FARM TOPICS

HORSES VALUABLE; GOOD CARE NEEDED

Life of Animals Should Be Much Longer.

By Philip Henderson of the New York State College of Agriculture.—WNU Service.

A horse is more valuable today, in terms of other commodities, than at any time in the past 20 years. The price of horses rose enough from 1925 to 1937 to double their value in terms of all other commodities.

Each year farmers lose horses that proper care and management would save—horses with many useful years of work ahead. A study in Chenango and Ontario counties in 1936 by a representative of Cornell showed that 428 horses died during the past five years on 432 farms, or nearly one to a farm. These died at the average age of 16 years. Average age of 1,382 horses on these farms in 1936 was 13 years.

Old age caused fully one-third of the deaths among the horses, according to the investigator. Average age of horses that died of old age was 23 years.

Old age causes more than twice as many deaths as any other single thing. Accidents and digestive troubles are next; each was responsible for 14 per cent of the 428 deaths. All three causes were responsible for two-thirds of all the deaths on these farms during the past five years.

Other reasons why farm horses die are: paralysis, heaves, lockjaw, heat, food poisoning, azuturia, lightning, and pneumonia. Each has a minor part, along with other miscellaneous causes.

No method is offered to keep horses from growing old; but old-age, cited as the main cause of death, ranges from 14 to 37 years. Is there that much variation among the horses themselves, or could care and management influence length-of-life? He says the answer is given by experienced farmers and others who know horses and who know how to prolong the useful life of "man's most faithful servant."

Seven Types of Heads Found Among the Hens

The seven types of heads of layers, according to a poultry specialist at the Missouri state college, are:

First, rugged refined—capable of producing 250 to 300 eggs per year. This head shows high quality, the face is of medium length and depth and the skin is of fine texture and lean appearance.

Second, refined head—capable of producing 200 to 250 eggs. This head is similar to the rugged refined type but is lacking in strength.

Third, overly refined—capable of producing 150 to 200 eggs. This bird is lacking in strength.

Fourth, crow-headed—capable of producing 150 to 200 eggs. This head shows refinement but also considerable length. It lacks ruggedness so necessary for high production.

Fifth, coarse—capable of producing 50 to 150 eggs. This head shows wrinkles, over-hanging brows and coarseness throughout.

Sixth, phlegmatic—capable of producing 25 to 150 eggs. The best way of describing this head is to say that it is lacking in character.

Seventh, masculine—capable of producing 0 to 50 eggs. In this case the hen grows an excessively large comb and takes on the appearance of the male. It is due to growths or disturbances in the ovary.

Paving Feedlots

Feedlots can be paved by the regular farm help, E. T. Robbins, live stock extension specialist, College of Agriculture, University of Illinois, points out. A brick pavement 35 by 70 feet was laid in 1929 at a minimum of expense. Bricks of common size were laid flat on the black dirt of a level prairie farm. A rim of concrete extends around the outside. The bricks are not tight but they have stayed in place and the floor has kept smooth.

Poultry Grades Changed

Two important changes of interest to poultrymen were made in poultry plans at a recent annual poultry improvement conference in Chicago. The first was the establishment of a new chick grade, known as U. S. Verified, the intermediate grade between U. S. Approved and U. S. Certified. The second was a ruling requiring hatcheries and dealers to submit copies of proposed advertising literature to the official state agency before they are sent out.

Strawstack Tons Measured

There are differences of opinion over the method of estimating, within reason, the number of tons in a strawstack. Here is one good way to do it: multiply the overthrow (the distance from the ground on one side over the top of the stack to the ground on the other side) by the length, by the width (all in feet); multiply by 3, divide by 10 and then divide by 500 to 600, depending upon the length of time the hay has been in the stack.

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ON THE SCREEN AT THE NEW LYCEUM

Maureen O'Sullivan and Mickey Rooney in "Hold That Kiss"

A new co-starring team makes its screen debut at the New Lyceum Theatre on Monday and Tuesday, June 6 and 7 with the initial performance of a new Warner Bros. comedy called "Women Are Like That."

Curiously, although they have been at the same studio for several years, the lovely, dark Kay Francis and the genial, rapid-talking Irishman, Pat O'Brien, have never before worked in a picture together. Years ago on the stage, they were teamed up in "Nigger Rich."

Pat and Kay are said to make an ideal movie team. "Women Are Like That" is a gay comedy revolving around the colorful and exciting advertising business. You can imagine Pat with his staccato patter selling advertising accounts and you can also fancy Kay wielding her feminine charms for the same purpose.

While this movie is by no means a fashion show, the advance notices from the producers say that Miss Francis (always listed among the ten best dressed women of the world) wears nol ess than thirty-five different costumes. created by the Warner stylist, Orry-Kelly.

The original story of "Women Are Like That" was by A. H. Z. Carr and was printed in a national magazine under the title of "Return From Limbo." It was made into a screenplay by Horace Jackson and the picture was directed by Stanley Logan who was also responsible for Kay's highly successful comedy of political life, "First Lady."

In the cast that supports Miss Francis and Mr. O'Brien, are such notables as Ralph Forbes, Melville Cooper, Thurston Hall, Grant Mitchell and Herbert Rawlinson.

What happens when a beautiful girl walks into a strange man's hotel suite, steals his bed, his pajamas, his book, his breakfast and incidentally, his heart and vanishes without leaving her name, is merrily told in "The Divorce of Lady X," Alexander Korda's technicolor comedy, starring Merle Oberon, which comes on Wednesday and Thursday, June 8 and 9 to the New Lyceum Theatre.

Merle's Comedy Debut

The film, which is Korda's first technicolor effort, also marks a double debut for Merle. It is not only the star's first color film, but also marks her entrance into the comedy field.

