

**CHOOSING A GOOD STALLION**

Progressive Farmer Confronted With Difficult Problem—Feet and Legs Are Essential.

(By J. S. MONTGOMERY, Minnesota Experiment Station.)

In the spring season the progressive farmer who keeps brood mares is confronted with the problem of choosing a stallion to which to breed. In many cases it is merely a question of eliminating the worst, as there are many communities that are not supplied with a good stallion. In many other cases, however, the saving of five dollars on a service fee plays an all too important part. A saving of five dollars on a service fee often



Fine Specimen of Imported Percheron.

means a loss of \$100 or more when the colt is two years old. When looking at a stallion it is well to ask yourself, "How much would he be worth as a gelding? If his colts are like him, will they be good market geldings? How much improvement will be made when bred to the average farm mares?" The answer to these questions will decide whether the horse is a suitable sire or not. In answering them it should be kept in mind that good feet and legs are the first essential of a marketable horse. If the stallion does not have them he cannot be expected to produce them in his offspring.

**HOW THE SWINE MAKE GAINS**

Importance of Pushing Hogs From Start Is Emphasized by Data Gathered at Wisconsin.

Young animals make more pounds of gain from their food than when older. Dean Henry of Wisconsin gathered a lot of data on this and found that 28-pound pigs required 229 pounds of feed to make 100 pounds of gain, 78-pound pigs required 400 pounds of feed, 128-pound pigs 437 pounds of feed, 174-pound pigs 482 pounds, 226-pound pigs 498 pounds, 271-pound pigs 511 pounds and for the 330-pound hogs it took 535 pounds of food to make the 100 pounds of gain, or nearly twice as much as for the 28-pound pig.

This emphasizes the importance of pushing the hogs from the start in order to make the most economical gains.

It has been found at the North Dakota experiment station that April pigs can be made to weigh 200 to 250 pounds by November 1.

**RAISING MOTHERLESS LAMBS**

Common Practice to Use Cow's Milk, Feeding From Bottle With Suitable Rubber Nipple.

Motherless lambs can be and commonly are, raised on cow's milk, fed from a bottle with rubber nipple—not from a pail, as are calves. Feed them about half a pint of milk or perhaps a little less, three times a day at first, increasing gradually. Warm the milk to a blood heat before feeding.

After a little time they can get some good from grass and skim milk can be substituted for whole milk. Babies are sometimes raised on condensed milk and probably it could be used instead of fresh milk for lambs, but from the standpoint of both expense and results fresh milk is likely to give better satisfaction.

Keep Sheep Pen Level. Sheep get cast when they are on a slope in the pen and a hollow in the pen may be fatal to your best ewe.

Condition of Breed Sows. Keep the brood sows in a fresh, clean condition from the time they are mated until they farrow.

**RAPE PATCH GOOD FOR SUMMER PIG FEED**



A Profitable Bunch of Hogs.

(By JAMES G. FULLER, Wisconsin Experiment Station.)

Sow a patch of rape. It will furnish the growing pigs with a wealth of palatable green feed, and if given a chance to "come back," will produce crop after crop of excellent succulence.

The most satisfactory method of growing this crop for swine is to provide three yards of about equal size and seed them three weeks apart with one and one-fourth bushels of oats and five pounds of rape to the acre. The first lot, of course, is generally sown

as soon in the spring as the ground is dry enough to work.

The pigs can be turned on to the first lot as soon as the rape is from 14 to 18 inches in height, and as soon as they have eaten it down to four or five leaves to the stock, the pigs are transferred to the next patch and so rotated from one lot to the other throughout the summer.

If well supplied with satisfactory forage during the summer months, pigs can be finished for market and fattened off quickly as soon as the crop matures.

**MAKING MONEY IN PORK PRODUCTION**

Quality Is More Important Than Size in Breeders—Avoid Elephantine Animal.

It is mighty hard work to correct your lack of ability as a feeder by buying a coarse-boned breeding boar.

The best type of swine have been evolved from the experience of breeders and packers.

Quality is more important than size in selecting the breeding stock.

We are at the beginning of a period of enlightenment concerning the possibilities of hog farming.

Heavy feeding does not always produce proportionate gains. At five months of age, the pig's most valuable asset is about one hundred and twenty pounds of bone and muscular development, aided and supported by a keen and natural appetite.

Avoid the elephantine hog or steer—they are freaks that cannot be relied upon to give a carcass of great value or weight.

The liberty of pasture affords the growing pig the exercise necessary to produce perfect health and body development.

Get a farm, young man, and raise good hogs. It is a mistake to think we can find profit in buying milk feeds to supplement our corn crop, and neglect to provide pasture and forage crops.

