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4H Colt Club Manual

Michigan State University Cooperative Extension Service

4-H Club Bulletin

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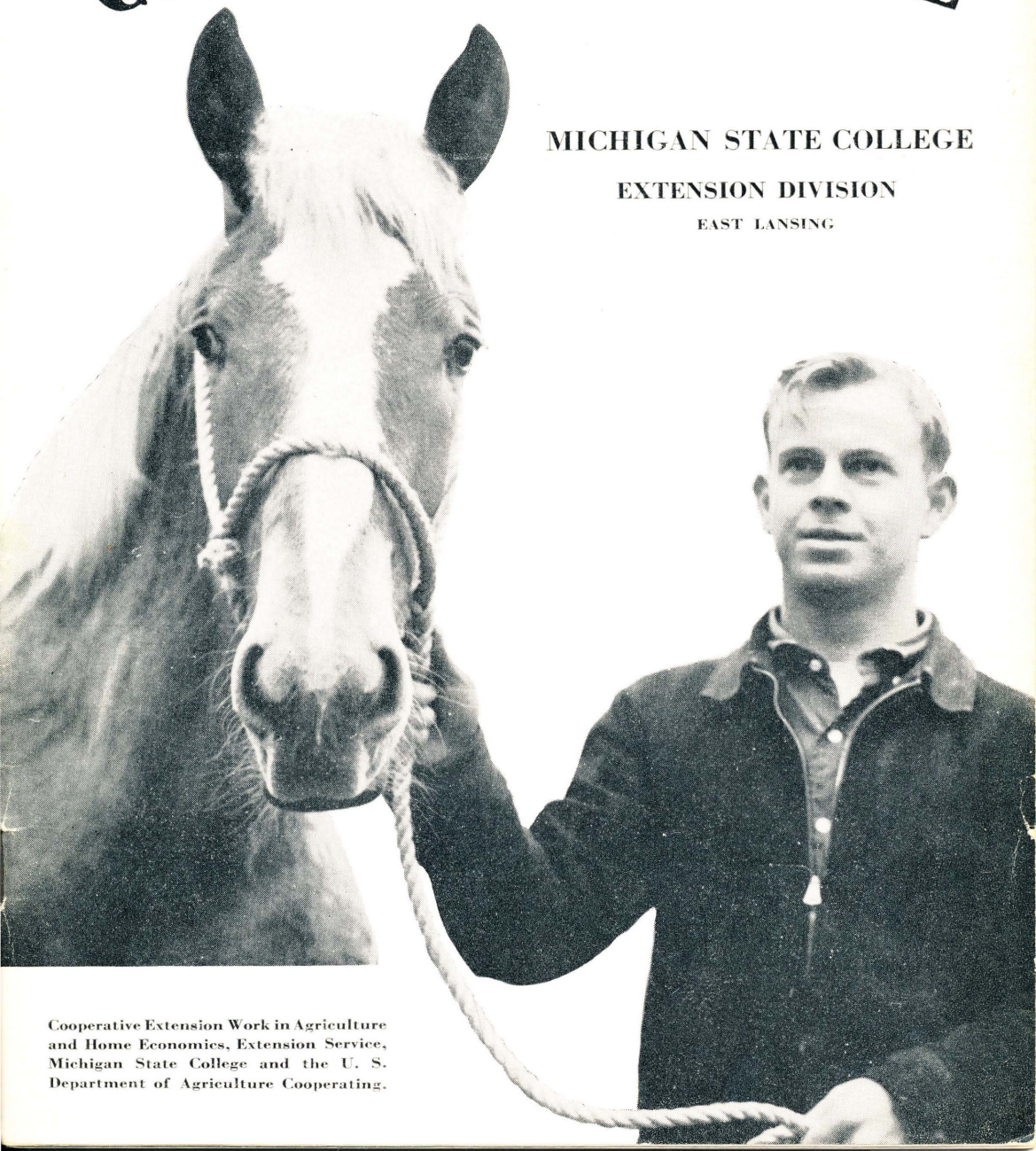
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**COLT CLUB MANUAL**

**MICHIGAN STATE COLLEGE**  
**EXTENSION DIVISION**  
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Cooperative Extension Work in Agriculture  
and Home Economics, Extension Service,  
Michigan State College and the U. S.  
Department of Agriculture Cooperating.

# 4-H COLT CLUB MANUAL

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## PURPOSE OF 4-H COLT CLUB WORK

The purpose of 4-H Club Work is to improve rural boys and girls through group training and bring to them the four-fold benefits of the development of the Head, Heart, Hands, and Health. Colt clubs are organized in order that farm boys and girls interested in horses may learn of their care, feed, management, and training. The animal used should be thought of primarily as replacement of the farm work horses.

**Ownership:** Ownership of a colt for a 4-H Colt Club is strongly encouraged but not required. The feeding, care, management and training of the colt **must** be done by the club member. In most cases the colt used will be one already on the farm. The club member **must live** on the farm where the colt is kept.

## REQUIREMENTS FOR 4-H COLT CLUB WORK

1. **Age:** Any boy or girl who has reached his or her thirteenth (13th) and has not passed his twenty-first (21st) birthday on July 1 is eligible.

2. **Local Clubs:** Five or more members are necessary for the organization of a club. **Note:** A club group may have other projects represented in its membership.

3. **Local Leader:** Each club must have a local leader.

4. **Monthly Meetings:** The members should meet at least once each month between February and October. However, a club that meets throughout the year is more desirable.

5. **Weights:** A weight card showing the beginning weight (except for foals) and the closing weight must be filled out by the club member and sent (through the county extension agent) to the 4-H Club Department, Michigan State College, East Lansing. (**See Projects for date of beginning and closing weights.**) Weights of **mares** in the breeding project are not necessary.

6. **Records:** Every club member must keep accurate weight, feed and cost records between dates indicated. These must be presented for inspection at the time of show and filed with the county extension agent at the close of the project. Any member failing to do this (except in case of illness) shall not be eligible to enroll the following

year. No club member shall be eligible to exhibit at the state shows who did not file a weight card of his colt at the beginning of the project year.

## AWARDS

1. The Michigan State Board of Agriculture awards three scholarships to club members for use at Michigan State College.

2. The 4-H Club Department awards educational trips to 4-H Club Week at the Michigan State College and the other state camps for outstanding achievement.

3. Trips to the Michigan State Fair and to the International Livestock Show are awarded to outstanding 4-H judges and demonstrators.

### Basis of Above Awards

The foregoing awards are made on the basis of: a. The club member's interest and attitude, b. Growth and development made by his animal, c. Completeness and accuracy of report and story, and d. Activities participated in and ability as a judge or in demonstration work.

## PROJECTS

**Management Projects:** (A colt club member must start with a foal or yearling except as noted with mare and foal. A horse's age is computed from January 1. Foals born any time before January 1 will be classed as yearlings the following year.)

### I. FOAL CARE AND MANAGEMENT

1. Any purebred or grade draft colt, foaled previous to June 15 is eligible. Stallion foals may be used first year only.
2. Feed records begin June 15 and close September 30.
3. Members required to weigh colt at the close but not at the start.
4. A community or county show should be encouraged.

**Note:** A 4-H member using a foal for his project is encouraged to enter the foal in the Michigan Colt Development Contest not later than July. Obtain entry blank from your county agricultural agent or from the Animal Husbandry Department, Michigan State College, East Lansing.

### II. YEARLING CARE AND MANAGEMENT

1. Foals used in the club the previous year or any desirable colt foaled during the previous year (stallions are not eligible).
2. Members must keep a minimum of seven months' feed record beginning March 1 and closing September 30. They should, where practicable, keep a full year record beginning November 1.
3. Weigh the yearling March 1 and September 30.
4. A community or county show is required.

III. TWO YEAR-OLD'S CARE AND MANAGEMENT. (Not eligible as a beginning project.)

1. Continued with the **same animal** and requirements as in II (Yearlings).

IV. THREE YEAR-OLD'S CARE AND MANAGEMENT. (Not eligible as a beginning project.)

1. Continued with the **same animal** and requirements as in II and III.

**Note:** The general plan of the colt project is that the club member once enrolled will continue and complete his **Management Projects** with the **same animal** with which he starts. If he wishes to continue as a colt club member, he will enroll in the Mare and Foal Projects. The exceptions to this plan are:

1. The member who starts with a grade may later change to a purebred, provided the animal is registered in his name.
2. The member who has started with an inferior individual and has completed the **Yearling Project** may change his animal provided he starts with another yearling.
3. The member who loses his animal through injury or death or whose animal develops a pronounced unsoundness may start with the Yearling Project.

**Permission** must be obtained from the 4-H Club Department, Michigan State College, to make changes in the foregoing exceptions and any others where a change would be to the educational interest of the club member.

V. MARE AND FOAL (BREEDING)

1. When the club member has completed at least three of the four "Care and Management Projects" listed above, he may take a Breeding Project of the mare and foal, or if he is 16 years old he may begin with a mare and foal and use the first foal to complete the above projects. (Stallion foals in the breeding project are eligible the first year only and must not be used thereafter unless gelded.)

Records must be kept for the full year on the mare and foal, beginning any time up to foaling (preferably November 1). The Breeding Club member must keep accurate feed and weight records on all horses he owns.

**Note:** Where a club member has completed the Care and Management Projects and then enters a breeding project, it is advisable for him to have a separate class in which to exhibit, such as:

- a. Mare and foal, or
- b. Produce of dam, which will include two animals under three years old owned by the club member and on which he is keeping complete records. If he does not own the mare he should exhibit only in the Mare and Foal class.

## ORGANIZATION OF 4-H COLT CLUBS

Where there is a county extension agent in a county, the colt club should be organized under his direction and in accordance with the 4-H Club program in the county and rules and requirements of the 4-H Club Department, Michigan State College. If there is no extension agent in the county, some local person must assume the responsibility for the organization work.

1. The colt club should be discussed locally with horsemen, boys and girls and their parents.

2. If the interest justifies, a meeting should be called so that prospective club members with their parents may have the work presented by the county extension agent.

3. Obtain the names and addresses of prospective club members, and if the parents are present make sure they understand that the club member will be expected to attend the 4-H meetings and participate in the entire program. If the parents are not present, someone should see them personally and outline the program to them.

4. Following the preliminary meeting, a regular organization meeting of the members should be called. At this meeting officers should be elected and a definite meeting date announced. Each member should advise the leader as to how he will obtain and what age colt he will use.

5. A local leader (preferably a horseman) should be selected.

6. A club may include members in several different colt projects or members in some of the other 4-H projects, preferably other livestock.

7. Colt clubs are usually organized in January or February.



Fig. 1. 4-H Colt Club exhibit in Calhoun County.

**Suggestions for the Local Leader:**

1. Emphasize the three phases of 4-H Club Work: a. Business meeting, b. Educational program, and c. Social or recreational period.
2. Help plan a definite program for the season's work; that is, monthly meetings, judging tours, picnics and exhibits.
3. Insist on beginning and closing weights of animals and accurate feed records. See that the feed report is turned in to the county extension agent at the close of the project.
4. Learn a number of simple games, or better yet have a club member responsible for this part of the program.
5. Encourage every member to continue the work and make a report. Be sure to turn in the feed record card with the report.
6. Be sure that your enrollment is sent to your county extension agent as soon as the club is organized.
7. See that the weight cards for each member are turned in to the county extension agent.

**Materials You Need:**

Obtain from your county extension agent as soon as the enrollment is turned in:

1. 4-H Colt Club manual—one for each member.
2. 4-H Colt Club record book—one for each member.
3. 4-H feed record card—one for each member.
4. One enrollment blank for the club.
5. One secretary's record book for the club.

**Reference Material:**

The following books and bulletins are given as reference material for those who are interested in a further study of horses:

"Horses—Selecting, Fitting and Showing"—published by the Interstate Printers, Danville, Ill.

"Horse Breaking"—Iowa Horse and Mule Association, Des Moines, Iowa.

"Horse and Mule Power"—Horse and Mule Association of America, 706 South Dearborn Street, Chicago, Ill.

The following bulletins may be obtained through your county extension office, or from the Bureau of Publications, U. S. Department of Agriculture, Washington, D. C. (for 5¢ per copy) or through your Congressman or U. S. Senator:

**FARMERS' BULLETINS**

- 619F—"Breeds of Draft Horses"
- 779F—"How to Select a Sound Horse"
- 803F—"Horse Breeding Suggestions for Farmers"
- 1030F—"Feeding Horses"
- 1419F—"Care and Management of Farm Work Horses"
- 1535F—"Farm Horse-shoeing"
- 1503F—"The Horse Bots and Their Control"
- 148C—"Parasites and Parasitic Diseases of Horses"

### Michigan State College Publications

These may be obtained from your county extension agent or by writing the Bulletin Department, Michigan State College, East Lansing, Mich.

- "Horse Breeding and Management," by Ralph Hudson
- C 65—"Alfalfa for Horses"
- S253—"Liberal vs. Limited Rations for Draft Colts in Michigan"
- E128—"The Mare and Foal"
- E167—"Stallion Management"
- E174—"Controlling Horse Parasites"
- E197—"Guides for Horse Buyers"

Reviews for each year and other helpful information in bulletin form may be secured through draft horse breed associations such as Belgian Association, Wabash, Ind., and Percheron Association, Union Stock Yards, Chicago, Ill.

