and wheat bran should be used to keep up the milk flow.

If sows are allowed to become thin and run down, they will not be able to raise the second litter, and that will mean a loss.

When the pasture is limited, sow some peas and rape, which will be fit for pasturage when the other pasture becomes short and dry.

Field peas sown broadcast to the extent of about an acre for two or three sows and their litters will prove a great help.

Sow rape broadcast in the corn at the last cultivation, and it will afford good pasturage in the fall after the corn is cut.

The secret of producing cheap pork is in maintaining a steady gain and a high degree of health and vigor from start to finish.

When two litters a year are raised, wean the pigs when they are from six to eight weeks old. When only one litter is raised, they may remain with the sow a little longer, but should never be allowed to pull her down too much in flesh.

When selling time comes for little pigs, appearances go a long way. A well formed pig nets more money at six months old than one eight months old that is not so good looking. All buyers prefer a shapely pig and are willing to pay accordingly.

Keep the good brood sows to a ripe old age, says Kimball's Dairy Farmer. Good condition and excessive fat are two different things.

It is easier to keep a hog well than to cure him when sick.

Clover and alfalfa partially replace pasture grass in the winter.

The well fed pig may grunt, but he does not squeal. The two are different. Straw makes a fine hog bed, and it works up into a first class fertilizer by this use.

An abundance of exercise improves the hog by building up his frame and developing muscle.

FEEDING YOUNG LAMBS.

How They May Be Taught to Eat—A Suitable Ration.

The writer has often practiced the teaching of the larger lambs when two or three weeks old and carrying them to the troughs, handling them so gently as to awaken no alarm and putting them down beside it, placing a little food in their mouths, when presently they will get the taste and begin eating of their own accord. After one or two have found the feed the others will by imitation soon follow until all will be eating as greedily as little pigs.

The writer has found it a good practice sometimes to sprinkle a little coarse brown sugar over the grain to induce them to eat it at a very early age. The main ingredient of the lamb's ration must be bran, which should be freshly ground, preferably from the local mill, seeing that it is more palatable than that which has been stored in bulk. To this must be added cracked corn not finely ground, with oats, a trifle of oilmeal or of soy beans.

This ration is elastic and may be varied according to what is required of the lambs. Should they be destined for very early slaughter, as "hothouse" lambs, bran, corn and soy beans will make them very fat at an early age. This ration would, unless the corn were restricted, be unsuitable for lambs intended to remain upon the farm or to be sold as breeders, seeing that it would develop an extreme degree of fatness at too early an age, and these lambs pushed thus to premature ripeness would never thereafter make as strong and valuable sheep.

There are, of course, many combinations of rations that would be suitable for these suckling rams. One that occurs to the writer that he has often used in his own practice is a mixture of corn, bran and oilmeal, giving the following proportion: Forty pounds of coarse cracked corn, forty pounds of wheat bran and twenty pounds of coarse ground oilmeal. To this may be added any amount of oats desired, seeing that oats themselves contain an almost perfectly balanced ration, and if soy beans are available they may constitute about 10 per cent of the ration with excellent results.—Joseph E. Wing in Pennsylvania Bulletin.

Feeding Experiments.

There is much to learn in regard to feeding. The common practice is to give the hay and grain separately. Experiments made to test the value of food under different systems of feeding demonstrate that the best results are obtained where the grain is ground, the hay cut into short lengths, the bulky food then moistened and the grain and hay mixed, which is done by sprinkling the ground grain over the hay. The mode demands more labor, but at the present time grinding mills and power feed cutters are cheap enough to be within reach of all. The mixed food is better digested, is more highly relished, and a saving is effected in the quantity, as the careful preparation lessens the waste.

Bedding For Animals.

Do not utilize straw as a bedding by drying it to be used over again. Pass all feeding material through the feed cutter, so as to render it more serviceable in the manure heap. The cost of cutting the material is an item, but absorption of the liquids in the heap will be more complete, and the gain in the value of the manure will be larger. As the manure will then always be fine and easily handled, it can be forked over with but little labor, so as to more thoroughly decompose all portions. Coarse litter will absorb liquids, but there will be a loss until such materials become fine in a heap. The fine litter will also make excellent bedding and will also readily assist in keeping the stalls dry.

THE VETERINARY.

If a horse has been overfed skip one feeding, then give light feed for 2 days or two.

Scum on Horse's Eye.

For a horse that has a scum on one eye mix eight grains sulphate of copper with two ounces distilled water and apply a little to the eye twice a day with a feather, and continue it for several weeks if needed.

For Inflamed Eyes.

A soothing lotion for inflamed eyes in a horse may be made by mixing sixteen grains of sulphate of morphia, half a dram of fluid extract of belladonna leaves and half a dram of sulphate of zinc in a quart of cold water, using the lotion to keep constantly wet a soft cloth tied over the eyes.

