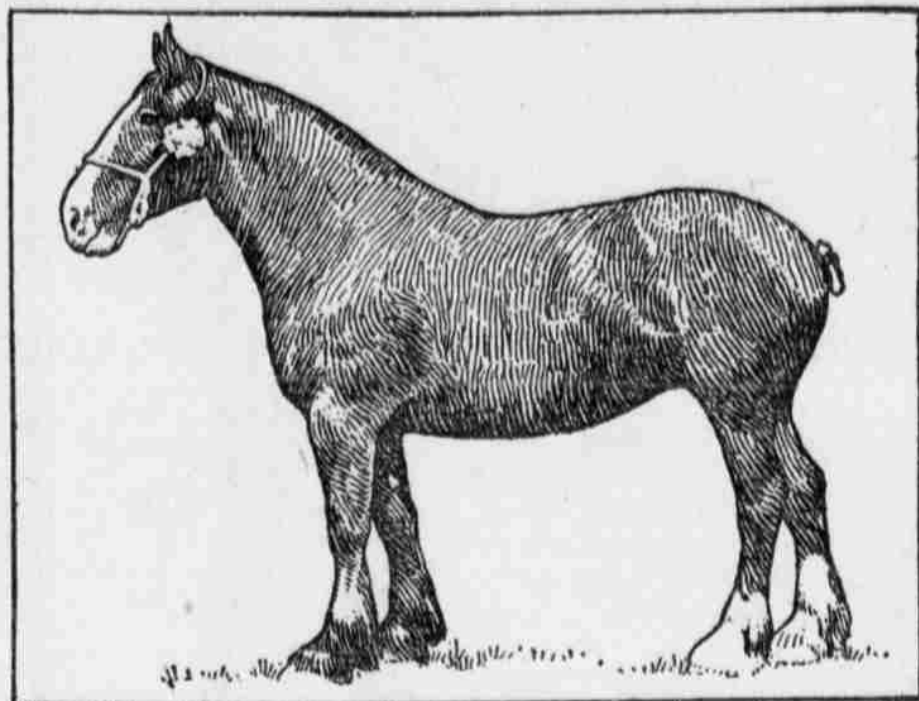


## BREEDING HORSES SUITABLE FOR GENERAL WORK ON FARM

English Clydesdales and Crosses Resulting From Use of French or German Coach Animals Make Excellent All-Round Team—Pull Almost Any Load Within Reason.



Clydesdale Filly "Thelma Second."

Farmers in the south still cling to the light breeds of horses, mainly because there is more horseback riding done, and the average farmer wants a horse for all-around purposes.

In the north, the heavy breeds, such as the Percherons, Clydes and Shires are most generally used.

The wise farmer will raise the type of horse best adapted to his needs. Generally speaking, where only one team can be kept on the farm, the horses should be sizeable enough to pull a plow or draw a heavy wagon load with comparative ease, and at the same time light enough to get along over the road with a surrey or light rig at a fairly good gait.

If a farmer keeps a number of horses he will, of course, use the heavy type for plowing and other heavy farm work, and keep a light harness team for the road.

It is a great mistake to attempt to

plow with a team of horses of the harness type. Farmers are plowing deeply these days, and it is distressing to see a light team struggling with a heavy plow.

The general tendency, therefore, is, when a light team is used, to allow the plow to skim the ground in order to ease up on the team. If a team of sturdy draft horses, weighing 1,300 to 1,500 each is used, they walk along with a plow, running from six to eight inches deep, without the slightest distress.

The English Clydesdales and crosses resulting from the use of French or German coach horses make a good all-around farm team. The infusion of the French or German Coach blood produces a horse of good action, while the blood of the Clydesdales, Shires and Percherons keeps him heavy enough, and close enough to the ground to pull almost any load within reason.

work horse or trotter. This not only teaches the colt to lead, but also shows it its place. When the harness is to be put on it should be done very gently, letting the colt become used to it. Then drive it, using short lines. When the colt is old enough to do light work give it a few lessons with the wagon, plow, harrow or any two-horse implement, always beside a well-broken horse to act as teacher.

### Raising Early Lambs.

The sole object in raising early lambs is to produce a fine animal of good size and flesh and get him to market at the earliest possible moment. To do that requires good feeding, good care and good management from the time he is born until he is sent to market.

### Silage Needs a Balance.

Cows should never be fed exclusively on silage. They need some dry forage to go with it; besides, silage is a carbonaceous food, and needs some more nitrogenous food to go with it to make a well-balanced ration.

