

HORSE BITS

With Lola Wood

Wintering Out



Wintering Out is the most normal method, especially if you have a horse with respiratory problems. It will be provided with one of the ingredients necessary to a healthy horse; fresh air. Unfortunately, some people don't seem to realize that horses need more than fresh air to thrive, let alone survive.

Before you consider wintering out, you must consider the physical condition of your animal. I do not recommend it if they are old or weak. Have a fecal count done first, in case your horse is infested with parasites. He cannot support a load of worms and himself too. Your veterinarian will advise you as to a proper worming routine.

He also needs plenty of water. Certainly he can eat snow, but do you realize how much snow he would have to eat to get his ten to twelve gallons per day? There are automatic waterers available which do not freeze.

After the first killing frost there is very little nourishment in the grass, so you must provide hay and other supplements. Your horse could be a rack of bones under that shaggy coat.

Be sure and check his coat for lice and mange because they could sap his strength. As a matter of fact, he should be checked every day for injuries as well.

Even though his hooves do not grow rapidly in winter they should be checked regularly. If you are riding or driving him, he needs shoes with studs for the ice. Beware! If your animals fight, they could really injure each other.

He needs some shelter from the wind, and worst of all, ice storms.

So you see, Wintering Out does not mean "stick em out in the back forty and forget em". But, done properly, you can keep your horse healthy and even perhaps prolong his life.

For answers to your horse problems, write to Lola Wood, Box 101, Russell, Ont.

Philippe Robert
Funeral Home
Limited
Owner of
WARNER FUNERAL HOME
132 Castor St., Russell

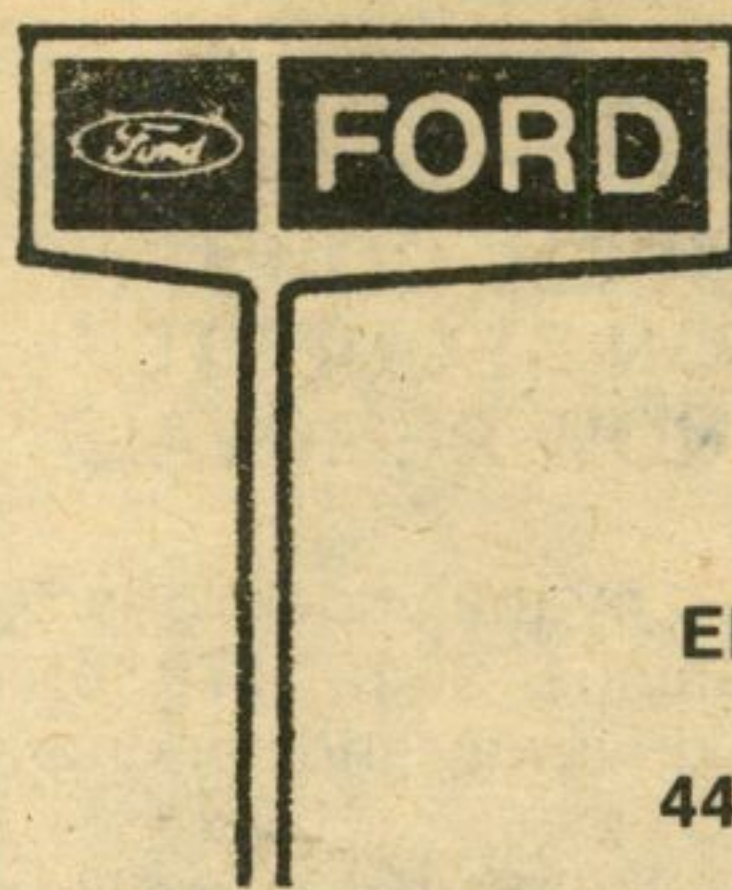
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