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Help the Work-Stock to Do Their Best for You.

NEXT to the efficiency of the brain directing them, the efficiency of the farm work-stock during the next three or four months will most largely determine the condition of the crops. It would be interesting to know what per cent of the efficiency of farm horses and mules is lost through lack of care and unwise feeding. It is safe to state that this loss is much larger than the average man realizes. We are convinced it is really one of the greatest wastes on Southern farms.

It is supposed that one of the reasons why the boys leave the farms is because they find life more pleasant, even if more strenuous, in the city. It is at least true that the greatest conveniences to body comforts are now found in the city. The same is true as to horses. The horses that do the heavy work in the cities are better fed and better cared for than the horses of the country. On the whole, the horses that move the city burdens

are well fed and given good care. Of course, we have the horse slums as well as the human slums in the city, and the worst cases of abuse of our faithful friend, the horse, occur in the city, but most city horses are better cared for than those which labor on Southern farms. They have better collars, their work is more regular, they receive better-balanced rations and are more regularly groomed.

In these four lines can most be done to lessen the hardships of the farm horse and increase his efficiency. The Progressive Farmer has often called attention to the cruelty inflicted on Southern farm work-stock through the use of cheap, low-grade collars. The good collar must be broad, smooth and firm and fit the shoulder nearly where the draft is exerted. Such a collar may be badly fitted, but a narrow, improperly or unevenly stuffed collar can never be well fitted and soon calls for the abominable sweat-pad, which never makes a poor collar good, but often adds to the discomfort of the unfortunate wearer. It is poor economy to use a poor collar and still worse to neglect to keep any collar used, clean and properly fitted.

It is almost impossible to make the work of the farm horse regular. It is almost certain to be severe at times and light at others. Perhaps the worst feature of farm work, so far as keeping the animals up to the highest point of efficiency is concerned is the idle days, which come as a result of rains which make it impossible to get on the land. In

such cases lighter feeding on these days is better than idleness with a full ration; but better still is a plan which insures some exercise with the feed decreased but little. Regular work and regular feeding, both as to time and quantity, should be aimed at, but when the work

is stopped or when it is suddenly made unusually hard, less feed should be given. It is a mistake suddenly to increase the work to a point where it taxes the strength of the animal, but it is still worse to tax both the muscles and the stomach to the limit of their capacity at the same time.

There are approximately 5,500,000 work animals in our territory. Ninety-five per cent of their grain feed is corn. If each animal received an average of two pounds less corn per day and one pound of cottonseed meal took the place of two pounds of corn, the saving would be \$15,000,000 a year and more work would be done.



DON'T LET THE TEAMS SUFFER FOR WATER THESE TRYING SPRING DAYS.

For some reason the South has almost completely lost that high regard for the value of grooming so characteristic of the horse owners of Europe and some other sections. There is ample evidence to show that the use of the brush after a hard day's work is worth much more than it costs. Until we use the brush more, the use of the clippers to remove the long winter coat would add much to the comfort of the work-stock and add to their efficiency.

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