Coarseness indicates low vitality, sluggishness and slow-feeding qualities. The ideals of the breeder and packer are coming more and more toward one common standard. The demands of the packers are the reason for show-yard excellence.

When farmers recognize the possibility of exclusive pork production as a specialized branch of animal industry, and evolve systems of farm management adapted to the business, it will become attractive as a business proposition, and herds of well-bred hogs will become common in many localities where few good hogs are now seen.

**RIGHT TREATMENT FOR FENCE POSTS**

Pile Neatly and Allow Them to Thoroughly Season—Plan for Charring.

When most farmers prepare to build fences they set green posts and then when they begin to rot off at the top of the ground after four or five years they grumble and fret a great deal about the trials and tribulations of fencing. As a matter of fact, if the posts are neatly piled in the dry and allowed to thoroughly season, and then are treated by charring the end which is to be placed in the ground, and the top, which should be slanting, is painted with red lead and linseed oil, they will last 50 or 60 years.

Here is the method for charring. Build a heap of logs 10 or 12 feet long, set it on fire, and when burning briskly, lay upon the fire the ends of as many posts as it will accommodate crosswise. Turn them over a time or two, and when slight coal has formed upon the surface, throw them into a pile and put on others. You can treat four or five hundred a day and if practiced by every farmer when building fences it would save enough in a few years to build good roads in every community.

**MANY LITTLE JOBS FOR BUSY FARMERS**

Lambing Ewes Should Have Proper Shelter—Clean Up the Henhouse.

Sorry you did not fix up a house for the lambing ewes? May lose enough lambs to pay for a new one.

The spring pigs are coming along now. Thousands die every year from too much cold wind.

Get into the grape vines with a knife and pruning shears, if you know how to prune. Otherwise keep out.

Now is the time when the lice get busy in the chicken house. At 'em with the kerosene can and the white-wash brush.

What a pity to let the baby chicks perish in the cold wind for lack of shelter.

The spring crop of calves is coming now. Dehorn them by using a bit of caustic instead of sawing them off a year later.

Do not give the sow's nest too much litter at farrowing time. Many pigs are destroyed by a too full nest.

No nest ever made for a hen beats a half barrel laid on its side, particularly for March weather.

The bees will be taking a spring flight. Examine them after they come back to ascertain if they have enough food to last till the blossoms come.

A strong spring wind will dry all the moisture out of the tree roots if left exposed long while planting.

The climbing cutworm is working away on the newly set trees and vines these nights. Keeps out of sight in daytime. Keep him away by a strip of stiff paper put around the plant and pushed an inch into the soil.

Make a fair written contract with the hired man. Saves misunderstandings.

An hour in the workshop repairing now will save time later when it is more valuable.

The heavy rains and strong winds will push over the fence posts. Straighten them up.

Potatoes will sprout now if given light and air.

**BUCKWHEAT IS BEST GRAIN FOR POULTRY**

Chickens and Turkeys Allowed to Harvest Crop—Trampling Down Does No Damage.

(By A. J. LEGG.)

Buckwheat is the best grain crop that we have ever tried to furnish a foraging ground for poultry.

I sow late in July and allow the chickens and turkeys to harvest it. They are all the better for the exercise and the only cost is for the seed and work of preparing the soil and sowing it.

Late in last July I sowed about one acre where the chickens and turkeys could have free access. They began to work on it as soon as the grains were filled and were at work on it for nearly two months.

If it is trampled down on the ground the grains will not damage unless it is warm enough to sprout them. Buckwheat will lie on the ground all winter and grow in the spring.

A buckwheat stubble makes an excellent feeding ground for poultry during pleasant days throughout the fall and winter season and the poultry enjoy the exercise.

Our hens, pullets and September hatched chicks are all in fine condition, largely due to the buckwheat to which they have free access.

**DAIRY**



**TWELVE GOOD-SILO REASONS**

One Great Obstacle, the Cost, May Be Partly Overcome by Constructing PIT AFFAIR.

Shall I build a silo? This question is being asked by the more enterprising farmers and ranchmen all over the West.

The cost of the silo is the greatest obstacle, but if this stands seriously in the way a pit may be dug and finished at a cost not exceeding fifty to one hundred dollars for material. Pit silos are very satisfactory and are certainly to be desired rather than to have no silo at all.

Twelve good reasons why the farmer should provide himself with a silo are given by T. B. Woodward of the dairy division, United States department of agriculture, in Farmers' Bulletin No. 556. Every one of them touches some spot of vital importance to the feeder.