## CLUB MEETINGS—SUGGESTED PROGRAM DEMONSTRATIONS

### Club Meetings

Colt club members should hold meetings at least once a month during the period of the project and preferably throughout the year. A study of feeding and care, training, showing, etc., should be taken up at these meetings. These topics can best be taken up through demonstrations and talks by the club members themselves, local horsemen and the local leader.

### General Suggestions for Meetings

1. Begin meeting **on time**. If the habit of promptness is formed, members will make an effort to be present when the meeting starts.
2. Try to make the meeting interesting, business-like, and to the point. Require regular parliamentary practice during the business meetings.
3. In conducting meetings, use as a guide the outline under "The Club Meeting Program" given in the secretary's record book.
4. Study and work on animals at the home of the club member where the meeting is held.
5. Finish business and educational program and adjourn meeting previous to games, refreshments, or out-of-door demonstrations.

This bulletin contains suggested subjects for a number of club meetings. A year's program with a timely topic may be worked out on the same basis.

### Organization of the Club—January (See secretary's record book)—

- A. Business meeting—the local leader in charge
  1. Explanation of the duties of the club officers and members.
  2. Election of the club officers from the membership in the club—president, vice president, and secretary-treasurer. It is also desirable for the club to have a club reporter and a song or yell leader.
  3. Selection of a name for the club.
  4. Selection of a time and place for the regular meetings.

- B. Explanation of the Colt Club project requirements (See page 3 of this bulletin.)
1. Distribution of club literature and explanation of use (Report blanks may be distributed at February meeting.)
  2. Explanation of club motto, club colors, club emblem and club pledge (See back cover of this bulletin.)
  3. Set club goals, such as
    - a. Every club member to complete work, and exhibit.
    - b. Every member to try for a place on the demonstration and judging team.
    - c. Every member learn to ride and drive.
  4. Discussion of main club events for the year.
  5. Discussion—For February—Selection of the Colt, page 20.
  6. Assignment of the work for the next meeting.
    - a. Club pledge to be learned by all members by the next meeting.
    - b. At the February meeting we shall discuss "Shelter and Feeding the Yearling," pages 22 and 25.
    - c. Assignment of one or more topics to be used in response to roll call, as—
      - (1) Club pledge
      - (2) Club motto
      - (3) Club colors
      - (4) A ration for a yearling during the winter
- C. Adjournment and then the social period or recreation
- Note:** Set a definite day for the meeting each month. The local leader or club president should announce at each meeting, a. Time and place of next meeting, b. Topic to be used in answering roll call, and c. Lesson assignment.

### Club Meeting—February—

- A. The business meeting—the club president in charge
- Follow outline in secretary's record book (The Club Meeting Program, page 8.)
- Open meeting by repeating the National 4-H Club Pledge as follows:
- I pledge my **Head** to clearer thinking  
My **Heart** to greater loyalty  
My **Hands** to larger service, and  
My **Health** to better living  
For My Club, My Community and My Country.
1. Roll call by the secretary with responses as assigned at the previous meeting.
  2. Reading of the minutes of the last meeting by the secretary.
  3. Unfinished business from the last meeting.
    - a. Appointment of committees on Recreation, Educational Program and Refreshments (On each one of these committees one adult in the community might be appointed, but the chairman should be a 4-H Club member.)

4. New Business (Mention might be made that some time will be spent at each meeting on parliamentary law. See secretary's record book.)

**Note:** If the next phase of the meeting is to be a demonstration, the meeting should be adjourned by the president and transferred to the local leader. Otherwise, transfer the meeting to local leader, and he will adjourn it for the social period.

B. Instructions, discussions and demonstrations—the local leader in charge

1. Rations for the yearling (page 22 of this bulletin)  
Shelter (page 25 of this bulletin)
2. Demonstration on mixing the colt's ration  
Local Leader's announcements for March meeting
  - a. Distribute and explain the keeping of the feed record and feed record card. Also distribute weighing cards and ask that they be returned at the March meeting.
  - b. Discussion topic for March will be "Shelter and Exercise"
  - c. Time and place of next meeting
  - d. Topics for roll call, as:
    - (1) How to train the colt to lead
    - (2) Weight of my colt
  - e. Assignment of individual demonstration

C. The social and recreational period

Similar meetings should be planned for each month.

Topic for March—Already assigned

Topic for April—Study of types and draft breeds

Topic for May—Care of the foot

Topic for June—Feeding for the show

Topic for July—Tour to see the club colts—Special emphasis on decorating and training for show

Topic for August—The exhibit

Topic for September—Review of lessons learned at the exhibit

Topic for October—Achievement program. The local club should bring the work to a close with some kind of achievement program. This might be a pot-luck dinner for all families with members in the club. Each member should turn in his feed record book and feed card to the local leader so that these could be sent to the county extension agent.

The program should include:

1. Typical meeting by the club
2. Talk on the club's achievement by a club member
3. Team demonstration of something learned during the year
4. Plans for next year

### Demonstrations

Insofar as possible, all club members should be instructed in the regular club meetings by the demonstration method. As a usual thing, one or more members of each club may begin demonstrating useful phases of the work, before the club soon after the subjects have been demonstrated to the club group by the leader.

After two or three months of practical experience in handling his animal, all mature club members should be able to give public team demonstrations. The scope of the team demonstration should be limited to the essential subjects of some phase of the work already taken up. A team of two of the best demonstrators should be selected from the membership of one club by individual try-outs in competition.

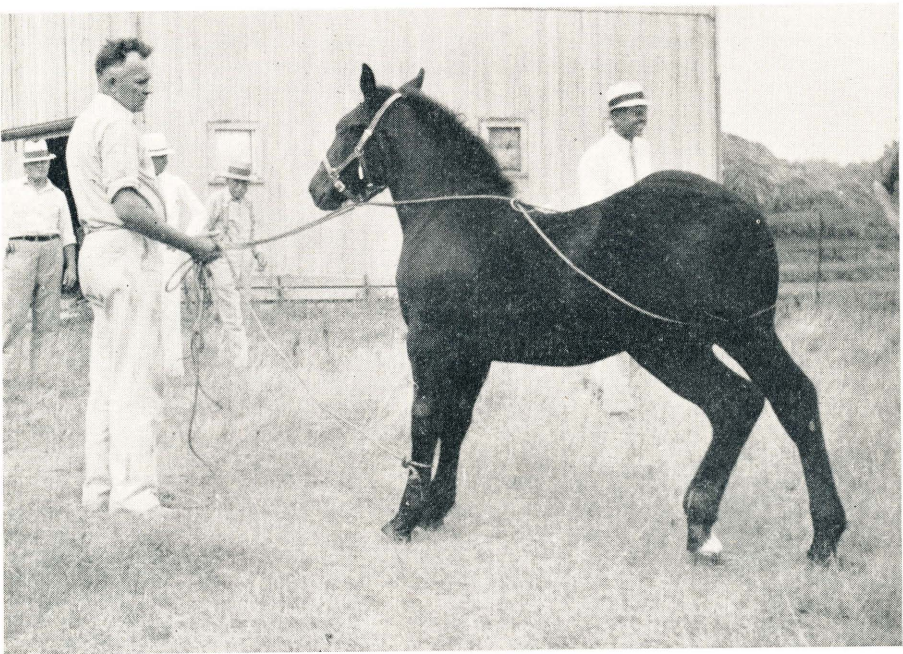


Fig. 2. The Extension Specialist giving instruction on teaching the colt to lead.

### Suggested Subjects for Team Demonstrations

1. Decorating the horse for show
2. Mixing rations
3. Care of the horse's feet
4. Training to lead and show
5. Grooming the horse

Any approved practice may be demonstrated which lends itself to demonstration methods of presentation.

### A TYPICAL TEAM DEMONSTRATION FOR COLT CLUB MEMBERS

*Title:* Grooming the Horse.

*Team:* Two members of the club designed as "A" and "B".

*Reference:* 4-H Colt Club bulletin, page 28.

*Equipment:* (1). Dull Curry Comb  
(2). Rice Root Brush  
(3). Bristle Brush  
(4). Flannel Rub Rag  
(5). Sponge  
(6). Hoof Pick

*Time:* Fifteen to twenty minutes.

| <i>"A" speaks and demonstrates</i>  | <i>"B" assists</i>  |
|---|---|
| <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Leads in giving club pledge.</li> <li>2. Gives brief history of club.</li> <li>3. Introduces team-mate and self.</li> <li>4. States title of demonstration.</li> <li>5. States object of demonstration.</li> <li>6. Lists equipment to be used.</li> <li>7. Gives reasons for grooming and</li> <li>8. Demonstrates use of brush and comb to clean the skin and hair. Describing proper use of comb to avoid injury to horse, limitation of the comb and does a good job of cleaning the animal, using Rice Root Brush mainly.</li> <li>9. Introduces "B" who will continue the demonstration.</li> </ol> | <p>Joins with "A".<br/>Stands at attention.<br/>Gets horse to be groomed and holds in convenient position.<br/>Holds horse and assists, if necessary.</p>   |
| <p>Holds horse.</p>   | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>10. "B" demonstrates use of Bristle Brush to clean the coat and hide of the horse and straighten the hair. Does a thorough job while explaining what, why and how it is done.</li> <li>11. Cleans foretop and ears.</li> <li>12. Demonstrates use of sponge and water to clean eyes, mouth and tail setting.</li> <li>13. Demonstrates use of a cloth for the rub-down while explaining the operation.</li> <li>14. Demonstrates cleaning of hoofs with brush and water and by using hoof pick.</li> <li>15. "B" introduces "A" who will summarize demonstration.</li> </ol> |
| <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>16. Summarizes:               <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>(1). Repeats subject.</li> <li>(2). Gives objects and reasons for grooming.</li> <li>(3). Gives steps in proper grooming.</li> </ol> </li> <li>17. Asks for questions.</li> <li>18. Thanks audience for its attention.</li> </ol>   | <p>If convenient "B" ties up horse and quietly collects materials while "A" summarizes.<br/>Takes turns answering questions.</p>  |

*Note:* This outline represents a simple team demonstration. Other subjects may be similarly worked out.

## BREEDS OF DRAFT HORSES

This discussion of breeds is limited to draft horses because 4-H Colt Club Work in this state is concerned only with draft colts.

The common breeds of draft horses in the United States are the Percheron, Belgian, Clydesdale, Shire, and Suffolk. In Michigan, Percherons and Belgians predominate with rising interest in Clydesdales.

### The Percheron

The Percheron horse (Fig. 3) derives its name from the French province of **Perche**, where this breed was developed. In the United States the Percheron is one of the popular draft breeds and ranks first in numbers.

As a breed Percherons are noted for their breed character, style, refinement about head and neck, alertness, activity and quality as shown through their hair coat, density of bone, and wearing quality of feet. The Percheron horse has a wide adaptation to all kinds of work and climate.

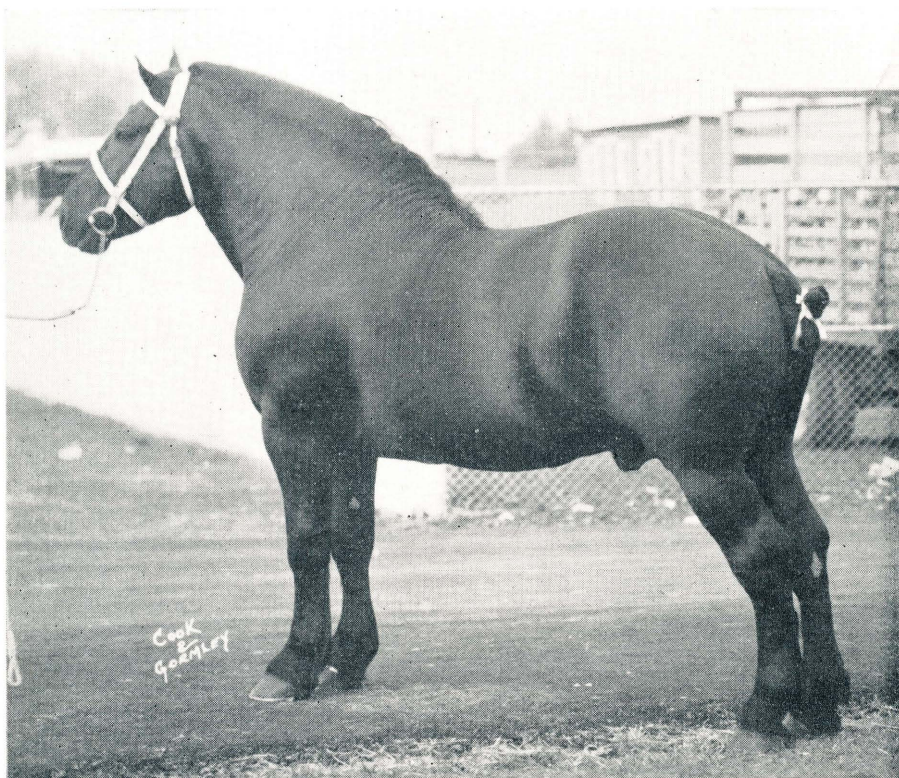


Fig. 3. Percheron stallion. Sir Diamond 212124. Owned by Fabius Farms, Three Rivers, Michigan. A well-balanced horse with a short, strong back, deep body and heavy muscling.