Tall, dark and handsome Laurence Olivier plays the young barrister whose suite Merle invades when a dense fog makes it impossible for her to leave a fancy dress ball she is attending at his hotel, and she finds it impossible to get accommodations.

Then Things Happen

Things begin happening next day when the bewildered young man believes he is the unidentified corespondent in the divorce case he has been asked to plead by a man he assumes is Merle's husband.

Binnie Barnes, Ralph Richardson and Morton Selten are also prominently featured in the cast of the comedy which was based on the play "Counsel's Opinion" by Lajos Biros. The screen play was prepared by Robert E. Sherwood in Collaboration with the author.

Tim Whelan directed "The Divorce of Lady X" for release through United Artists.

NEW HORSES ENTERED AT DEL. PARK

Ray Bryson, who built the new half-mile course at Bel Air, the seat of Harford county, Maryland, and conducted his first meeting there last year, is back at Delaware Park with a stable of twenty horses, seasoned by winter campaigning in Louisiana and spring racing at Bowie, Havre de Grace and Pimlico, for the second annual meeting of the Delaware Steeplechase and Hunt Association that will begin June 8th to run twenty eight days. But Calumet Dick the $2,500 horse with which he won the first Sussex handicap last summer at Delaware Park and which later beat Snark and Seabiscuit for $28,000 in the fourth Narragansett Special, and Masked General, Mucho Gusto, Busy K., and Burning Star in a Thanksgiving handicap, at Bowie, is not among them. Calumet Dick broke down in California last winter, where he travelled from New Orleans to try his luck in the fourth Santa Anita handicau, and is rusticating now in Maryland in the hope of a comeback.

But Bryson has a right promising three year old filly in Bunny Baby, which he has put in the Diamond State stakes, the Delaware Oaks and the New Castle and Kent handicaps, also, the veterans Varvola, Quicker, Cogie, Mr. Bun and River Dee and a flock of two year olds, some of them winners, some still untried, so he is not afraid of being skunked at Stanton. No horseman who will take part in the Delaware Park meeting has more two year olds under saddle for he was the biggest buyer at last August's Saratoga yearling sales. He is doing his own training this season. Bunny Baby, a daughter of Transmute and Bye o'Baby, beat those accomplished sprinters High Hedge, Grand Slam and Fraidy Cat the last day at Pimilica after winning five time at New Orleans. River Dee, Quicker and Mr. Bun won at Pimlico too, Cogie at Bowie and Carvola at New Orleans. He must think that Carvola has slipped some or he would have made some stake engagements for her at Delaware Park as he did last summer.

The youngsters of which he seems to expect most are the colts Rossman and Geeraybe and the fillies Spanish Beauty and Sunny Rose. Spanish Beauty, a $650 daughter of Transmute, is in the Polly Drummond stakes with Sunny Rose, a $500 daughter of Sun Edwin. Spanish Beauty is the only one of the four that has raced. She started once and was unplaced at Pimlico. The colts are both in the Dover and Christiana stakes. Geeraybe is an $1,100 son of Twink and Bogie and Rossman is a $1,500 son of Time Maker and Countersign. The fact that these youngsters cost litlte doesn't mean a thing. Pompoon was a $2,000 yearling, Goldey F. which won eight in a row the season before last, cost no more than $150 and J. A. Manfuso got Aneroid at a salt at William duPont's Walnut Hall stud for $300.

Black Country

The name Black country is applied to a district of the English Midlands including South Staffordshire, with parts of Worcestershire and Warwickshire. The name is due to the numerous collieries and furnaces, and the desolation of scenery caused by the mining of coal, ironstone, clay and dependent industries.

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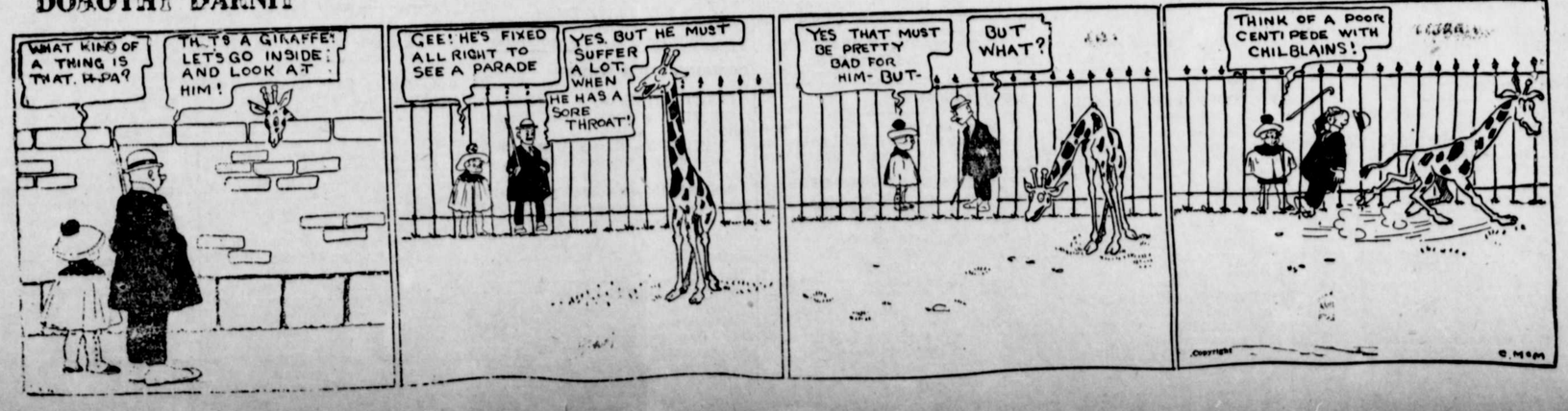
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