

WISCONSIN BANKERS' FARM BULLETIN

Draft Horses Produce Bank Drafts

By

A. S. ALEXANDER

College of Agriculture of the University of Wisconsin



HEAVY HORSES MAKE LIGHT WORK OF HEAVY HARVESTS.
Why feed three or four little scrubs to do the work of two real draft horses?

File this bulletin where you can find it

=====
Distributed by

Wisconsin Bankers' Association

W. A. von Berg,
Chairman Agricultural Committee,
Mosinee

George D. Bartlett,
Association Secretary,
Pabst Building, Milwaukee

Draft Horses Produce Bank Drafts

Wisconsin possesses all of the necessary conditions for the breeding and raising of fine horses. The 1271 grade and scrub sires now in use prevent proper progress.

Here's a true story for the mare owner to remember:

A Wisconsin farmer one April day was leading his grade Belgian mare past a neighbor's place where a grade draft stallion was kept.

"Where are you going, Jim?" called the neighbor.

"I'm taking my mare to Mr. B's barn to breed her to his pure bred Belgian," answered Jim.

"Huh!" said the neighbor, "why don't you save time and money by breeding to my stallion? The fee is cheap—only \$12.00. You'll have to pay B \$15.00."

"No, sir!" said Jim. "The day I go seven miles from home to breed to a pure bred sire I earn the biggest wages of the year."

Then the neighbor turned away and muttered: "Well, you can do as you please, of course; but I'm going to breed to my own grade horse."

Jim's mare in due time produced a fine foal. Mr. B came to see it at weaning time and liked it so much that he asked the price.

"Well," said Jim, "I'm not anxious to sell, but I'd take \$125.00."

Grade and scrub sires beget scrub horses which cost as much to raise as those from pure bred sires and sell for far less money.

"Done!" cried Mr. B. "Here it is," he added, pulling out his check book and fountain pen and quickly filling in the amount. "Deliver the colt at my barn the next time you come to town."

After Mr. B left, Jim stood thinking for a while, then walked over to his neighbor's place and finding him at home, asked:

"By the way, John, did your mare have a foal to your horse last season?"

"Sure!" answered John, "and a dandy, too," he added.

"Want to sell?" asked Jim.

"Yes; if I get my price, and that's \$50.00," replied John.

Jim smiled at that and asked:

"D'you remember me passing your place one day in April a year ago and you wanting me to breed to your horse?"

"Yes," answered John; "and did your mare get a foal?" he asked.

"She certainly did," replied Jim, "and here's a check B gave me for the critter today. Pretty good wages for a day's work, eh? I made \$72.00 by not using your horse and you could have done as well."

Work or abundantly exercise the pure bred stallion every day to keep him healthy and vigorous. This is absolutely necessary to maintain his breeding powers and insure strong constitution and robust health in his offspring at birth and throughout life.

Township and county associations can help in the breeding of horses of the same breed, character and quality.

After Jim had delivered the colt at B's barn next day he **banked his big check** and went whistling down the street as the banker turned and said to his cashier, "Now, there's a sensible, successful business farmer!"

Reader, are you a successful business farmer? And did the draft colt you raised last season add a substantial draft to your bank account or merely make a heavy draft on your feed bin?

Well developed, sound, high grade draft horses are needed on every farm and are in demand at remunerative prices for work in the woods and in the cities. The supply of such horses has never equaled the demand and the demand promises to be more active than ever at the end of the war. Misfit, mongrel and nondescript horses, largely the get of grade and scrub stallions, from unsuitable or unsound mares, are, always have been, and will remain "a drug on the market." Farm land is rapidly increasing in value. Feed is high in price and farm help scarce and expensive. **It does not pay to produce anything but the best products possible on our farms.**

The good high grade draft horse costs no more than the scrub to raise, does as much work, is in active demand and sells for much more money. Why waste time, feed and money in producing scrub horses from grade and scrub sires? Stop such foolish and ruinous practice this spring. Choose only sound, good tempered, well developed mares for breeding and mate them only with sound, individually excellent pure bred stallions that are kept efficient and prepotent by adequate work or exercise instead of pampering.

Encourage representative exhibits at the county fairs, of pure bred stallions and mares and grade mares, geldings, farm teams, and young stock by pure bred sires. Discourage the offering of classes and premiums for grade and mongrel or scrub stallions or their progeny.