The popular and predominating colors are greys and blacks. Occasionally bays, browns, sorrels and roans are found, but these colors are uncommon and not popular for the breed.

As a breed they have been criticized for their varying type, having too many upstanding, long-backed, shallow-bodied animals. Through type studies horsemen are fast overcoming these faults by breeding animals that are closer to the ground, shorter in their backs, with deep middles and heavier muscling, without losing those breed characteristics for which the Percheron has long been noted.

### **The Belgian**

The Belgian horse (Fig. 4) was developed in Belgium and has made rapid strides in the United States as a popular breed. They are especially noted for their trueness of type, closeness to the ground, heavy muscling, deep middles, and their easy keeping qualities. The breed is noted for early maturity; the colts grow rapidly and often outweigh young animals of other breeds as yearlings.

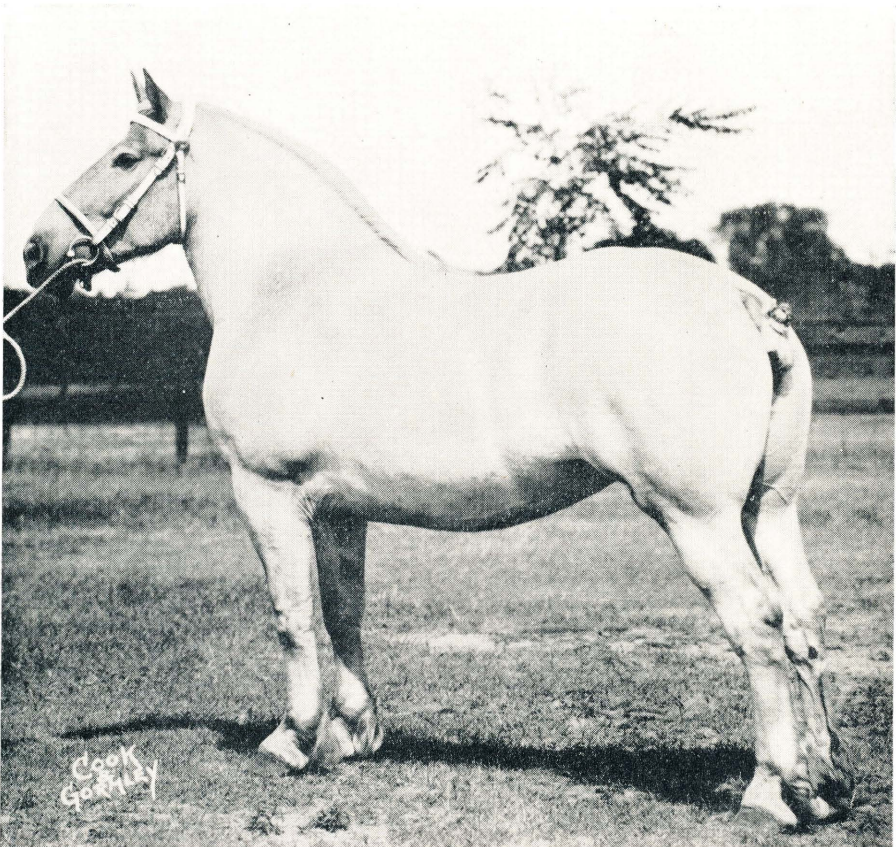


Fig. 4. Belgian mare, Lourette de Rubis 16440. Owned by Michigan State College, East Lansing, Michigan. Note style, quality and balance.

The common and predominating colors are sorrel, roan and bays. Occasional blacks and greys are found. The popular colors in the United States are sorrels and roans.

This breed (especially the imported animals) has been criticized as lacking quality, being too short in the neck, low in the carriage of the head, and showing general coarseness throughout. Rapid strides have been made by American breeders to correct these faults by breeding an animal with more length and cleanness of neck and throat, quality of bone, and more activity, without sacrificing the uniformity and draftiness for which the Belgian is noted.

### The Clydesdale

The Clydesdale (Fig. 5) is noted as the most active horse representing the draft breeds. The Clyde is unexcelled in the set of his legs, the hardness and flatness of bone, his excellent hocks, and his way of going (action), which makes him an outstanding harness horse wherever he is shown.

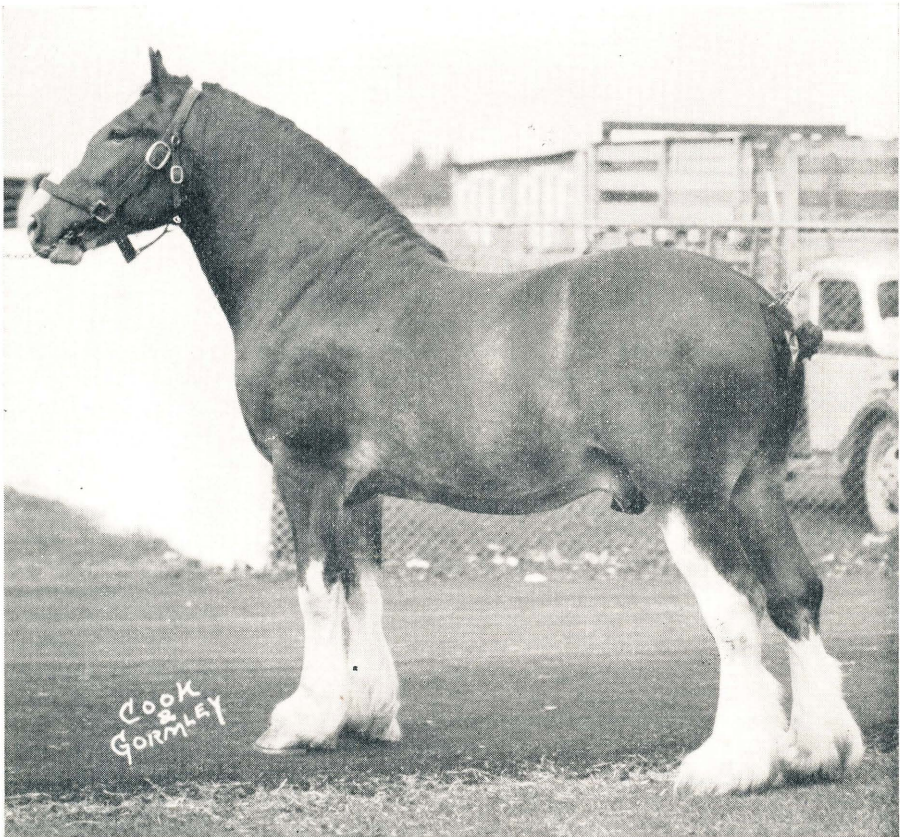


Fig. 5. Clydesdale stallion, Footman's Favorite 24009. Owned by Warren Bros., Bancroft, Michigan. A drafty type of Clyde showing correctness of underpinning typical of the breed.

The common colors of this breed are bay and brown (blacks, chestnuts, roans and greys are also found) which are usually associated with a blazed face and white markings (stockings) on the legs that may extend to the lower parts of the body. This breed always carries fine silky hair on the back of the cannon bone and fetlocks. This hair is known as "feather".

Invariably the Clydesdale is long and sloping in his pasterns, and as a breed has a large round foot with exceptional spread at the heel.

The breeders, in order to popularize their breed in Michigan, are breeding for a lower set, more compact animal with heavier muscling and more depth of middle.

This breed is not early maturing, and development comes largely after the animals reach the age of two years.

**Note:** The aim of all popular breeds of draft horses is to reach the perfection in feet and legs and way of going found in the Clydesdale.

## THE BROOD MARE

The brood mare whether grade or purebred should be of good draft type. If she is a purebred, breed character should be considered. She should show femininity, a quiet, gentle disposition, and be free from any transmissible unsoundness. The brood mare is smaller and shows more refinement than the stallion.

## THE STALLION

Any improvement in the offspring over the dam will be made by the sire. Therefore, much care should be exercised in the selection of the stallion to which the mare is to be bred. He should be a licensed, purebred animal, sound, popular in his blood lines, and of good type. A correct setting of legs, cleanness and hardness of hocks, flatness of bone, and desirable feet and ankles should always be taken into consideration. When possible, select a proven sire that has shown his ability as a sire to get outstanding colts that grow into the right kind of animals.

## BREEDING

### Age to Breed the Mare

The recommended and common practice is to breed mares at three years of age to foal when four. Occasionally a mare is bred as a two-year old. This practice is not recommended. If done, the mare should be unusually well grown and should be bred only on the advice of a qualified horseman. The common practice is to break to harness well grown two-year olds. When this practice is followed and where the mare is bred as a three-year old, one avoids the possible danger involved in breaking a mare heavy in foal.

### **Time of Year to Breed**

The time of breeding should fit in with the farmer's program of work. The most common practice is to breed mares so that they will foal in March, April, and May. Foals born during these months are old enough so they do not seriously interfere with the mare's being used for farm work. Early foals (previous to June) also have an advantage for the fall shows owing to their age and size.

Foals born after July 1 have few advantages. They come at a time when flies are troublesome and the heat is great. They interfere with work, and in the show ring are at a disadvantage because they lack size and still have their coat hair coat.

### **Caring for the Brood Mare**

Exercise is important for all horses and especially so for the brood mare. She should have some regular work right up until foaling time. The work should not be heavy and never should a mare heavy in foal be forced to back a load or be moved where she is likely to slip. During the last few days before foaling, her work should not be heavy—just exercise.

The pregnant mare requires more feed than the gelding or dry mare. Three parts oats and two parts corn by weight is a good grain mixture. As the foaling date approaches, a quart of bran twice a day added to the foregoing ration is helpful to "tone up" the mare's digestive system. If carrots are available, three or four carrots fed at night and morning are better for the mare than the bran.

After November 1 all brood mares should be fed a potassium iodide solution as a precaution against goitre or of navel or joint ill. Make a solution by dissolving one ounce of potassium iodide in a quart of water. Feed one ounce of the solution to each mare once each week. (It may be sprinkled on dry grain.)

When the mare is not at work, she should be out on pasture if weather conditions permit. During the winter the mare should be out each day to get exercise (weather permitting) if she is not working.

The amount of grain and hay fed the pregnant mare will depend upon her condition and individuality. She should be fed enough grain to keep her in good thrifty condition without becoming overly fat. As a guide she should receive (when working) 1 to 1¼ pounds of grain per day for each 100 pounds live weight, depending upon the nature of her work. When the mare is not at work the grain should be reduced about half. With a good quality of legume hay, the foregoing grain ration may be reduced. Feed approximately one pound of the legume hay per day for each 100 pounds live weight—this in addition to some other roughage such as stover, oat straw. Dusty or mouldy feeds are dangerous as they may cause death or abortion.

### **Foaling\***

The average mare carries her foal 340 days or about 11 months. However, the mare may foal 2 weeks before or after her time is up. When foaling time draws near, the mare should be kept in a box stall (at least 14' x 14') nights, or if the weather is good, turned out in a

\*Obtain Extension Bulletin 128, Michigan State College, for more complete details.

small, clean field by herself. If one must put the mare in a single stall, partition her off to keep the foal from going among the other horses; best, put the mare in the end stall and fasten a gate across the alleyway.

Mares differ a great deal in giving warning when they will foal. Some give indications for several days; others give little warning. The usual signs of foaling are softness and looseness of the muscles on each side of the tail, swelling of the udder, and a fullness of the teats. A waxy substance usually appears on the ends of the teats within 24 hours of foaling.

General indications immediately preceding foaling are: 1. Restlessness and annoyance or watchfulness. 2. Some mares sweat and get up and lie down once or twice. When the above indications are noted the attendant should observe the mare at least every two hours, preferably from a position where the mare can't see him. He should have assistance in case the mare has difficulty in foaling.

When the foal is delivered, straighten its hind feet around so that they don't become tangled with the navel cord. Remove the film from the colt's nostrils and mouth to prevent his smothering. Paint the navel cord with tincture of iodine, using a feather for this purpose. Care should be used not to get iodine on the base of the navel or hair as it will cause a blister. Dust the stump daily with an antiseptic powder to dry it up; air-slacked lime may be used.

When the mare gets to her feet, take the suspended foal sack and tie it back on itself with a piece of string. Otherwise the foal may stand on it and cause infection by tearing it away too soon. The average mare will pass the afterbirth within two hours. This should be buried or burned. If the mare doesn't pass the afterbirth within six hours, call a veterinarian. Retained afterbirth may bring on foaling founder. Clean out the stall and throw some lime where the foal was delivered and put in fresh bedding.

