

Caring For Your Horse

IN THIS DAY and age of a large percentage of the sales of pure-bred animals are consummated by mail. Founded as the breeding business is, upon honor, it is as safe to do business with the reliable breeder by mail as it is through personal interview.

In handling business by mail, not enough importance is attached to the printed matter used by many breeders. In the first place when an inquiry reaches the breeder he replies by letter. If the inquiry comes from a stranger the nature of the breeder's reply goes far to establish a first impression, and with most people first impressions are hard to efface. The paper upon which a letter is written goes far to fix an idea of the personality of the writer in the mind of the reader, and a neatly printed letter-head upon a good quality of paper is the first essential of good salesmanship by mail.

The writer has frequently had the subject of good letterheads mentioned

by people who have written to breeders, and one particularly striking instance will serve to illustrate my point. A man who was improving and stocking a high-class stock farm once asked the writer what kind of stock Mr. — had in his herd. I replied that his herd sires were among the best of the breed, and that the females in the herd had won frequently at our fairs. He said that he had intended to purchase his foundation stock from this man, and had written him for prices and pedigrees, but that the reply was written very badly on a sheet of common rough newspaper tablet paper, and he had decided that a man who did not display more judgment in his correspondence was not likely to display any great amount of judgment in breeding. As a result the breeder lost a good sale, a male which had been developed by him through his advertising, and a sale to which he was entitled on the merits of his stock, for he really had an excellent herd.

FEEDING INTELLIGENTLY.

THE AVERAGE farmer can learn a valuable lesson in horse feeding from the race-horse man, believes C. W. McCampbell, assistant professor of animal husbandry at the Kansas State Agricultural College. The successful trainer knows that too much roughage is extremely hard on the wind and endurance of a horse. If it pays the owner of a race horse to feed for the greatest possible wind and endurance, it will also be worth the while of the farmer to use care in feeding his work horses.

"The farmer who knows how to get the most efficient service from his horses," explained Doctor McCampbell, "will increase the amount of grain used in the ration, as the work is increased; but he will not increase the hay part of the feed, because he knows that a horse cannot do its best work when overloaded with rough feed. An overloaded digestive apparatus interferes materially with respiration. Horses doing very hard work should not have more than ten or twelve pounds of hay for each thousand pounds of live weight. About one-third of the hay should be fed in the morning, only a little should be given at noon, and the rest should be fed at night."

It pays to know the comparative feeding value of different feeds, so that one can choose a ration that is economical and at the same time meets

the needs of the horse. Prairie, timothy, caso, kafir, corn and small grain hays have approximately the same feeding value, according to Doctor McCampbell. Alfalfa, clover, sweet clover and cowpea hays have similar feeding values, although alfalfa is slightly the richest of the group. This second group should be considered more as concentrates than as roughage, he believes, because of high protein content and the ease with which they are digested.

Dr. McCampbell appreciates oats as a much more satisfactory feed than corn or barley. He recommends that only about five pounds of alfalfa hay be fed daily for every thousand pounds of live weight.

"In feeding alfalfa remember that it is more of a concentrate than a roughage, one pound containing 35 per cent more digestible protein than does one pound of shelled corn; and that the feeding of excessive amounts of protein is one of the principal causes of all kinds of digestive and urinary troubles. For the best results, alfalfa hay that is to be fed to horses should be pretty mature when cut. This hay should never be fed without some other roughage, such as cane, or straw, or prairie hay."

TREATING THE FEET.

GOOD and bad feet are largely inherited in horses, yet very often good feet are ruined by bad treatment, writes J. L. Buchanan in the National Stockman. If colts are foaled with crooked feet and especially if the hind feet turn over sideways you can soon remedy this trouble by keeping inside of bottom of foot rasped down and toe cut back a little, leaving the outside alone. A few trimmings will make the foot straight. Thus every producer of horses should be the owner of a good horseshoer's rasp and use it when needed.

While horses are going without shoes a good rasp should be kept close at hand so all irregularities of feet may be kept rasped off. The feet of horses allowed to stand too long on a dry, hard floor or on a pile of heated manure are apt to get too dry and hard, in which case I should recommend a little fish oil rubbed on the upper edge of the hoof just at the edge of the hair, not over the shell of the hoof, because it would shut the air and moisture out. If put on at junction of hoof and hair the hoof will take up the oil, and it will help to grow and toughen the hoof. I have known horses to stand on hot manure until it burnt all of the lower part of the hoof out.

It is a splendid idea to keep horses on the ground all you can. Continuous shoeing is ruinous to any horse's feet unless frequently changed. I know of horses allowed to carry their shoes for three months, and some until they are worn off. No wonder so many horses' feet are ruined. We frequently see colts shut in stables for all winter and no attention paid to their feet, and by spring their hoofs are two or three and even four inches too long and pasterns sprung back and toes turned up until you would declare that both feet and pasterns were ruined. Yet when properly trimmed and turned out to pasture they soon come all right.

Blacksmiths often damage a horse's foot by holding red-hot shoes too long at one place and by making shoes too

short and narrow, producing contracted hoofs, corns, side bones, etc. Blacksmiths are often in a hurry and sometimes fit the foot to the shoe instead of the shoe to the foot, which is the proper way. Another fault of too many smiths is they do not cut or trim enough from the bottom of the foot and,

on the other hand, cut back too much of the shell in order to make the foot fit the shoe, exposing too much of the tissues of the foot, thus allowing water to soak in and oil to evaporate. The enamel or coating of the hoof should not be broken or removed more than possible.

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