## NOTES FROM MEADOWBROOK FARM



Keep nothing but pure breeds.  
Peat soils need potassium (potash).  
Be careful of caked udders in the ewes.  
The natural color of butter is that found in June.  
A deep bed will often cause the loss of a number of pigs.  
A collar that fits is the best preventive for sore shoulders.  
Never whip a horse when he shies. It will increase his fear.

Give the sows plenty of clean water to drink. Take the chill off.

If the fodder is getting scarce, better buy than stint the cows.

A good agitator on the spray pump is as important as a good pump.

Save all the hog manure. You have none on the farm that is richer.

In choosing eggs for hatching, try to get those from the best hens you have.

With three cows you need a cream separator; with ten, you must have a silo.

File the crosscut saw yourself; you will thus soon save enough to buy a new saw.

The churn should be thoroughly scalded and then cooled before cream is put in.

It is a losing proposition to try to raise 200 chicks where there is room for only 50.

A little oil meal or a few potatoes will help the horses get rid of their winter hair.

Before you start your incubator, get out the manufacturers' directions and re-read carefully.

Do not use any ill-formed eggs for hatching, nor any that are unnaturally long, or nearly round.

Keep your fowls on the same footing that you keep your cattle, and you will surely be rewarded.

Most anyone can have a small flock and keep from eight to a dozen hens and feed on table scraps.

Be sure the fenders are in position in the farrowing pens to prevent the sows laying on the young pigs.

Place the bee hives on string supports about eight inches from the ground to prevent dampness and cold.

Cold, raw winds make chapped teats all the worse. Have a small jar of vaseline handy at milking time and use it.

It costs a good deal of money to buy a satisfactory team. In most cases this can be avoided by the farmer raising his own.

"It is hard for an empty sack to stand straight, but it is still harder for a lazy man to succeed in the dairy business."

Every four years 1,000 pounds of rock phosphate is needed to keep up the phosphorus content of average corn belt soil.

An occasional colt or young horse to sell, even when one is not making a business of raising horses, is a help to any farmer.

Get after the San Jose scale. What a melleiferous name this little beast sails under! But cover him with Bordeaux all the same.

The time to plant grape cuttings is in early spring, as soon as the ground can be worked. Slant the cuttings a little and leave only one bud above ground.

If you are a beginner with sheep go slow until you have mastered the industry. As in poultrying or any other like business, experience is the safe, sure teacher.

Neglected fruit trees are not only an eyesore, but soon become so pest infested as to make them a menace to fruit growing in the whole neighborhood. Better none at all than the neglected kind.

The New Jersey experiment station announces that Professor Halsted has succeeded in growing a seedless tomato. Not every fruit grown is seedless, plenty of them containing from ten to twenty seeds, but many others contain none at all and all are of excellent flavor.

Don't forget the water.  
Clean out feed troughs daily.  
Pekins lay from 120 to 170 eggs per year.  
Alsike clover helps out the stand of red clover.

A purplish red comb indicates bad health in a fowl.

Test out infertile eggs on tenth and seventeenth days.

A quart of mixed feed is about right for twelve hens.

If you wish to succeed, know that your hens are comfortable.

Do not make too violent crosses. Select a type and stick to it.

It is not so much the make of incubator as the man who runs it.

Air-slaked lime is a valuable disinfectant in the poultry house.

Variety is always good, but sudden and abrupt changes are dangerous.

It pays in more ways than one to be on friendly terms with the heifers.

The sort of seed corn to select is the kind that produces bushels per acre.

Correct sour or acid soil with one to five tons per acre of crushed limestone.

To maintain normal soil fertility the supply of humus must be conserved.

The business hen is the hen that puts her daily credits in the egg basket.

The only proper way to replenish the flock is to save the best lambs each year.

A common cause of slow churning is an overfilled churn. Half full is about right.

Dirty collars are probably as responsible for sore shoulders as ill-fitting ones.

Keep the horses well cleaned, but remember that you can be cruel with the curry comb.

The hopper system of feeding is a good one, but put only one kind of feed in one hopper.

The fault of too many dairy farmers is failure to make the cows produce up to their limit.

Too much corn has caused the loss of many a fine litter of pigs, and often the loss of the sow as well.

In raising horses for one's own use it should be done as intelligently as if it were to be a regular business.

Spraying is one of the unavoidable tasks of the farmer who would keep his orchard in desirable condition.

Arsenate of lead which is held over from the year before will be good if it has not dried out and become a hard lump.

When turkeys are penned up to fatten for market, good results are not obtained if they are cramped for room.

Now and then put a little brine on the straw. It acts as an appetizer, and the sheep clean up the straw better.

A heifer may give as much milk in proportion to the food eaten as a mature cow, and make some growth in addition.