The foal should get the mother's first milk because it is laxative and helps to start the bowels working. It is considered a good practice to give colts an enema within three to five hours after foaling unless noticeably unnecessary. This consists of a quart of blood heat water in which there is a good suds of vegetable (face or toilet) soap and two ounces of mineral oil. The best equipment to use is a common hot water bag with a two-inch nozzle.

Lukewarm water in small quantities should be given to the mare at frequent intervals. Make her a warm mash of two quarts of oats and four quarts of bran plus a tablespoonful of saltpeter. Give the mare her mash and leave her alone.

### **Starting the Foal**

After the first day the mare should receive one-half the regular grain ration for nine or ten days. The kind and amounts of feed govern very largely the laxativeness of the mare and foal. If the colt scours, partially milk out the mare. In case of scours the foal should receive 2 ounces of castor oil in 2 ounces of the mare's milk. The simplest way to give it is to have the castor-oil at blood heat. Lay the colt gently on its side. Raise the nose slightly and place the end of the bottle on the colt's tongue and let the liquid trickle down slowly.

In most cases the dam will be required to do her share of the farm work in addition to raising her foal. After foaling, the mare should not be put to work for at least 10 days (preferably 14). At no time should the foal be permitted to follow the mare while she is at work. The mare working and raising a colt is doing double duty and should receive heavier rations.

After the mare resumes work, the colt should be allowed to nurse in the middle of the forenoon and afternoon. The colt should not be allowed to nurse if the mare is warm from work or exercise. In case the mare is warm she should be tied in sight of the foal, partially milked, and the udder washed. When the foal is three weeks old or more, it is not necessary to stop during the forenoon or afternoon to allow the foal to nurse. The heavy milking mare however, when at work should be partially milked from two to three times during the forenoon and afternoon. There is a vast difference in mares as milkers, and this varies mostly with mares at work. Colts allowed to nurse mares coming in warm frequently become dead-haired, shaggy, rough-coated, do not shed their colt hair during the summer, and may be troubled with indigestion.

The foal should be given access to grain. At four weeks most colts are nibbling grain from their mother's feed box if given a chance. As soon as the foal becomes accustomed to eating, a special feed box placed low should be provided. The mare should be tied so that she may not rob the colt after finishing her grain. Feeding the colt in a low box has the tendency to develop the neck and strengthen the back. Liberal feeding of the foal is advocated while it is nursing. Straight oats, rolled or whole, (if whole add a little bran) make an excellent ration. The amount of grain a colt will consume depends primarily on how much milk the dam gives. Foals should be fed, especially if the dam works. Feed liberally or all they will eat, and this amount will vary widely as determined by the milking ability of the dam.

### Weaning

Weaning time is the most critical time in the colt's life, especially if it has not had access to grain during the time it was nursing. Colts are usually weaned at five to six months of age. If the mare is in foal wean at 5 months.

Separate the mare and foal in the evening. Both are quieter if the weaning is done at night. Leave the foal in his stall and take the mare far enough away that neither can hear the other. Keep water before the foal regularly after weaning.

If the mare is working, separate the mare and foal in the morning when the mare goes to work instead of in the evening. When she is brought in at night she should likewise be kept out of sight and hearing of the foal. **Never** let the colt go back to its dam after weaning, because it may cause Lymphangitis.

After the colt is taken away from the mare, she should get plenty of exercise, work if possible. Milk her out as well as you can after 12 hours. To prevent caking of the udder, it should be rubbed gently with camphorated oil. Milk again in 24 hours, again in 48 hours, and twice through the next week.

**Note:** If conditions were favorable at foaling the mare can be rebred on the ninth or tenth day. If not, wait until the thirtieth day

to make sure. Mares should be tried on the eighteenth day after service, again on the twenty-second and once a week for the next nine weeks.

## SELECTING THE CLUB COLT

Selecting a colt that will grow out to advantage is not always an easy job. Along with checking on the colt as an individual, try to see his sire and dam. A colt from parents that are sound and of good conformation has a better chance of growing into a desirable individual than one from a poor sire and dam. The temperament of a colt is indicated by the character of its head. It should carry width of forehead, a prominent clear eye, a strong muzzle, and a sharp alert ear well set up on the head. The face should be straight as viewed from the side. A prominent bulging face or Roman in character or a hollow or dished face is to be criticized.

The colt should be of a desirable draft type with enough "stretch" that it will attain size. The colt should have sufficient length of neck, be "up headed," which comes through a good slope of shoulder, be high and nicely mounted through its withers, be short and strong in its back, close (tight) in its coupling, and long and nicely turned over the croup. Avoid the colt that is high in its hips and short and sloping in its croup.

The draft colt should be heavy in its muscling, particularly through the forearm and hind quarter. It should have depth of heart and depth of hind rib.

The colt should be squarely set on its "under-pinning" because the serviceability of any horse depends largely upon its feet and legs. The colt should carry an abundance of bone provided it is hard, flat, clean-cut and with quality. The tendons should be sharply defined and so attached as to give width below the knee and below the hock. The joints should be well defined, and the hock should be deep, wide, clean, boney, and free from meatiness. Too much importance cannot be given to the hock because here is where a great strain usually comes and unsoundness often appears. The cannon bone as viewed from the side should drop perpendicular from the point of the hock through the entire cannon and be flat with no tendency toward "curbiness". A curb is a **very serious** unsoundness commonly associated with a poor set of hind legs (Fig. 19).

The colt should stand on a large, round, deep foot, that is wide at the heel. The ability to grow a desirable foot depends largely upon a big, round, open hoof head. The pasterns should be sloping and of medium length.

Viewed from the side the most common defects in the front legs are buck kneed (being forward) or calf kneed (bending backward). The common defects of the hind legs viewed from the side are too much set or sickle in the hocks, curby or round in the hocks or occasionally too straight a hock or "posty". Viewed from the front, common defects in the front legs are closeness at the knees, toeing out in the pasterns or splay-footed, and toeing in or pigeon-toed. Viewed from the rear, common defects of the hind legs are exceptional width at

the hocks usually associated with being close at the ground and run over at the ankles (pasterns).

In action the colt should move off freely with length and springiness of stride. As viewed from the front the colt should travel straight and direct. "Winging" or throwing the front feet out is to be criticized, and in many instances caused by the colt being pigeon-toed. A most serious fault is "interfering" or striking together of the front feet. This is most common in the out-toed or splay-footed colt. As viewed from the rear the hocks should be carried close together and well flexed at each stride.

## DEVELOPMENT OF THE COLT

The eventual outcome of the colt will depend on the proper combination of feed, shelter, exercise, grooming, and care of the feet that the club boy or girl gives his charge. Development of the colt is a phase of horsemanship which requires much attention. It is an art, because no two colts respond exactly the same. Constant care, watchfulness and good judgment in applying the principles of horsemanship are necessary if the animal is to be grown to the highest possible state of perfection.

### Feeds and Feeding

To raise horses economically for use on the farm, full advantage should be taken of home-grown grains and roughages.

### Roughages

**Legumes:** Good quality green leafy alfalfa, clover or soybean hay are excellent as a feed in addition to furnishing minerals, vitamins, and proteins. These hays should be fed at the rate not exceeding one pound per day per 100 pounds of live weight (winter ration). In addition to being an excellent hay crop, clover and alfalfa are also splendid for pasture. **Note:** Be sure to check that soybean hay is not moldy.

**Additional Roughages:** It is not advisable to feed leguminous hays in larger quantities than the foregoing amounts. For the additional roughage needed, oat straw, corn-stover and non-leguminous hays can be fed.

**Cut Hay (alfalfa, etc.):** An excellent mix for grain mixtures as it adds bulk.

**Green Feeds (cut alfalfa, stalk corn, Sudan grass):** An excellent addition to the ration if pasture is not available.

### Succulent Feeds

Pasture and pasture crops form the succulent feed and take care of the protein requirements during the summer.

**Winter Succulence:** Provision for the succulent requirements in the winter may be provided through the growing of root crops, one of the most popular being carrots. Silage can be fed, but extreme care should be used to feed clean, fresh silage. Moldy or spoiled silage usually spells quick death to a horse. Succulent feeds are fed at the rate of one pound per 100 pounds of live weight.

### Grains

It is best to feed grains coarsely ground or crushed especially when prices are high.

**Oats:** One of the safest and best-growing rations for colts. It is well to keep it in all feed combinations. Oats are usually fed whole, but are more completely digested when coarsely ground or crushed.

**Corn:** A good fattening grain, but should be fed to growing colts in very limited amounts or in combination with oats. It should be dropped from the ration or drastically reduced at first indications of bogginess (filling in the hocks) or other leg troubles. When corn is used, it may be fed to advantage on the ear.

**Barley:** Very similar to corn and should be fed in the same proportion. It should be ground coarsely.

**Wheat:** Lacks bulk and a dangerous feed for colts and horses. Should not be fed alone. An excellent grain especially for brood mares when fed in very limited amounts in combination with other grains (oats), bran and cut hay which add bulk.

**Skimmilk:** Can be fed to good advantage to colts after weaning. May be fed up to one gallon in the morning and one gallon at night. It is an important source of protein and adds bloom to the animal. Extreme care should be taken not to overdo and cause the colt to go wrong in the hocks. Whole milk is not a safe feed for the young colt as it has a tendency toward causing bogginess in the hocks.

**Molasses (cane or beet):** May be fed in very limited amounts (not to exceed one quart per day). Fed to best advantage when diluted with water and used to mix feeds. It acts as an appetizer and encourages consumption of larger amounts of water. It is used primarily in fitting.

**Minerals:** Colts should have free access to salt. This may be in pressed blocks or fed in salt boxes in the shed or stall. Never feed rock salt to horses. Rock salt contains impurities that are injurious.

**Water:** Is important for all horses. Fresh water, and plenty of it, should be given to growing colts.

Regularity in feeding should be followed. Morning and evening feeding is the most common practice during the winter period. Feeding three times per day should be followed during the summer when the colt is kept in during the day, and as the time for exhibition approaches. If the colt is not improving in condition, don't increase the quantity of feed per meal, but give an extra feeding once per day.

### FEEDING WEANLINGS AND YEARLINGS

Feeding of foals and yearlings varies materially from the feeding of older animals. They are being fed for growth and development which older animals have achieved. The care of the foal from birth to weaning has been discussed on page 18.

Experiments show that the foal usually makes **more than one-half its entire growth** during the first year and that if stunted during this time will never fully recover. Good feeding and management practices are more essential during the first winter than later, as the colt's welfare depends on the man without the mare's assistance. From the time the colt is weaned through the first winter, adequate feeding pays large dividends. High condition is not necessary, but the colt should be fed to keep growing, sound, and thrifty. Feeding has a most important bearing on the soundness of the colt. The amount of feed required by different animals varies. The amount of feed that causes one animal to "go bad" in his hocks may not be detrimental to another. The colt cannot be neglected and then crowded excessively a short time before the show or serious results are certain to follow.

Crowding excessively almost always causes a horse to "go bad" in his hocks, cock upward in his pasterns and even "founder" may result. The hocks should always be closely watched, and with the first indications of puffiness or filling, the amount of feed should be reduced and exercise stressed. The full feeding of the foal while it is nursing is advocated but care must be exercised after it is weaned.

Good, green, leafy, leguminous hay furnishes necessary proteins, is a good growing feed, and assists materially in keeping down feed costs. It may cause certain disorders if fed to any age animal in excess of 1 to 1¼ pounds daily for each 100 pounds of live weight of the animal. If a leguminous hay is not fed, then not exceeding one pound per day of linseed oil meal should be fed to furnish the protein requirements.

During the winter a succulent feed to replace the pasture should be fed with grain and hay. The most common and best liked succulent feed for horses is carrots. Silage in limited amounts may be used, but it should be fed clean and fresh. Moldy or spoiled silage will cause digestive disorders, colic and frequently death.

If a succulent feed has not been provided and is not available, approximately one-quarter of the ration by weight should be bran.

To grow colts well during the first winter, they should be given—

- 1 to 1¼ pounds of grain per 100 pounds of live weight per day.
- 1 pound of hay per 100 pounds of live weight per day.
- 1 pound of succulence (carrots, etc.) per 100 pounds of live weight per day.

Definite rations and approximate amounts through the winter, spring and summer can best be selected from the following suggested rations for colts (weanlings to 1½ years):

#### RATIONS FOR COLTS (WEANLINGS TO 1½ YEARS)

##### Rations—

- I. Grain rations when a leguminous hay (alfalfa, clovers) and a succulence (carrots, roots or silage) are fed.