When the Colt is Ill.

A colt that chews and gnaws boards and other things is not doing well. Give him daily a teaspoonful of salt mixed with the same quantity of bone-meal and wood ashes and a quart of bran. If he is not being groomed daily let him have the comb and brush fifteen to twenty minutes each day.

The Sheep Nostril Fly.

With the hot weather the sheep nostril fly is likely to cause trouble. The nervousness with which sheep regard this fly is similar to that of the botfly maddly anywhere the sheep huddle together and try to escape the fly by keeping their noses to the ground. The common method of placing a piece of rock salt behind a board through which a hole is bored, making a hole a trifle smaller than the muzzle and lining the hole with tar, is an effective one, as the fly will not lay its eggs in or about tar. For the comfort and well being of the sheep, this should be done as soon as there is any sign of the fly being about.

POINTS FOR THE SHEPHERD.

I have known the assertion to be made that it was wrong to dock a lamb because thereafter it would be unable to defend itself from blow flies, etc., says a writer in American Sheep Breeder. The fact is, with the exception of a few muscles about the root of the tail, the sheep has no control whatever of this appendage. It simply dangles and flops about as though it were a limp rag when the sheep is in motion, such as running or leaping. It can plainly be seen that it is useless in defense against enemies.

The filth on the long tail attracts the blow fly and is an inviting place where to deposit its larvae, which before long develop into the dread maggots. The broad tail of some breeds when allowed to remain full length is, to a certain degree, a hindrance at the breeding season. It will also be found that in the majority of cases the docked lambs will outweight and outgrow their undocked companions. Docking is an advantage, but it never should be postponed until sheep are fully matured, for in such cases it is cruel, as the bone and nerve formation is then complete. As a rule, the best age is from one to two weeks, at which age it will cause no setback to the lamb. There are several methods for making the cut, but for instant painless docking I believe a sharp hand ax and hard wood block to be the most humane. It also makes a smooth cut that heals quickly. Such a cut will bleed, but I have never had a case of bleeding to excess. The best surgeons tell us that a wound which bleeds more surely without risk of blood poison than a wound which fails to bleed. Therefore the heated docking plinchers will not always give best results. Pure pine tar should always be applied to the stub to promote healing and to resist germs.

"Dock, but dock young." Let this be your motto.

The Black Faced Sheep.

The severe climate of the Scotch highlands has developed several breeds of farm stock especially adapted to resist cold and storms. The Black Faced Highland sheep is one of the oldest of the breeds and in hardiness is surpassed by none. The fleece is extremely long and coarse, not equal in quality to that of some other breeds, but very heavy.

The hardiness of the sheep has attracted some attention in this country, and a few flocks have been imported, mostly to northern New York state, says American Cultivator. It is a rather small sized sheep and somewhat wild in disposition. The mutton is



BLACK FACED HIGHLAND RAM. (Awarded first prize at show of English Royal Agricultural society.)

popular in the market because of excellent flavor and fine grain. The fleece of ewes averages three and a half to five and a half pounds when washed.

Wing on Crossbreeding.

The writer thinks it wise to suggest that the novice in reading the history of breeds and perceiving how they have been made up by the mingling of bloods of diverse races should not conceive the idea of producing a new race of sheep on his own account by crossbreeding. It is true that a judicious mingling of the bloods of the Merino and English breeds may make a very profitable farm flock, but usually the first cross proves best, and the half blood ewes will be of more uniform character and greater profit than the three-quarter blood should another cross be attempted.

It is particularly inadvisable to be frequently changing from a ram of one breed to a ram of another. The prospective shepherd should decide what type of sheep he prefers to breed and, after purchasing a ram of that kind, should steadily thereafter continue using a ram of the same breeding. The only exception to this rule should be that, supposing he is crossbreeding upon a Merino foundation, he may desire to keep part of his Merinos pure, when, of course, he would select his ewes of highest type and breed them to a pure bred Merino ram, using the ram of mutton breeding upon the rest of the flock.—Joseph E. Wing in Pennsylvania Bulletin.

Mare and Colt.

When the colt is out to grass commence feeding him some grain, which can be done in this way: Build a pen in some suitable place which is the most convenient, making it high enough so that the mare will not try to jump it, and have the space from the ground to the bottom board sufficient to allow the colt to pass under. Put in a handy gate, then an ample feed trough. Lead your mare and colt into this inclosure and let them eat together two or three times and they will soon learn where the food is. Take out the mare, shut up the gate, leave the colt in. Keep a good supply of oats there, and you will find the colt there regularly, running in and out, getting his ration. When six months old it is time to wean the colt. The colt will have learned to eat, and the result is that when he is taken away from his dam he does not miss her so much.—J. P. Fletcher

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