A paint brush that has become hardened with paint can be made soft and pliable by immersing it in boiling vinegar.

It is just as easy to multiply defects in breeding as it is to strengthen good points, and many people are doing the former.

The colt crop on the general farm may be made a by-product that will cost very little, but swell the bank account considerably.

Seed corn? Of course you have it all in good shape and ready for the germination test. Do not plant a grain unless you know it comes from sound stock.

The best medicine in the world for poultry are dry, clean quarters and lots of sunshine. Better lose every other poultry recipe known than to forget this.

The great need of the day is educated dairymen, men who understand the care and feeding of the cow as well as the successful marketing of her products.

Test the spray hose several days before needed for spraying. Try it with the highest pressure you will use. If it bursts easily or leaks, make the needed repairs in it, or get a new hose. It will save delays at a critical time.

Something similar to a scantling, a foot or two from the ground, is the only proper perch for turkeys. This allows the breastbones to grow straight, making the birds worth a cent or two more per pound on the market.

## DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE MAKING UNIQUE EXPERIMENTS

Establishes Garden on Pacific Coast for Culture and Propagation of Holland Bulbs—Compare Favorably With, if They Do Not Surpass the Imported Article.



A Fine Turnip Field in Holland.

Comparatively few know of the interesting experiments that are being carried on at the bulb garden near the town of Bellingham, Washington, under the direction of the secretary of agriculture.

For years the United States has been sending to Holland and European countries many thousands of dollars annually for hyacinth, tulip, narcissus, and crocus bulbs. The purchase of these bulbs had constantly increased until the past year, when over a million dollars' worth were imported.

In 1908 the secretary of agriculture decided to establish on the Pacific coast a garden for the culture and propagation of Holland bulbs, and a point on Puget Sound near to the town of Bellingham was selected as having a suitable soil and climate for this work. A tract of ten acres was leased through the Bellingham board of trade and the necessary buildings erected and turned over to the department of agriculture for the purpose of demonstrating whether or not the Holland bulbs could be grown successfully at that point.

The department commenced work at

A serious drawback to the production of Holland bulbs on the coast is the heavy expense of freight shipments across the continent, but when shipment can be made by water, as will be the case after the completion of the Panama canal, it should be possible to deliver such bulbs at the port of New York almost as cheaply as they can be brought from Europe. Furthermore, the demand for such bulbs for planting on the Pacific coast is rapidly increasing.

These experiments are solely for the purpose of showing prospective bulb growers what can be done in growing these bulbs in the United States. The gardens are always open to the public, and when the bulbs are in bloom thousands avail themselves of the opportunity to visit the gardens and enjoy the flowers. At that time it is a veritable little Holland. Thousands upon thousands of hyacinths, tulips and narcissus in all colors and nearly all in flower at once can be seen.

Careful records are being kept and much valuable information is being collected in connection with the bulb experiments which will, eventually, be



Gathering Hyacinth Blooms in Holland.

once, and the same year planted over 170,000 bulbs. From that time the work has gone on increasing until the present year, when over 869,000 bulbs were planted. The increase in the number of bulbs raised has been very gratifying; each bulb yielding the maximum number of young ones, which have proved equal, if not superior, to the results obtained in Holland.

It is believed that bulbs can be grown on the Pacific coast, and of a quality that will compare favorably with, and in many ways surpass, the imported article, the cost of production and marketing being now the chief obstacles.

An effort is being made to overcome the differences between the high price of labor in America and the cheap labor of Europe by inventing appliances to lessen the hand labor required in bulb production, and the substitution of horse power for many of the operations performed entirely by hand in Europe has reduced the cost of production considerably. In this way it is hoped that growers in the United States will be able to compete successfully with the European bulb growers.

As the demand for such flower roots is increasing rapidly and bids fair to double in value within a few years, it offers a promising field for the investment of American capital and the establishment of a new and profitable industry on the Pacific coast which will keep at home the large amount of money now being sent abroad annually for bulbs.

## CLOVER IS ONE OF BEST CROPS

Valuable for Storing Up Nitrogen in the Soil in a Form Available for Other Plants.

Clover is at the same time one of the best feeding crops and one of the best tillage crops. It acts both as a subsoiler and drainer. The subjects of clover and fertility are closely interwoven, and although they are as old as history to many farmers, they are a new thing, and there are problems connected with them which are not yet solved.