Ration No. 1.....Oats

Ration No. 2.....Corn.....1 part by weight  
Oats.....1 part by weight

Ration No. 3.....Oats.....1 part by weight  
Barley (ground)...1 part by weight

II. Grain rations when a leguminous hay but no succulence is fed. (Use bran to replace succulent feed).

|                   |                    |                   |
|-------------------|--------------------|-------------------|
| Ration No. 1..... | Oats.....          | 3 parts by weight |
|                   | Bran.....          | 1 part by weight  |
| Ration No. 2..... | Corn.....          | 2 parts by weight |
|                   | Oats.....          | 1 part by weight  |
|                   | Bran.....          | 1 part by weight  |
| Ration No. 3..... | Oats.....          | 1 part by weight  |
|                   | Barley (ground)... | 2 parts by weight |
|                   | Bran.....          | 1 part by weight  |

III. Grain rations, with a succulence (carrots, roots or silage) and a non-leguminous hay (as timothy) are fed—use Linseed Oil Meal if feeding a non-leguminous hay.

|                   |                    |   |
|-------------------|--------------------|---|
| Ration No. 1..... | Oats.....          | 3 parts by weight                       |
|                   | Linseed Oil Meal.. | not to exceed 1 pound per horse per day |
| Ration No. 2..... | Corn.....          | 2 parts by weight                       |
|                   | Oats.....          | 1 part by weight                        |
|                   | Linseed Oil Meal.. | not to exceed 1 pound per horse per day |
| Ration No. 3..... | Barley (ground)... | 2 parts by weight                       |
|                   | Oats.....          | 1 part by weight                        |
|                   | Linseed Oil Meal.. | not to exceed 1 pound per horse per day |

IV. Grain rations without leguminous hay or succulence. (Use both bran and Linseed Oil Meal)

|                   |                    |   |
|-------------------|--------------------|---|
| Ration No. 1..... | Oats.....          | 3 parts by weight                       |
|                   | Bran.....          | 1 part by weight                        |
|                   | Linseed Oil Meal.. | not to exceed 1 pound per horse per day |
| Ration No. 2..... | Corn.....          | 2 parts by weight                       |
|                   | Oats.....          | 1 part by weight                        |
|                   | Bran.....          | 1 part by weight                        |
|                   | Linseed Oil Meal.. | not to exceed 1 pound per horse per day |
| Ration No. 3..... | Oats.....          | 1 part by weight                        |
|                   | Barley (ground)... | 2 parts by weight                       |
|                   | Bran.....          | 1 part by weight                        |
|                   | Linseed Oil Meal.. | not to exceed 1 pound per horse per day |

## PASTURE IS IMPORTANT

Pasture replaces succulent feed (carrots or bran) and protein as linseed oil meal fed in the winter ration. Good pastures are essential for the economical development of good horses. After the weather becomes settled and there is an abundance of good pasture, animals going through the winter in high condition may have their grain taken away. It is however, not a good practice to keep grain from them longer than three to four weeks and best in most cases to keep project animals on a half ration ( $\frac{1}{2}$  pound grain per 100 pounds live weight per day). As the season advances and the pasture dries or becomes poorer, this ration should be increased.

Well-grown yearlings approaching two-year olds as they go into their second winter have approached their skeletal growth and are approaching maturity. The feeding problem is simple. With good legume hay, little grain is required. From one-half to three-fourths pound of grain per 100 pounds of live weight will keep them in good condition. As two-year olds they will need relatively little if any grain on good pasture.

## SHELTER

Since growing colts need little shelter most of the year, an open shed makes good quarters for them. They can withstand severe cold if their shelter is clean, dry and out of the wind. In summer the shed makes a nice place for the colts to go when the flies become troublesome.

During the fitting period, before the fall shows, the colt should be stalled during the day to prevent his coat from fading. His stall should be dark to keep out the flies. If necessary, sacking may be hung over the windows to help darken the stable.



Fig. 6. A good inexpensive shelter.

The colt's stall should be clean and well ventilated, yet free from drafts. A large box stall with a clay floor is the nicest kind for the colt. The clay floor is easy on the feet, prevents slipping, and is noiseless. Hard floors and narrow stalls increase the danger of the colt's capping his hocks and otherwise blemishing himself. The stall should be kept well bedded. It should be cleaned every day, and the bedding moved back to let the stall dry. Thrush and other foot troubles develop easily in wet, dirty stalls.

## EXERCISE

Exercise is one of the secrets of successful horsemanship. If the colt is to stay sound in his legs and grow muscle, he must get lots of exercise. Keep him out-of-doors as much as possible the year around. Pasture is the cheapest form of horse feed, and grass is the best tonic you can give the colt.

### CARE OF THE FEET

The most important factor in raising a good colt is to take care of the feet—"No foot no horse". The ability of the horse to do useful work depends upon the soundness of his feet and legs. Soundness is governed largely by the care of the feet. Many colts are born with crooked legs, and as a result the feet do not wear evenly, thus causing deformities. For this reason particular stress must be paid to the correct trimming of the feet of the young animal. **This is a long-time job.** The bones of the colt are soft, and a faulty set of legs can be partially or wholly corrected by proper foot trimming.

To trim feet correctly it is necessary to do the work from the underside. Therefore, hoof nippers are a necessity. A hoof knife is handy in cleaning out the underside of the foot and opening up along the frog. The rasp is a necessary tool in leveling the foot, "knocking off" the sharp edges to prevent splintering, and in rounding the edges of hoof.

The purpose in trimming feet is to cut off the excessive growth. This should be done every six to eight weeks. The growth differs with individuals and with the amount of wear. Excessive growth will break off unless it is trimmed. Uneven breaking may result in tenderness, toe cracks, and particularly quarter cracks, all of which may cause lameness.

The correct method of holding and trimming feet comes from close observation of one who is familiar with this work. The colt or horse should not be cramped or the feet held too high when the feet are being trimmed. By use of the nippers, excessive growth of the wall should be cut away level with the sole. The sharp edges should be

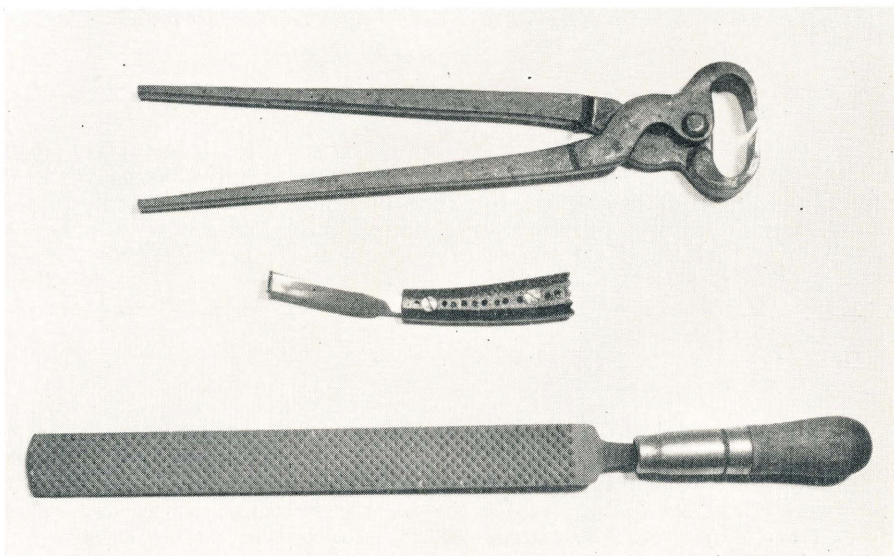


Fig. 7. Necessary equipment for the care of the feet—nippers, knife and rasp.



Fig. 8. A healthy foot, well-trimmed with a level bearing surface. Parts of the foot: 1. Wall, 2. Leaves of the wall, 3. Heel, 4. Bar, 5. Sole, 6. White line, 7. Point of the frog, 8. Cleft of the frog, 10. Bulb of the heel.

made blunt either with the nippers or the rasp. When the job is finished be sure that the bearing surface is even. The sole, bars or frog should not be cut away. In case the growth of the foot has been excessive and the frog is high, it is sometimes necessary to lower and open up around the edges of the frog. A job well done causes the

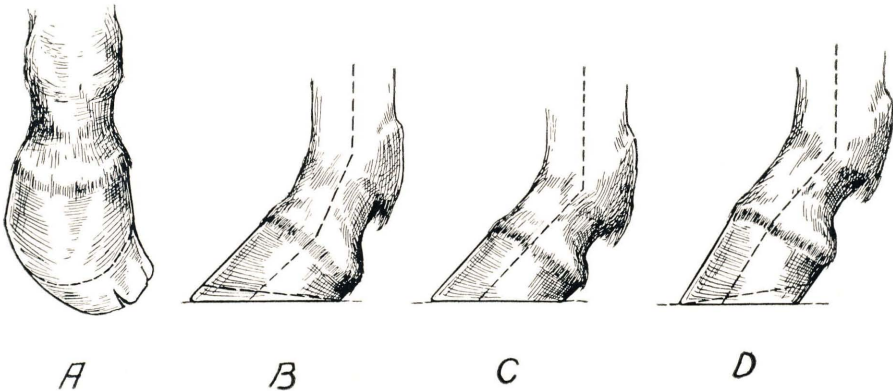


Fig. 9. Correcting common faults of the foot. A. Crooked toe, B. Axis of foot and pastern broken back by long toe, C. Normal foot and alignment, D. Axis broken forward by high heels. Dotted lines show amounts of hoof to be cut away in each case.

weight to rest equally upon the wall, the bars and the frog, thus assuring a healthy foot.

**Correcting Common Faults:** This should be done gradually. The colt that toes in bears heavily on the outer wall, causing an excessive growth on the inside of the foot. By close attention and frequent trimming of the excess foot growth on the inside, you will not only level the foot, but will correct the alignment of the ankle (pastern). In case the animal toes out or is "splay-footed," the opposite practice of cutting off the excessive growth on the outside should be followed.

In case of the hind feet the practice of keeping the inside as low or lower than the outside prevents the "running over" in the hind pastern (straight outside wall) and brings the hocks closer together.

When the pasterns are short and steep, there is a tendency to wear off the toe and for the heels to become too high. Feet of this kind should be lowered drastically at the heels, thus insuring pressure on the frog and less chance for accumulation of filth and possible Thrush. Lowering the heel results in a healthy foot, a more desirable slope to the pastern and greater toe growth.

In case the colt is "coon-footed" or has pasterns too sloping (not common), the toe will grow too long and the trimming of the toe is stressed.

**Shoeing** of young animals is **not encouraged** and should not be practiced except when necessary to overcome a deformity or at such a time that the animal is to be exhibited in **large** shows. Shoeing improves the action of the animal and gives the impression of having a larger foot. Unless a good job of shoeing can be done, it is better to show the colt barefooted. Incorrect shoeing will make action worse rather than improve it. Show shoes are plates with a beveled edge and without caulks. The nail holes are punched in the center of the shoe in order that the shoe may extend beyond the wall. This gives the appearance of more size to the foot.

If shoes are to be used, the foot should have a growth larger than normal. To keep this growth from breaking off, light plates should be put on about June 1 if the colt is to go to the early fall shows. The show shoes should be put on about a week before the show in order that the animal may become used to the extra weight.

Animals wearing show shoes should be hand exercised as there is danger of other animals being kicked or of them "pulling" their shoes. Shoes should not remain on over six to eight weeks and by all means removed immediately after the show. When shoes are removed the feet should be cut back and "dubbed". Unless this is done excessive breaking may result.

## GROOMING

Grooming improves the general appearance and removes wastes given off through the pores of the skin. It keeps the skin healthy, stimulates circulation, gives bloom to the coat, and tones up the digestive system. There is an old horseman's saying, "a good grooming is worth a quart of oats". Horses on pasture or out of doors a great deal do not need so much grooming as those which are kept stabled, for

the latter sweat considerably. Grooming should be done carefully, thoroughly and often, especially as show season approaches.

The common equipment includes the dandy brush, bristle brush, rub rag and curry comb. The hoof pick, sponge and mane comb are useful but not essential. The curry comb should be of the round, corrugated type with dull edges. It should be used sparingly on the body and never on the mane, tail, legs or other parts of the body where the skin lies next to the bone. Its best use is for cleaning the dandy brush. Don't use the curry comb on the show colt during the final fitting period, as it breaks the hair off short, and the coat looks rough when the short hair won't lie down. If you groom your colt every day, there will be little use for the curry comb.

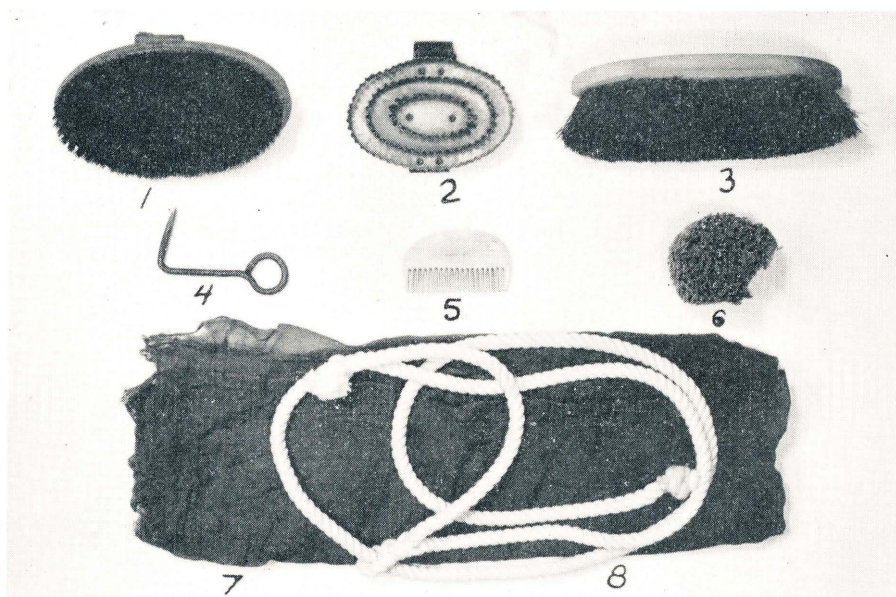


Fig. 10. Grooming equipment. 1. Bristle brush, 2. Curry comb, 3. Dandy brush, 4. Hoof pick, 5. Mane comb, 6. Sponge, 7. Rub rag, 8. Cotton rope show halter.

