

Work Brood Mares Instead of Mules.

An Experienced Virginia Horseman Urges Farmers to Adopt This Policy—Every Neighborhood Should Organize a Company and Buy a Fine Stallion—Big Money in Draft and Coach Breeds.

Messrs. Editors: This is the season when the horseman's fancy seriously turns to the question of breeding; and indeed there is no more important problem for the stockman to solve. There is no doubt of the fact that there never has been a time in the history of this country when there was such a demand for horses or where the "noble steed" brought such good prices as the present. And this being the condition, there is now hardly anything that will pay the farmer or stockman better than the breeding and raising of colts. A good work or driving mare, moreover, should make a good brood mare. This being true, the progressive farmer is quick to seize the opportunity, and it is safe to say that more work and driving mares will drop colts during the year 1907 than ever before in the history of the Progressive Farmer's territory; and it is also safe to say that more mares will be bred during the coming year than were bred during the season just ended.

Good Blood Costs Little More—Means Much More.

In Virginia there is certainly more interest manifested in the breeding of good colts than ever before, and more pure-bred and high-class stallions are owned here now than at any previous time in its history. Importers and breeders of high-class stallions have their agents and salesmen all over the State and many fine stallions are being placed here. This will redound in great good and will be the means of improving the class of horses being bred, because the progressive farmer should remember that if he breeds his mares to a pure blooded stallion his colt will be half a full-blood and the more pure blood he gets, the better will be his chance to raise a fine horse. It costs no more to raise a colt sired by a pure-blooded stallion, than one sired by a half-bred or (worse still) a stallion with no pedigree at all. It is one of the laws of nature that like begets like, and the progressive farmer should always look for the best stallion he can find when he gets ready to breed. The fee will not be very much more, and the result will be so vastly superior that the difference in costs of breeding fades into insignificance.

Draft and Coach Horses the Money-Making Breeds.

A few years ago it was a mooted question among stockmen as to what class of colts to breed. To-day the progressive farmer knows without the shadow of a doubt that the draft or coach horse is the winner and money-maker. Read any of the stock papers and note the vast number of draft and coach stallions that are being imported yearly into this country. Also note the fact that these stallions are being sold as fast as they arrive in the United States, and sold at almost fabulous figures. Young draft and coach stallions, of known superior blood lines, are in great demand and command fancy prices. Imported stallions command better prices than native-bred horses of equally as good breeding. Of course it is very expensive getting the foreign-bred horse on this market and there is a popular fancy or fad, a personal pride perhaps, in being able to say, "My imported stallion," therefore it is only fair and perfectly natural that the foreign-bred stallion should sell at higher figures.

But is the imported horse better than the native-bred, and if so, why? Certainly there is no more intelligence in Europe than America, and surely no country under the canopy of Heaven offers any better advantage for breeding than ours. It is true that the foreign governments control the breeding of their horses, thus insuring pure blood lines, but our registry associations do the same.

At the great International Show held a few weeks ago in Chicago



WELL-KEPT FARM BROOD MARES.

Mr. Owens urges the advisability of the wider use of good brood mares instead of mules as farm work stock.

many native-bred horses won in the biggest kind of competition. Every progressive farmer in America would do well to make note of this, and it should certainly encourage every stockman and stimulate him to greater endeavor. What one has done another can do, and in a few years the results will be seen at every Fair and Horse Show in this country, and it will then be proven that we can and do breed just as good stock as our foreign breeders.

Organize and Buy a Good Stallion for Each Neighborhood.

Good mares are just as essential as good stallions for the breeding of good horses, and every progressive farmer and stockman should provide himself with good mares and then breed to the best stallions in his neighborhood. If there is no stallion in your section, buy one if you can. If you can't do this, do the next best thing and organize a company and buy a high grade, pure-blooded stallion. He will soon pay for himself and be a blessing to your community. Beside the profit in possessing good horses, think of the pleasure and comfort they afford you. And remember that the labor and cost of caring for them is no more than for scrubs that disappoint you in their work and make you ashamed of their appearance.

Why Not Try Brood Mares Instead of Mules?

At present more interest is being manifested in Virginia in the breeding of live stock than ever before in the history of the State, and the same conditions obtain no doubt in all the territory reached by The Progressive Farmer. Your correspondent, Mr. French, in a recent article, gives a beautiful word-picture of how an abandoned plantation could be reclaimed by converting it into a stock farm. He only mentioned cattle, sheep, and swine, but he could have

well added horses. The brood mares could have done the work given to mules and raised a colt in addition. Breeding the work mare is almost analogous to the growing of corn and clover the same year on one piece of land. The fact that the work mare is in foal insures for her, perhaps, a little better attention, and the farmer realizes at the close of the year that old Fannie is still looking mighty spry though she has done a hard year's work—raised a fine colt, and is again in foal.

There is no doubt of the fact that when it comes to work, the long-eared quadruped is a dandy, and there are farmers who think they can't farm without the mule. They will tell you that the horse cannot do as much work as the mule and costs

Get in line and keep as near the front as possible. Sell the old razor-back and get some pure-bred swine. Get pure-blooded cattle and add one or two or more first-class mares to your list of live stock. Be sure you have a pure-blooded coach or draft stallion in your neighborhood and raise a few fine colts. You will find that your nice stock will not only be a source of great pleasure but much profit as well.