The abuse of clover consists in growing it for the sole purpose of hay or grain to be sold off the land. The use of it consists in growing it for storing up nitrogen in the soil in a form available for other crops, which in

turn should be fed out on the farm, and the manure restored to the soil. By using clover, without abusing it, it is possible to increase the supply of nitrogen in the soil to almost any extent, and at the same time maintain the other elements. These elements in their available form are constantly increased by the liberating of the nitrogen in the soil itself through the action of frost, water and tillage; and hence the use of clover will enable the farmer to keep his land constantly in a very high state of fertility, while the abuse of it will enable him to make it more absolutely and utterly barren.

Clover hay properly cured makes an acceptable food for all stock. It is not usually considered a satisfactory hay for the horse, the dust it carries proving very detrimental. A limited quantity of good clover hay may, however, be fed to horses of all kinds, with favorable results. If the hay is dusty, it should be moistened with a little water before feeding.

## MAKING FRIENDS WITH THE COLTS

By Doing So Farmer Will Not Have So Much Trouble in Breaking in the Young Animals.

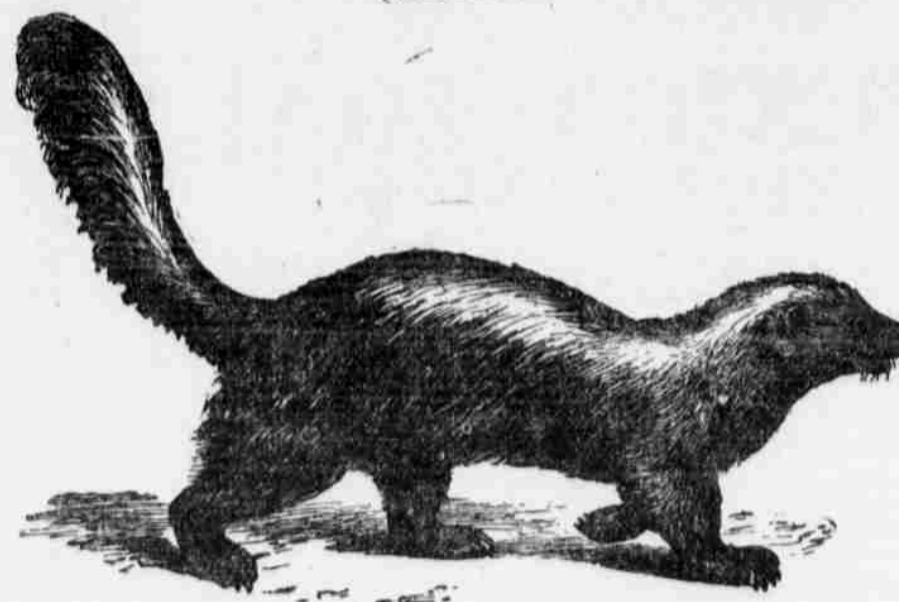
Many good horses are spoiled when colts by improper training. They may have been tamed by children, whereupon they developed a mean disposition.

To make a colt easy to break, you should make friends with it. Gain its confidence by feeding it from your hand, petting and currying. A colt is nearly half broken when you can catch it anywhere.

The colt should first be halterbroke. At first you will need the assistance of a driver, but he should be dispensed with as soon as possible.

A good way to halterbreak a colt is alongside a horse. The rider can act as leader and driver. Some persons tie the colt to the harness of the

## FEW HINTS ON SKUNK FARMING



Many attempts have been made to raise skunks for their fur, but the enterprises have usually been given up as unprofitable. According to the biological survey of the United States department of agriculture, the chief causes of failure have been cost of fencing inclosures, cost of maintenance or lack of experience, leading to overcrowding and overfeeding the animals. In many cases, where the animals were successfully reared, it was found that the expense of feeding them to maturity exceeded the value of the fur, while in other instances the antipathy of the neighbors led to the abandonment of the experiments. At present the value of the best black skins would probably allow a margin of profit in rearing this class of skunks. The survey gives the following hints on skunk farming:

In the matter of food, the chief aim should be to supply a suitable and sufficient diet at reasonable cost. A certain proportion of meat is necessary, but the animals eat also bread, green corn, clover, tomatoes and many other

vegetable substances. Butcher and table scraps given when fresh are the main reliance. The food should not be salted, and fresh water should be supplied regularly.

Skunks are especially fond of insects, and if the pens are large enough and favorably placed, the animals will forage for a part of their food.

At least an acre of ground should be inclosed for each fifty skunks, and even then there is danger of cannibalism unless there are plenty of separate dens for the females. The fence should be made of poultry netting 1 1/2-inch mesh. The posts should be set in ditches 18 inches or more in depth, which should be filled with broken stone or concrete. Another plan is to extend the wire netting underground. The fence should be three or four feet high and have an overhang at the top to keep the animals from climbing over.

Skunks breed once a year and produce from six to eight young. They are born in May or June, and mature by December.