The dandy brush is the most useful grooming tool. The first time over the horse, apply the brush heavily and then go back again to remove the loosened dandruff and dirt. The mane should be brushed over onto the wrong side of the neck (the left side), brushed out and straightened with the fingers. Brush it back onto the right-hand side and again straighten it out. Brush out the tail and foretop also. The mane comb should be used only when the animal is to be shown, as it pulls out too much hair. When using the mane comb, start at the bottom of the mane or tail and comb out a small section at a time, gradually working up. This will prevent bad snarls and there will be less hair pulled out.

After the horse is thoroughly brushed, rub him down with the rub rag, and if necessary, use it to wipe around his eyes. The rub rag is a piece of cloth, flannel or cheesecloth, about three feet square.

The sponge may be used to wash around the mouth, eyes, and tail setting. The hoof pick is used to clean dirt from the bottom of the foot. The bristle brush or body brush is a soft brush used on an animal to finish up after using the dandy brush. It gives a shine to the coat and is used on horses before they go into the show ring.

**Never** roach the mane, bob the tail, or clip the foretop or fetlocks. Trimming these parts only makes the horse look second-handed, and they require a long time to grow back. When they do grow back, the hair is likely to be coarse and is hard to train to look neat. Very long tails or the very thick short tail may be thinned out.

### TRAINING THE COLT

The younger a colt is started with, the easier he is to train. The best time to start is when the colt is about a month old, for then he is easier to handle, and one may take lots of time with his education. A short lesson each day is more valuable than an occasional long lesson. Get a soft halter that will fit him comfortably. Keep a piece of rope with a snap on one end of it where you can pick it up when

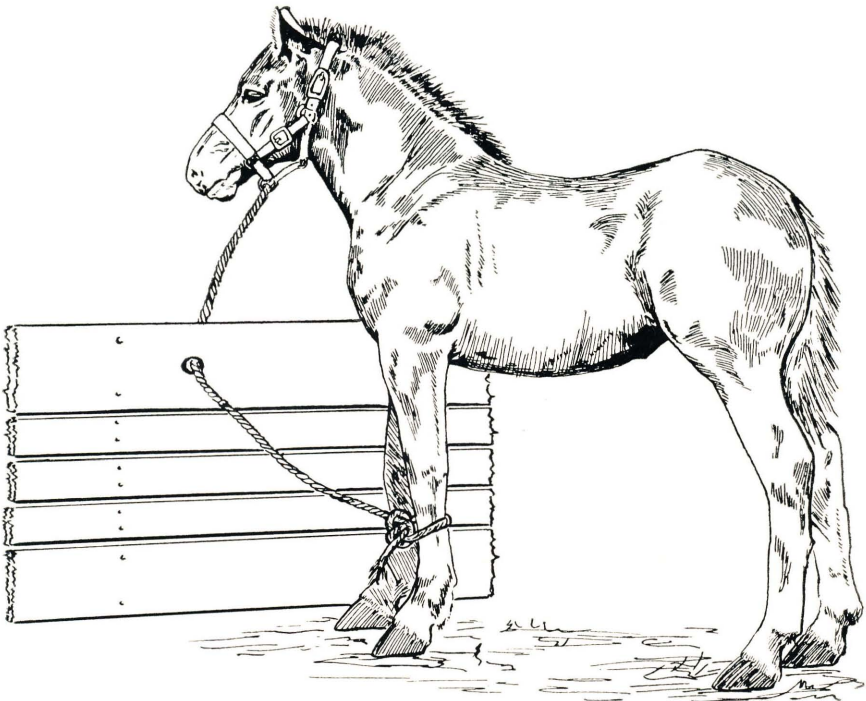


Fig. 11. Method of tying the colt for its first lesson.

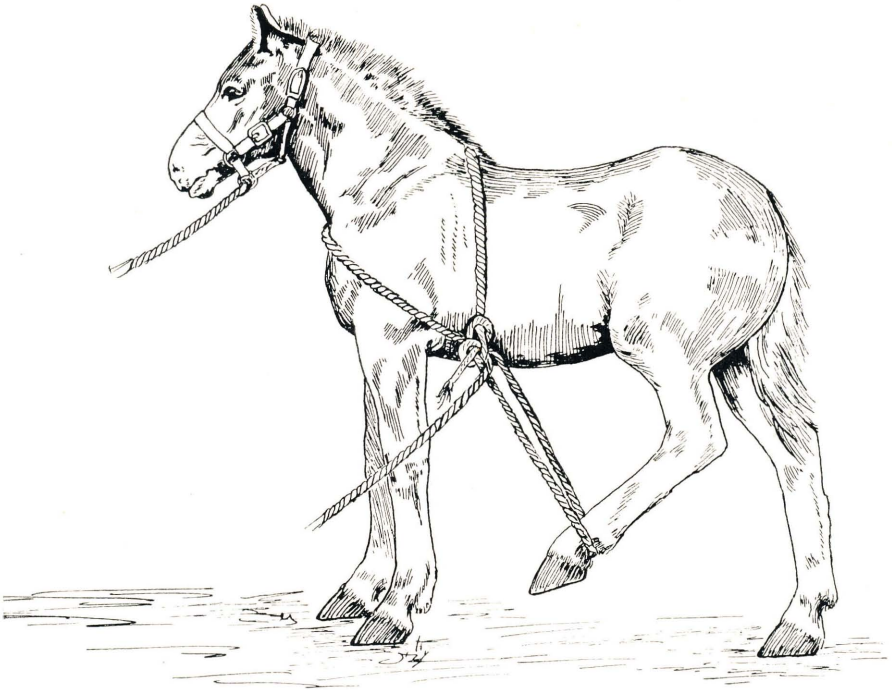


Fig. 12. The Scotch hobble.

you go in beside him. Snap the rope into the halter ring and hold him for a short time. Don't let him throw himself. Give him some head-play. Remember that this is all very new and unnatural to him. After a few lessons he will learn to stand, and you can tie him beside his mother for short periods of time. It is a good idea when tying the foal for the first time or two to run the halter rope through a ring or through the hole in the manger, and tie the end around one front cannon below the knee (Fig. 11). Then as he pulls back he will lift his own leg up and forward which will cause him to take a step ahead. A colt tied this way soon learn not to pull back on the halter rope. This training will help in teaching him to lead. **Never** tie him by a slip halter or by the bit with the rope running under the chin.

Run your hands over his body and down the legs. Pick up his feet and handle him to make sure that he isn't "touchy". As soon as he is used to these things, you can teach him to lead. If he acts stubborn, don't punish him, but get a soft rope and tie it to one front cannon. Pull on the halter rope and the foot rope at the same time. He will take a step forward as his foot is pulled, and by repeating this he will soon learn what you want of him. Take things easy—a little at a time and pet him each time he does what you want him to. After he has learned to walk, teach him to trot. For the first few lessons you may need someone behind to help him along. The person "heeling" the colt with a whip should follow a little to the left to keep the colt from jumping on the leader. At the turn, the one following should cut across

behind the colt and follow back again, always staying back far enough not to get kicked.

Between leading lessons, teach the colt to pose in a good position (Figs. 3 and 4). First teach him to back up. Never kick or use a stick to get a horse to take position on the hind feet. Back gently until you get his hind legs opposite each other. This can be done by pressing the colt's left shoulder with your right hand. Then lift the front feet into position. When he learns what you want, he will take his position at the snap of your fingers.

Always lead the colt from the left-hand side. Coil the rope up in neat coils in the right hand. When posing the colt, face the rear and hold the lead rope in the left hand. Always pose the colt uphill. If his front feet are lower than the back ones, he will look low-backed. Stretching the colt too much also makes him look low-backed. However, colts that are set in the hocks should be stretched more than usual in order to make the hind legs seem straighter.

The yearling is stronger, more active, and harder to handle than the foal, but training is practically the same for both. If the yearling hasn't been halter broken, start him off by tying him up by the halter and one leg. Get him used to handling before teaching him to lead. If he is hard to get next to and won't let you trim his feet, it may be necessary to use a **Scotch hobble** (Fig. 12) until he gets used to your handling. This is a good way to control kickers or strikers so that they may be handled. A long bowline (Fig. 13) is fastened around the rear pastern and the rope is thrown up over the back, brought around under the neck and back through the bowline knot. A pull on the end of the rope raises the horse's leg.

With the **Front Foot Tie**, either of the front feet may be tied up in a similar manner to the Scotch hobble. In this case (Fig. 14) the rope must be wrapped around the pastern twice and the bowline tied short so as to prevent the colt pulling his foot out of the knot. The long end of the rope is passed up over the back, under the colt's chest, and through the bowline. **Note:** Horses tied as in Figs. 11, 12, and 14 should

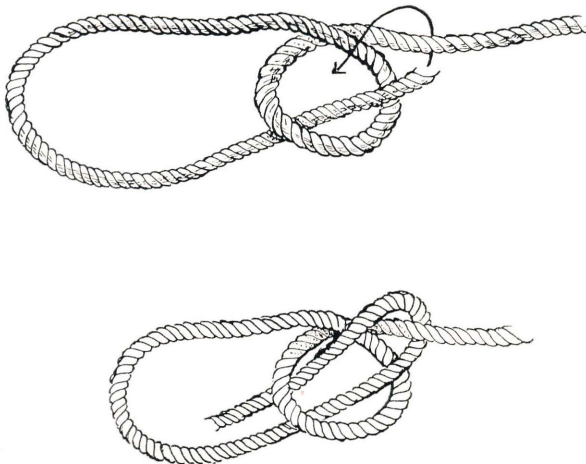


Fig. 13. Procedure of tying the bowline.

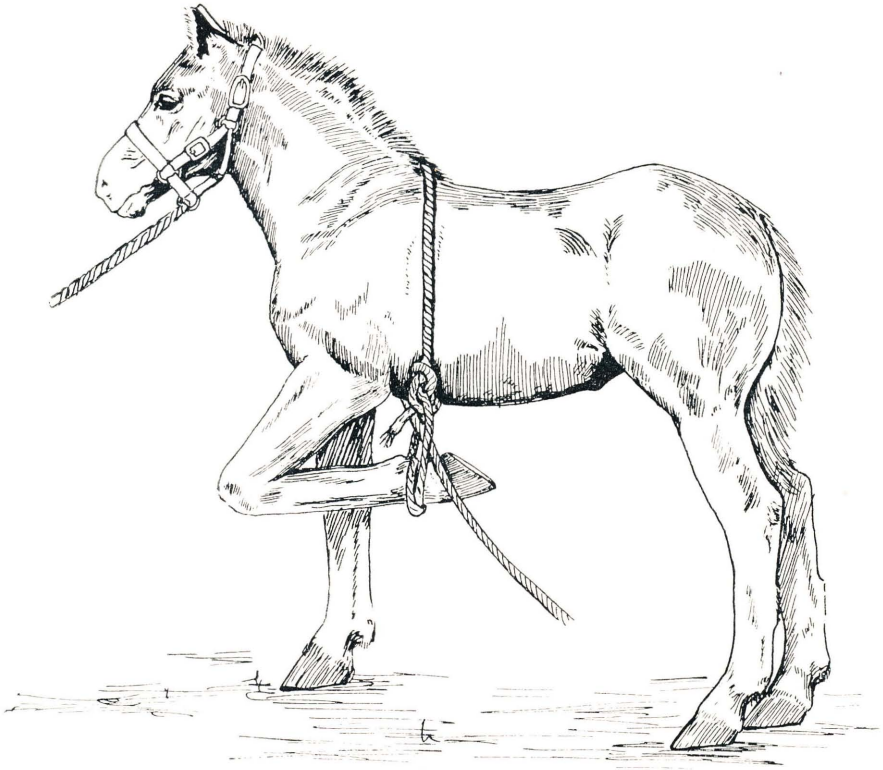


Fig. 14. Front foot tie.

not be kept tied in this manner for long periods of time as the rope may cut the skin or shut off circulation. If it is necessary to keep the colt tied for any length of time, it is best to substitute a strap with a ring for the bowline knot. The strap can be buckled around the cannon or the pastern, and the rope fastened to the ring.

Another means of restraint for colts is **The Spanish Bridle** (Fig. 15). This arrangement is useful for teaching older colts to lead and as a general means of control. The rope is tied to the far ring of a snaffle bit with about a foot of rope left hanging from the bit. The other end is passed up under the throat latch, over the poll, down under the near throat latch and out through the near bit ring. To be used most effectively, it should be worked with a sharp jerk. The colt should be handled with the bridle rope, and the other rope used sparingly and only when necessary. The free end on the opposite side is used to loosen the twitch as soon as the colt responds. If the rope is left tight, the animal will fight it, and the bridle is not effective.