1. More feed can be stored in a given space in the form of silage than in the form of fodder or hay.

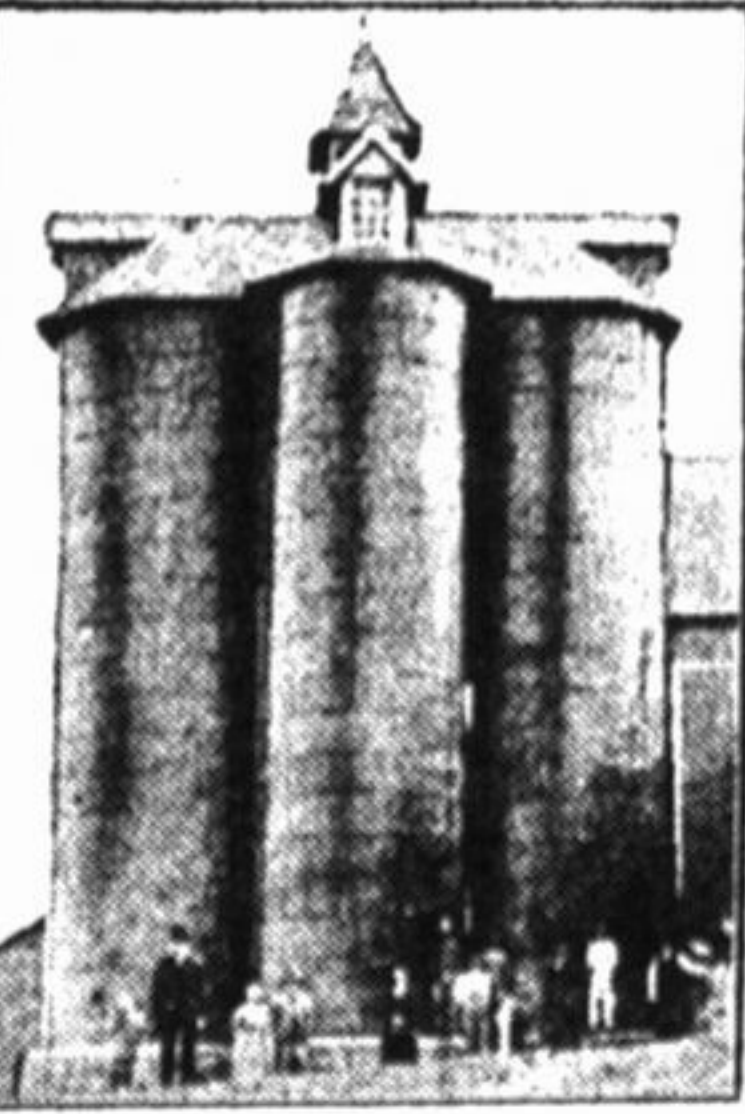
2. There is a smaller loss of food material when a crop is made into silage than when cured as fodder or hay.

3. Corn silage is a more efficient feed than corn fodder.

4. An acre of corn can be placed in the silo at less cost than the same area can be husked and shredded.

5. Crop can be put in the silo during weather that could not be utilized for making hay or curing fodder.

6. More stock can be kept on a



A Battery of Silos on a Pennsylvania Dairy Farm.

given area of land when silage is the basis of the ration.

7. There is less waste in feeding silage than in feeding fodder. Good silage properly fed is all consumed.

8. Silage is very palatable.

9. Silage, like other succulent feeds, has a beneficial effect upon the digestive organs.

10. Silage is the cheapest and best form in which a succulent feed can be provided for winter use.

11. Silage can be used for supplementing pastures more economically than can soiling crops, because it requires less labor, and silage is more palatable.

12. Converting the corn crop into silage clears the land and leaves it ready for another crop.

Almost anything in the way of forage crops may be put into the silo and will keep until it is needed.

**DAIRY NOTES**

Abuse generally educates the cow to kick.

Peanuts make a splendid crop on the dairy or hog farm.

A good dairy cow is the most profitable piece of property on the farm.

Keep the cows clean and you will not have so much trouble with stringy milk.

The income of the dairy is the most constant and systematic income of the entire farm.

For dairy cows the temperature of the barn should not fall below 40 degrees or rise above 60 degrees.

The good milker is the cow that turns the most feed into the largest flow of good, rich, healthful milk.

The young calf's digestion is very easily upset. Be careful that it is rightly fed and kept in clean quarters.

Leave all other work to help a cow that appears to be in trouble, whether it is your cow or your neighbor's.

Carelessness is one of the most common causes of failure on the dairy farm. Look to your work and to the details every day.

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