Another very essential thing in connection with the breeding and raising of fine stock is that you take a farm and stock journal. Every Carolina or Virginia farmer not already a subscriber to The Progressive Farmer ought to be. Read all the farm and stock literature you can. Subscribe to as many journals

more to keep. But do they figure this out fairly? They possibly have a pair of mules that cost \$600, and they would expect to pay about \$200 for a pair of horses. Let them put the same amount of money in a pair of brood mares that a first-class pair of mules would cost. Then work and breed mares every year. Then after the first year figure the returns of both and see if the mares do not prove the most profitable as well as most useful.

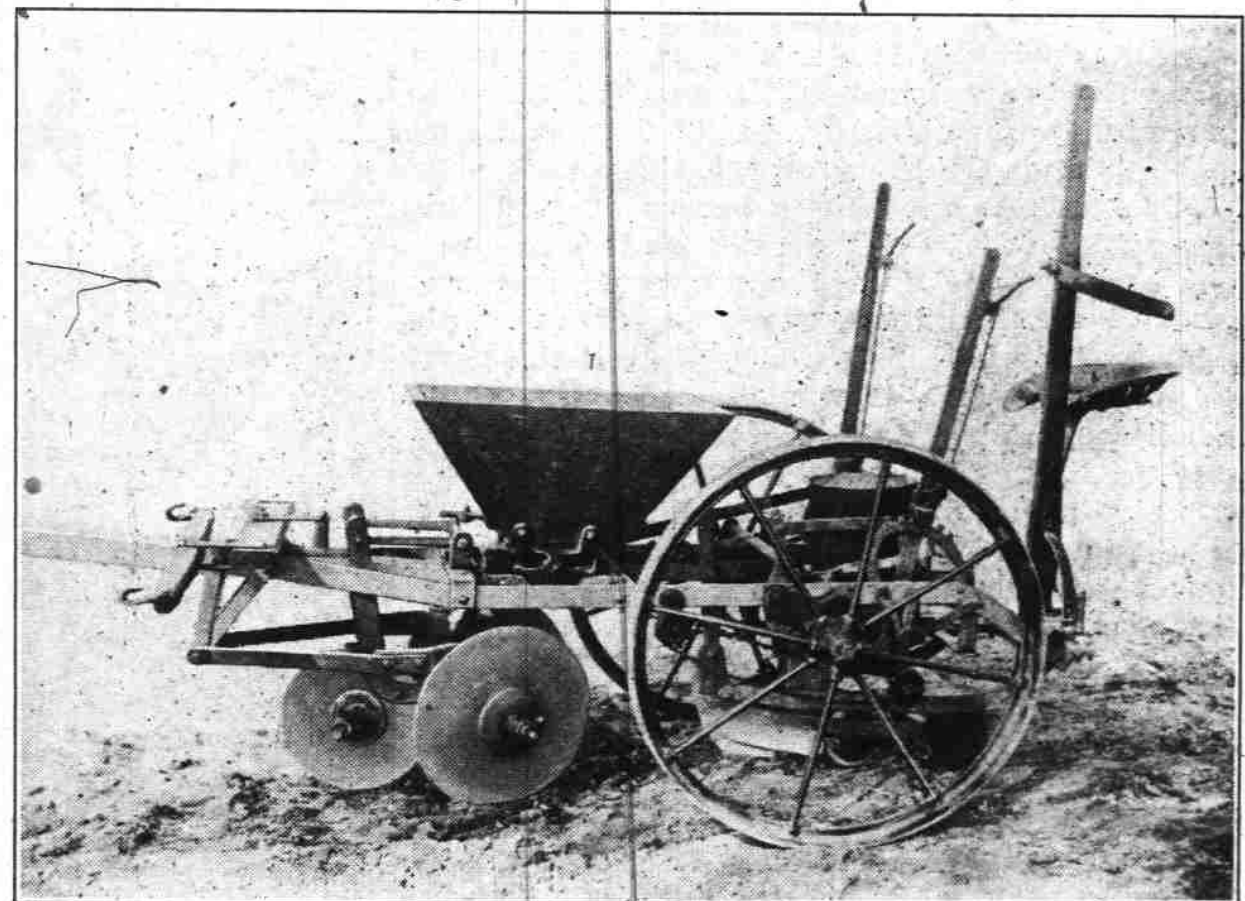
Go Forward for 1907.

The farmers that have not joined the progressive colony should do so at once. Start the New Year right.

as you can afford and have time to read. Then read them and keep yourself posted on what is being done and who is doing it. Anything you don't know, write, and ask your paper for the information. Someone else may want to know the same thing and the Editors will take pleasure in answering your questions. Subscribe to good stock and farm journals, get some fine horses, and other stock, and nineteen seven will be the happiest and most prosperous year of your life. And I wish you all this, and more besides.

WM. G. OWENS.

Richmond, Va.



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