Unless the yearling is very hard to control, the methods suggested for the foal will be all right for the older colt. War bridles, hobbles, and other ties may be used on colts that are hard to manage. These should be used carefully because most of them are harsh, and wrong use may easily spoil a colt.

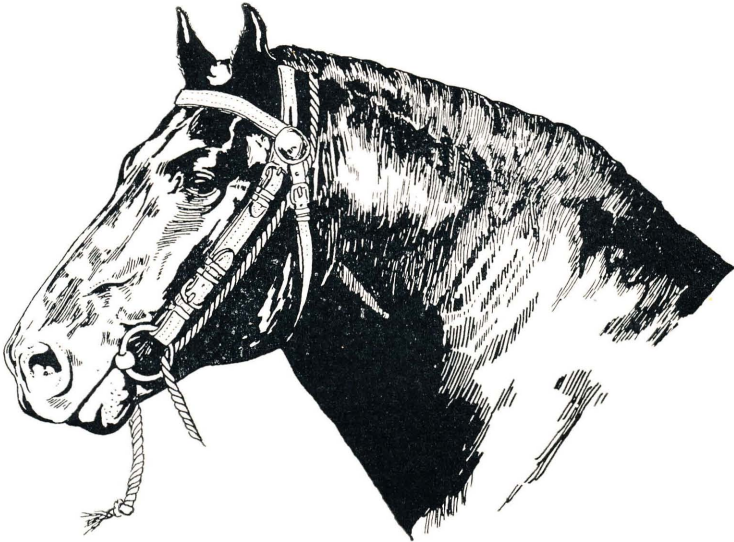


Fig. 15. The Spanish bridle.

Training may take much time and work, but it is well worth while. The well-trained colt is worth more in actual dollars and cents than the raw, unmanageable one.

### FINAL FITTING PERIOD

The well-grown, well-cared for colt or horse approaches show season in good condition. Fitting for August and September shows should begin from two to three months previous to the show. This must be done if the colt is to come out with the desirable bloom and in a condition which will show to the best advantage. As before stated, excessive crowding (feeding) without ample exercise in a short period of time is usually accompanied by leg troubles (see page 23). Everything done should be with due consideration to the appetite, cleanness of the legs and conditioning of the feet.

When it gets hot enough for the flies to be bothersome, the colt should be stabled during the heat of the day or have some place to go in out of the flies. Keeping the colt in during the day when it is hot and the flies are bad prevents the breaking of the feet, prevents sunburning and faded coats, and conserves condition that is lost by fighting flies.

During the last half of the fitting period the colt should be groomed every day to give "bloom" to the coat. About two weeks before show time, many exhibitors add a few drops of molasses to each pail of drinking water. This destroys the taste of the water, and if the same thing is done at the show, there may be less trouble with the colt's not drinking strange water.

## DECORATIONS FOR SHOW

The colt should present a neat, well-groomed appearance when he comes into the show ring. Rolling the mane, decorating the tail, and dressing the hoofs makes the colt look attractive and adds color and style to his appearance.

### Rolling the Mane

The best way to learn to roll a mane or braid or tie the tail is to attend demonstrations or, better, have an experienced horse showman teach you. The method is not difficult to learn, but it will take much practice for one to become efficient.

Rolls are usually made of cheesecloth bunting, but sometimes yarn is used. A roll for the average yearling can be made by taking 5 to 6 feet of cheesecloth bunting, a yard wide, and splitting it into two 1½-foot strips. Gather an end of each and tie the two together with cord or raffia about an inch and a half from the ends. For older animals a longer roll will be needed. For foals the roll may be made thinner and shorter.

A roll is a four-strand braid consisting of two strands of hair and two strands of bunting. It is started just back of the bridle and follows the crest of the neck back to the withers where it is broken off. As the roll is worked back, hair is picked up, tying the roll tight to the neck. Only a small amount of hair is used in putting in the roll. Avoid "stitching" or getting excess hair in the underside of the roll.

A good roll should be laid straight, even, and tight enough that there will be no bends in it when the colt's head is in show position. The bunting should show a straight row of diamonds down the top of the roll. From seven to ten flowers, spaced evenly, are added to complete the job. They should be fastened firmly, and the wire twisted twice around the stem to prevent their falling over. Tuck the wire ends into the mane so that they won't prick the horse in the neck and make him fret.

Foals often have a very short mane, and if so, may look better without a roll. Most mares look "sweeter" and more feminine if shown in a white rope halter and without a roll in the mane.

### The Tail

Tying up the tail gives a good view of the hindquarters, makes them appear wider, deeper and more muscular, and shows the hocks to advantage.

There are several ways of tying up the short tail, but the most common is the Scotch knot. This is a three-strand braid, but braided "upside down". The knot is finished by wrapping the braid around itself and tying it with twine. A strip of bunting or ribbon is tied in a bow around the knot to hide the twine, and the ends fluffed out to give a pleasing appearance. The finished knot should be hard, tight, and set high on the tail.

The long tail should not be tied up in a hard knot, but may be thinned out and plaited. It is braided in a small three-strand braid,

adding hair from each side with each crossing of the strands. The plait is run down about 6 or 7 inches on the tail, then without adding more hair, the braid is run on out and the end tucked back up under. Flowers or small bows may be added to set off the braid.

### **The Feet and Legs**

If the colt has white legs, it will be necessary to wash the white parts with soap and water and rinse with clean water. Stand the colt on a piece of canvas and dry the legs by rubbing in clean, dry sawdust. Brush out the sawdust and rub in a small amount of glycerin to make the hair glossy. Some grooms use a mixture of olive and mineral oils (equal parts) with a tablespoonful of kerosene in a pint of the mixture. This rubbed gently into the hair (rubbing down) a month before going to the show puts a good bloom on the legs.

Before going into the show ring, the hoofs may be blackened with a lampblack dressing. White hoofs should not be blackened, but may be oiled with mineral oil. Rub off the excess oil or lampblack with a cloth so that the hoof won't collect dust or dirt. If the feet have been broken up or chipped, the holes may be filled with putty or plastic wood before the dressing is put on.

### **Halter**

The well-broken and trained colt shows to best advantage in a soft white rope halter. Such a halter is neat and inexpensive. Expensive head gear is not necessary. The judge is looking at the animal and not the equipment it wears. A colt that is hard to control may be shown with a well-fitting leather halter with a bit snapped into the cheeks and the lead rope under the jaw. Use a soft rope on colts because a chain is too harsh for young animals. Many club members show colts in a plain black leather bridle. Experienced showmen exhibit their stallions and geldings with bridles equipped with nosebands, but mares with rope halters or bridles without the noseband.

## **SHOWING**

Start decorating soon enough to be ready when the superintendent calls your class out. Have the colt well groomed, the mane and tail nicely combed out, and the bottoms of the feet clean. If the colt has a short tail, tie it up. If a long-tailed colt, plait the tail and comb out the hair at the bottom. Tying the tail can be done early as it will look neat indefinitely if done properly. Don't lay the roll too soon because the colt may fret and be uncomfortable as his head must be tied up. When decorated, put on the show halter and tuck the foretop under the right cheekpiece. Take the colt out into the aisle. Have someone hold his head up while you put on the finishing touches with rub rag and oil. Put the oil dressing on the feet and rub off the extra liquid.

### **In the Show Ring**

Take the colt into the show ring and line up with the rest, keeping about four feet between him and the next colt. Always keep the colt far enough from the others to prevent him kicking them or getting kicked.

When the judge calls you out, stand the colt so it can be inspected. Always keep the colt high in front, especially when he is stood up before the judge. Make the colt hold his head up and look alert. "Over stretching" and holding the head too high have a tendency to pull a colt down in the back, and it should be guarded against. After the judge has examined the colt, he will ask you to walk him. Keep on the left side of the colt and always **turn around your colt**. Never let the colt **turn around you**. After the walk trot down and back. Try to run smoothly with the horse. When turning the colt, always stop him



Fig. 16. Helen Woodworth, an Eaton County 4-H Club member showing her well-fitted and trained Percheron mare.

first and then turn on a small circle. Walk the colt about three steps before breaking into the trot to give him a chance to get straightened out.

A clumsy showman detracts from the appearance of the colt. Some style in the showman is desirable, but don't overdo it. Remember you are showing the colt, not yourself.

After moving, the colt may be stood up for another inspection. Return him to the end of the line and keep an eye on the judge. He may come around to look at your colt when you least expect it. When the judge tells you to change positions, back the colt out of line and come up into your new position from the rear.

Show the colt all of the time you are in the ring as the judge's final placing is not made until the awards are made. You may not win, but if your colt is well trained, decorated and shown, you can be proud of him.

## AFTER THE SHOW SEASON

When the show season is over, feed should be reduced and exercise increased. Older horses may be put to work. Others may be turned out to pasture with care taken not to put horses together that don't get along well. The shoes should be pulled and the feet trimmed (see page 26, Care of the Feet).

## JUDGING

The horse judge must have a complete knowledge of the parts of the animal, the names of these parts, and the importance of each. He should have a mental picture of the ideal horse of the breed and type that he is to judge. He must be able to recognize both the good and bad points of a horse and have the ability to balance faults and good points in placing his class.

It is best to have a definite system in looking the horse over. Judges differ in the way they go about it. Some begin at the ground and work up. Others begin at the head and work back and down. A common

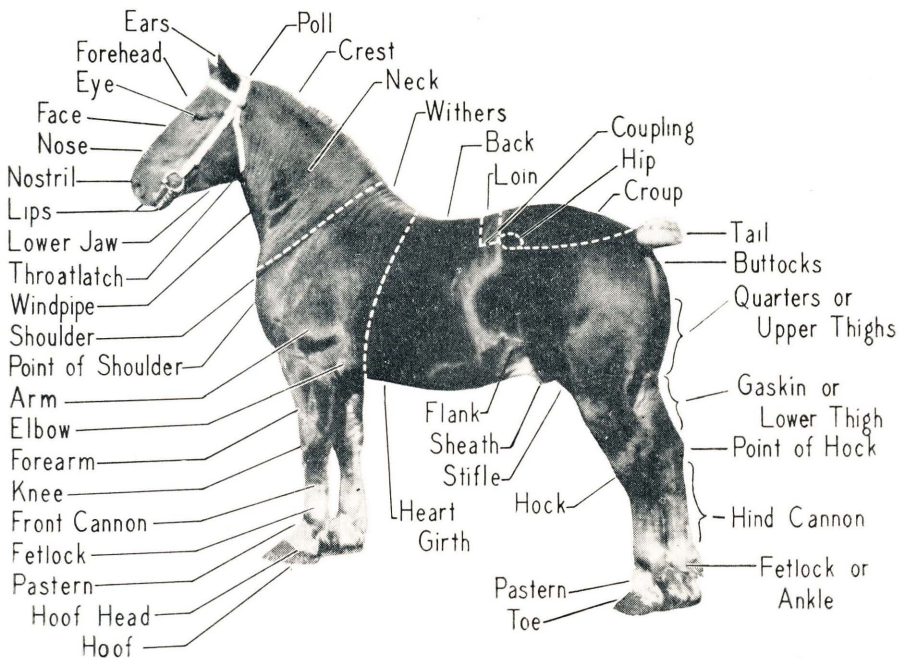


Fig. 17. Parts of the horse.

system is to get a general impression from a distance, then step up close and complete the examination moving in a circle around the animal. Regardless of where he starts, the good judge follows the same procedure with each horse.

The description of draft type has been covered on page 20, "Selecting the Club Colt". This will hold true for all draft horses with the exception that young animals will be longer legged and a little more rangy. Besides these points mentioned, sex and breed character must be considered in judging.

### **Suggestions in Giving a Set of Reasons**

In all judging contests the contestant is required to justify his placings by either verbal or written reasons. These should be complete and accurate, but not too detailed. Stress the important points. The manner of presenting reasons is an individual matter, and the form must be fitted to the personality of the contestant.

The following set of reasons is offered merely as a suggested pattern to follow, but the instructor may vary this when he deems best. Note especially that the animals are compared rather than described.

"My placing on this class of Aged Percheron Mares is 4—2—3—1.

"I placed 4 at the top, a typy, stylish, drafty, big footed mare with remarkable size and quality of bone. She is outstanding in this class although she is a little short in her neck, low in the back and short and steep in the croup.

"I placed her over 2 because she shows more femininity and Percheron character about the head and is a more compact, deeper-bodied and heavier-muscle mare (especially through the quarters). She stands on more bone below the knee, has a larger foot and moves with more force and style, more flexing of her hocks and goes straighter in front.

"I placed 2 over 3 because she has a more correct set of feet and legs, is more upheaded (due to her more sloping shoulder) and is heavier muscled over the croup. 2 is shorter legged, straighter in her knees and hocks, has more bone and a longer, more sloping pastern. 2 should be faulted for being long and low in the back and turning out a bit on her right hock, both walking and trotting, but she has a longer, truer, more energetic stride than 3.

