

THE PROGRESSIVE FARMER.

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THE RIGHT WAY TO FEED A HORSE.

Elsewhere in this number of The Progressive Farmer we have taken up the question of what to feed your horse; right now let us see how you can save money by the right manner of giving this feed to "Old Charley."

You doubtless know some man, who, when he went to the stable in the morning to feed his horse, reasoned something like this: "I am going to drive Charley fifteen miles to town this forenoon, and as he is a farm horse, he is not accustomed to road work, and it will be harder for him; therefore, I will give him a little extra feed this morning."

Don't Overfeed Prior to Hard Work.

It is not unusual for a horse fed in this way to begin to "scour" when half way to town, and on reaching town develop a case of colic. How should this man have reasoned? This would have been more rational—I am going to compel Charley to do more work than usual with his muscles this morning; hence, he cannot do as much with his stomach, and I will, therefore, feed him less than usual. But some one says: "That won't do, if you are going to work a horse you must feed him." I agree with that, but we must remember that the feed Charley eats this morning is not going to be digested and get into his blood in time to help him do this afternoon's work. Then, why feed him anything this morning? It would be infinitely better to feed him nothing rather than over-feed him—better to leave the corn in the crib than in Charley's stomach if he cannot digest it. But Charley is accustomed to getting a feed in the morning and we must give him a little to prevent this weak, "gone" feeling which comes from going without breakfast. But a little feed will do this, and it is, therefore, in no sense advisable to give him a full feed.

In fact, never give a horse a full feed on a change of work, nor a change of feed on hard work. This rule should never be forgotten.

It Pays to Feed Regularly.

Again, I have known men who had a headache if they did not get their meals on regular time. I have also known men who, if they went home to dinner, and it wasn't ready, would raise a racket with the madam about it, and yet, these very same men are likely to feed their horses at 4.30 this morning, 5 to-morrow morning and 5.30 or 6 o'clock the next morning. They apparently forget that such irregularity may give the horse or mule a headache—make him sick. But if it does not make the horse sick it wastes feed. For those practical men who weigh the feed and the horses have found that of two horses working in the same team, therefore, doing practically the same work, the one fed regularly and the other irregularly, the one fed regularly will keep in the same condition on less feed, or in better condition on the same feed.

How You Make Your Horse Have Colic.

There is not a man among my readers who likes to eat a big meal and immediately do hard work; yet we feed our horses large quantities of hay and grain and at once put them to hard physical labor. If we eat heartily, and then work hard immediately after, it not only makes us feel uncomfortable, but may actually make us sick. It also does the same for the horse. Why? Simply because if we force an animal to do hard work with his muscles, a larger quantity of blood must go to those muscles, and, therefore, less can go to his stomach, and indigestion and colic follow as a natural consequence if his stomach is over-full.

Let me show this to you by calling your attention to one other point: When do our cases of



[Courtesy Rural Magazine.]

IDEAL FARM HORSES, DEEP CHEST, GOOD WIND.

Some of our readers are interested in cotton, some tobacco, some truck, some cattle, some grain—but all are interested in horses. Whatever crop the farmer grows or doesn't grow, horses he must have; and so all sorts and conditions of farmers will be interested in the special articles in this week's paper.

colic develop? Did you ever know a case to develop in a horse or mule before breakfast? He may have been sick all night; but if he remained well until morning the case of colic did not develop before breakfast. When does colic usually occur? From 9 to 11 o'clock in the forenoon, 3 to 5 o'clock in the afternoon, or just after dark at night. Now, after an opportunity to study and observe these matters quite closely for the last twenty years, I am convinced that more farm horses and mules die during the summer from colic than from any other half-dozen diseases combined, and I am further convinced that ninety-nine out of every one hundred of these cases of colic are the result of injudicious feeding and working. In other words, they might be prevented.

Observe These Simple Rules.

The question arises, then, How should we feed? I cannot lay down rules that will be found acceptable on every farm, for conditions vary, but I will state the way I believe the hard-working farm horse ought to be fed, and if this be done, it will lessen the number of cases of colic and increase the efficiency of our farm work stock.

When the hard-working horse is brought into the stable at night, tired and worn, he should not be given any feed for half an hour. He may then be given all the hay he is to receive during the twenty-four hours. An hour later he should be given his grain. If he is to receive fifteen pounds during the twenty-four hours, give him seven pounds at night. If this is too much trouble, then allow the animal to eat hay for from one-half to three-quarters of an hour after being put into the stable before feeding the grain. If either of these plans is adopted, feed the horse all his hay and seven pounds of grain at night, four pounds of

grain in the morning and four pounds at noon; but if the horse is fed as soon as put in stall, then, while I would still feed all the hay at night, I would not feed more than one-third the grain.

TAIT BUTLER.

SOUTH CAROLINA FARMERS' INSTITUTE SCHEDULE.

South Carolina Farmers' Institutes are announced for the following times and places:

Leesville, January 4th; Ridgespring, January 5th; Johnston, January 7th; Graniteville, January 8th; Montmorenci, January 9th; Williston, January 10th; Blackville, January 11th; Springfield, January 12th; Barnwell, January 14th; Alledale, January 15th; Hampton, January 17th; Beaufort, January 18th; Meggett, January 19th; Young's Island, January 21st; Summerville, January 24th; St. George, January 25th; Branchville, January 26th; Orangeburg, January 28th; St. Matthews, January 29th; Sumter, January 30th; Manning, January 31st; Foreston, February 1st; Georgetown, February 2nd; Kingstree, February 4th; Lake City, February 5th; Florence, February 6th; Marion, February 7th; Wanamaker, February 8th; Homewood, February 9th; Conway, February 11th; Darlington, February 12th; Hartsville, February 13th; Cheraw, February 14th; Chesterfield, February 15th.

We hope that Progressive Farmer readers will co-operate with the Institute workers in every possible way in making these Institutes successful. They mean much for better farming.

Don't say things. What you are stands over you all the while and thunders so that I cannot hear what you say.—Elbert Hubbard.