"I put 3 over 1 because she is lower set, deeper bodied, and has more Percheron character and femininity about the head and neck. Granting that 3 is back at the knees, pigeon-toed, lacks spring of fore-rib, and is deficient in muscling over the croup, yet she has cleaner, harder, flatter bone and stands on a bigger, tougher foot with more spread at the heel than 1. 3 moves straighter than 1 who is open in her hocks and ropewalks in front.

"I considered 1 an easy bottom even though she has a strong back and heavy bone. She is off-type, tall, rangy, plain headed, and steep in the croup. She is coarse and round in her bone, short and steep in her pasterns and small and narrow in her feet. She is badly set in the hocks, stands and goes wide behind with poor control of her hocks at the trot."

**Note:** The method used in opening and closing the above set of reasons can be used best where there is a wide difference in the pairs in the class.

## SHIPPING OR TRUCKING

All feed should be kept from the colt for at least four hours before loading, because the nervous strain of shipping tends to produce indigestion. On trips of any distance, tails should be sacked as a precaution against rubbing out tail hair. Check the colt over thoroughly for cuts and bruises before loading and unloading. If the weather is bad, the animal should be blanketed. Horses are usually neither fed nor watered on short trips. If the horse is quiet, however, he may be given a little hay to work over. Hay, a light grain feed, and water are usually given on longer journeys.

Much trouble will be prevented in shipping and at the show if the colt's stable halter is strong and well fitted.

## UNSOUNDNESS, SICKNESS, FIRST-AID

**Sidebones** are usually found on the front feet at the side and rear of the coronet (hoof head). They are common in draft horses three years old or over and are brought on by concussion or injury which causes the lateral cartilages to harden and turn to bone. Sidebones seldom cause lameness if the horse is not worked on pavement, but they are considered a serious unsoundness in breeding and show stock. Most horsemen believe them to be a hereditary weakness. Horses with small, narrow feet and short, steep pasterns are most subject to this unsoundness.

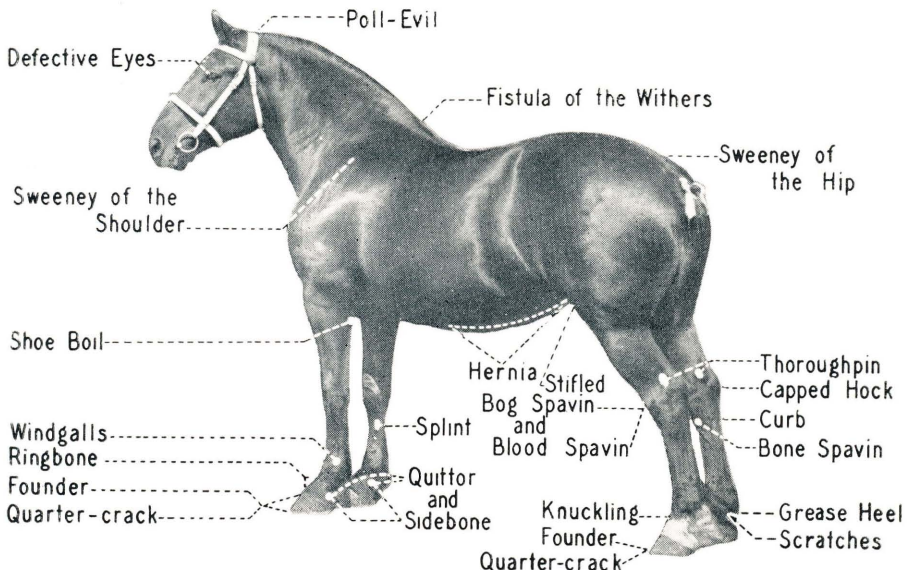


Fig. 18. Location of unsoundnesses of the horse.

**Ringbone:** This is a growth of bone occurring anywhere along the pastern. It may be very large or so small as to escape notice. The size of the ringbone is no indication of the lameness it will produce. A small one may make the horse very lame while a large ringbone may not bother at all. There is no way of removing this defect, but firing or blistering will usually relieve the lameness.

**Founder** (laminitis) is an inflammation of the sensitive leaves of the foot. It is a serious ailment and unless treated immediately, the feet may be permanently deformed. Most cases recover completely if properly treated. The most common cause of founder is over-feeding. It is also caused by infectious disease, long shipment, standing in the stall for long periods of time, or use of too strong physicks. In the mare, it may also be caused by inflammation of the uterus in foaling. The affected feet (usually the front ones) swell inside the hoof and cause great pain to the animal. A foundered horse dislikes to move because of the pain in his feet. A veterinarian should be called at once, and the feet kept in cold water or cold packs until he arrives. Give no physicks unless your veterinarian advises it.

**Quarter or Sand Crack** is a split or crack in the wall of the foot and may result in severe lameness. It is usually caused by neglecting foot trimming, which results in an uneven surface. This gives an unequal distribution of weight, and the resulting strain causes the hoof to split. Treatment consists of taking the weight off the crack by cutting away the hoof for three-quarters of an inch on each side of the crack. If the crack is very long it may be prevented from further splitting by burning the wall with a curved iron. In severe cases the colt should be shod.

**Splints** are usually found on the inner side of the front cannon below the knee. These are boney enlargements caused by strain, kicks, or over-exertion. Splints are very common in young horses, but disappear as the horse grows older. They seldom cause lameness unless close to the knee. Splints are regarded as a blemish only, for most judges and horsemen pay no attention to them.

**Spavins:** There are three kinds of spavins—bone, bog, and blood spavins.

**Bone Spavin:** (Sometimes called a "jack") is the most serious as it almost always causes lameness. It is a boney growth usually occurring on the inside and lower part of the hock joint toward the front. The formation may spread over a great portion of the hock, making the joint immovable and the animal useless. Small, coarse and crooked hocks are most subject to bone spavins.

**Bog Spavin** is considered an unsoundness by judges and horsemen. It does not always cause lameness, but it indicates a lack of quality and strength. It is a soft swelling on the front and inside of the hock. This condition is often seen in highly-fitted horses having coarse, meaty hocks. Treatment is usually unsuccessful although the swelling may be temporarily sweated down by use of boots and bandages.

**Blood Spavin** is usually regarded as a blemish since it rarely causes lameness. It is a swelling over the front and inside of the hock caused by the enlargement of blood vessels of that part of the hock.

**Capped Hock** occurs as a firm swelling on the point of the hock. It is due to bruising the hock against the stall by kicking or rubbing or in lying down or getting up. Capped hock rarely causes lameness and is not discriminated against in the show ring. However, it is unsightly and spoils the finished look of the animal. If discovered soon enough, the swelling may sometimes be reduced by applications of cold packs and cold water.



Fig. 19. Curb. Note badly set hocks which are frequently associated with curbs.

**Curb** (Fig. 19) is a hard lump on the back edge of the cannon about four inches below the point of the hock. It may be about the size of a walnut or so small that it must be felt to be detected. It is an unsoundness that cannot be removed. Horses with "sickled" or badly set hocks are most subject to curb.

**Wire Cuts** should not be neglected because of the danger of infection. They should be healed up rapidly to leave as small a blemish as possible. Serious cuts should have the attention of a veterinarian. A good remedy for small cuts is a solution made up of one ounce of sugar of lead and one ounce of zinc sulphate in a quart of water. This is commonly called "white lotion". Shake the bottle well each time and apply with a clean cloth or absorbent cotton three times a day.

**Rope Burns:** For minor burns put on a soothing poultice, then use white lotion to dry it up. There are several good commercial poultices on the market, and almost every horseman has a favorite home remedy. If the leg begins to swell (a sign of infection), or if the burns are severe, a veterinarian should be called at once.

**Thrush** often accompanies high heels. When the heels are high, the frog does not get pressure. It shrinks and picks up filth in the cleft. This rots the frog and gives off a foul odor. Treatment is to open up along the frog, clean out the filth and remove the rotted and dead parts. Lower the heels and pack the frog with cotton and antiseptic. Any good disinfectant is satisfactory in mild cases. For severe cases, copper sulphate and butter of antimony are best. Use copper sulphate mixed with calomel,  $\frac{1}{2}$  and  $\frac{1}{2}$ . Powder finely and pack into the frog, covering with cotton. Butter of antimony should be used alone. Pour it into the affected part and pack cotton in to keep out the dirt.

**Scratches** are common in heavily fitted horses and those having a lot of "feather". Scratches are an inflammation and cracking of the

skin in the hollow of the heel. They also occur on the rear of the pastern and may extend up the cannon. They are itchy and in trying to rub them, the colt may cap his hocks. The following remedy is good for this trouble: Melt a cup of pure lard, add two tablespoonfuls of sulphur, one tablespoonful of kerosene, and one tablespoonful of some good disinfectant. Use as a salve and rub well into the affected areas once or twice a day.

**Grease Heel or Wet Scratches** (also called "leaking") are similar in location but are characterized by a watery discharge. They are most common in coarse legged horses and often follow exposure to cold, mud, snow, slush or cold water without proper care. They may also be caused by overfeeding of corn or lack of exercise while standing in dirty stables. Neither wet nor dry scratches should be washed as it makes them worse. Feeding cooling feeds (carrots, bran) and use of white lotion (see "Wire Cuts") will usually cure this ailment.

**Colic** is serious, and a veterinarian should be called at once. Obtain his advice on what to do until he gets there. In any case, the animal should be put into a large box stall or out-of-doors so that he will have lots of room. It is a good plan to walk the horse about slowly until help arrives. This relieves the pain somewhat and prevents the horse from hurting himself while struggling. Colic can usually be prevented by good management practices. Don't let the horse eat too fast or too much when tired or hungry. Feed only rations of good quality.

**Punctures** in the sole of the foot caused by nails or other sharp objects should not be neglected because of the danger of infection. The hole should be enlarged to give drainage. Pour iodine into the opening and put a loose cotton plug in to keep the dirt out. Your veterinarian can give the colt vaccine to prevent tetanus or "lock-jaw".

**Stocking** or swelling of the legs is often found in coarse-legged or round-boned horses. It usually occurs when the horse is kept standing in his stall for long periods of time without sufficient exercise. Treatment is to keep the animal exercised and the bowels in good condition.

**Internal Parasites:** The two most common internal parasites of horses are round worms found in the intestines, and bots in the stomach or intestines. Round worms and bots rob the colt of a large portion of his feed and in turn eliminate poisonous substances into the vital organs. When parasites are present in large numbers, the colt becomes unthrifty, rough-coated and pot-bellied.

Carbon disulfide is the common and recommended treatment for both round worms and bots. This should be administered only by a competent veterinarian as it is dangerous in unskilled hands. To do the most good, it should be given after freezing weather. It is considered good practice to treat all colts for internal parasites, for then they go through the winter in better condition, on less feed, and with less danger of colic.

For further information on internal parasites, see your veterinarian, county agricultural agent, or write to the Department of Animal Pathology, Michigan State College, East Lansing, Michigan.

**Equine Encephalomyelitis (Sleeping Sickness)** has become widespread throughout the United States in the last few years, and several cases have been reported in this state. Outbreaks are serious, for the death loss is high among infected animals. Those that recover are often useless. The disease attacks the brain, leaving some horses blind and others "dummies".

The disease is spread by mosquitoes and biting flies. Therefore, when an outbreak occurs, it is well to protect the colt against insects. However, the safest way of protecting the colt against the disease is to have him vaccinated with the proper kind of chick embryo vaccine. There are other types on the market, but the chick embryo vaccine is the only effective one. Vaccine for the two injections costs the veterinarian about \$1.26 per animal. His charge to you varies with the number vaccinated, the distance he has to drive, and the help you give him in having the animal ready so as to save time.

Since vaccination does not furnish permanent immunity, but must be repeated each year, there is no need for treatment until the disease appears in your community. If the disease has been near you, prompt vaccination with reliable chick vaccine will prevent losses.

### BREED ASSOCIATIONS

**Belgian**—The Belgian Draft Horse Corporation of America, Wabash, Ind. Howard J. Brant, Secretary.

**Clydesdale**—The Clydesdale Association of United States, Union Stock Yards, Chicago, Ill. Margret Coridan, Secretary.

**Percheron**—The Percheron Horse Association of America, Union Stock Yards, Chicago, Ill. Ellis McFarland, Secretary-Treasurer.

**Shire**—American Shire Horse Association, Bushnell, Ill. John G. Truman, Secretary.

**Suffolk**—American Suffolk Horse Association, Bushnell, Ill. Mrs. Veva L. Steffey, Secretary.

**Jacks and Jennets**—Standard Jack and Jennet Registry, Scarrit Building, Kansas City, Mo. Wm. E. Morton, Secretary.

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**4-H CLUB MOTTO**—*“To Make the Best Better”*

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**4-H CLUB COLORS**—*Green and White*

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**4-H CLUB PLEDGE**

I pledge

My head to clearer thinking,

My heart to greater loyalty,

My hands to larger service and

My health to better living

For

My Club

My Community and

My Country.