

Kansas State Agricultural College

EXPERIMENT STATION—Circular No. 23 1911

STATE LIVE STOCK REGISTRY BOARD

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The Stallion Law and the Farmer

Are you getting value received for the stallion service fees you pay?
If not, why not?

Is it because the breeding of the stallions you have patronized is not what it is claimed to be?

Investigation of conditions existing in 1909, a year before Kansas had a stallion law, revealed the fact that forty-one per cent. of the stallions in the state advertised as "pure-breds," "registered," "full bloods," etc., were simply "grades" and "scrubs." The progressive and thoughtful horsemen of the state, realizing the injury and injustice of the immense amount of misrepresentation being made in regard to the breeding and condition of soundness of stallions standing for public service, appealed to the legislature for protection. The legislature responded by passing the Kansas stallion law, the purpose of which is to require stallion owners to represent and to advertise their stallions for just exactly what they are.

The Kansas Stallion Law Protects the Kansas Farmer

This law was passed particularly for the protection and benefit of the Kansas farmer and mare owner. Are you taking advantage of this means of protection? This law provides a means whereby the farmer and mare owner may know the exact breeding and the condition of soundness of every stallion standing for public service in the state. And how may the farmer secure this information? By reading the license which the state issued for every stallion standing for public service. In case the stallion owner has not posted his state license in a conspicuous place, as required by law, mare owners may secure the desired information by simply sending a post card to the State Live Stock Registry Board at Manhattan. The stallion owner and the horse breeding interests in general, as well as the mare owner, are greatly benefitted by this law.

The Kansas Stallion Law Protects the Stallion Owner

This law is a benefit to owners of worthy stallions in that stallions now stand under their true colors, grade stallions and unsound stallions being required to stand as such. Stallion purchasers have a means of protecting themselves against unscrupulous dealers who have been selling a great many grade stallions as "pure-breds," furnishing with such stallions "fake" or fraudulent pedigrees. To avail himself of this protection, the stallion purchaser should purchase his stallions subject to approval by the Live Stock Registry Board as to purity of breeding and condition of soundness, and not pay for the stallions until such approval is received in the form of a state license. Most Kansas stallion firms are furnishing state licenses with stallions they offer for sale.

The Kansas Stallion Law Protects the Horse Breeding Interests in General

The horse-breeding interests in general are immensely benefitted by the elimination of the graft and misrepresentation that have prevailed in the past. It has put horse-breeding in Kansas on a "square-deal" basis. It is evident that a law of this kind is an absolute necessity for the protection of the horse-breeding interests of the state. It protects the general public against the unsound and undesirable stallions barred from other states, as well as against graft and misrepresentations within the state. Every farmer and mare owner should be familiar with this law.

There Are Too Many Grade Stallions in Kansas

The State Live Stock Registry Board has issued licenses for 7843 stallions to stand for public service in Kansas, fifty-eight and one-half per cent. of these licenses having been issued for grade and scrub stallions and only forty-one and one-half per cent. for pure-bred stallions. A large number of these grade and scrub stallions with "fake" and fraudulent pedigrees were sold as "pure-breds" to unsuspecting purchasers at prices ranging from \$500 to \$4000. The patrons have bred mares to these stallions thinking the animals were pure-breds. These stallions are now known for what they really are—"grades."

Greater Profits Derived From the Use of Good Pure-Bred Sires

Improvement in the average quality of our Kansas horses rests with the mare owners and the sooner they come to realize and to appreciate the value of, and to demand the services of good, sound, pure-bred stallions, the more certainly and rapidly will the general average of our horses be improved. It is the intensified inheritance resulting from many generations of breeding the best to the best, using no outcrosses, and always with the same ideal and purpose in mind, that enables the "pure-bred" to stamp his characters upon his offsprings. The "grade" with two, three, or four topcrosses lacks this intensified inheritance of characters and his diversified inheritance precludes his use as a sire. These are facts, not theories. Practical illustrations may be seen on every hand if we will simply allow ourselves to see them. As an illustration, at a recent farm sale, colts rising

three, uniform in quality, ready to do considerable work the coming season, sold at an average of \$76 a head. Colts rising two, averaged \$46. The sires of these colts were ordinary grade stallions whose service fees ranged from \$6 to \$9. Weanlings from the same mares but from a very excellent pure-bred stallion standing for \$15 sold for \$101, this being \$25 per head more than rising three-year-olds brought, due entirely to the influence of a good, sound, pure-bred sire. The service of a grade or scrub stallion is expensive even if given free of charge. On the other hand, do not breed to a stallion simply because he happens to be registered.

Beware of Hereditary Unsoundness

Beware of stallions that are hereditarily unsound, for it is just as unprofitable to raise unsound horses as it is to raise scrub horses. You may ask what is meant when certain unsoundnesses are designated as hereditary. It means that such unsoundnesses are due primarily to a weakness of the part involved and that this weakness may be in the form of one or all of the following conditions: poor conformation, poor quality of tissue, or an insufficient quantity of tissue. These weaknesses are physical characteristics, and as such, are transmitted to the offspring. As such an offspring develops toward maturity and is required to do the ordinary work that a horse free from these weaknesses should do without disturbances of function or structure of any part, then the evidences of these weaknesses begin to appear in the form of one or more of the various hereditary unsoundnesses. Hence it is not the unsoundness itself that is transmitted, but rather the cause in the form of a weakness. Seek and patronize the stallion in which there is combined soundness, good individuality, and good breeding. Never accept any one of these qualities alone; all three must be combined to insure success. The good, sound, pure-bred stallion is a public benefactor; the scrub stallion is a public nuisance.

There is an Insistent Demand for High-class Horses

There is an insistent market demand for high-class horses, especially for draft horses, that cannot be supplied. On the other hand, the country is flooded with common ordinary "plug" horses. They do not fill any particular requirement or demand, hence the very low and profit-killing prices for which they must sell. This insistent demand for high-class draft horses does not come from the market alone. There also comes, a demand from the farm, for this is a day of heavy machinery demanding an increased amount of motive power. Experience has proven that the most satisfactory and economical form of motive power on the average farm is the heavy, sound draft mare. Besides doing most of the farm work she will raise a valuable colt each year, if properly handled. Thus she is constantly producing a profit other than by means of the work she does. The gelding or mule will not do this and in these days of high-priced lands, feeds, and labor this proposition is worthy of careful consideration.

Which class of horses are you raising, the profit killer or the profit maker?

Some Things to Avoid in Breeding Horses

- I. Hereditary unsoundnesses involving highly organized structures
 1. Defects of vision
 - a. Cataract
 - b. Amaurosis
 - c. Periodic Ophthalmia
 2. Roaring (Laryngeal Hemiplegia)
 3. Heaves (Pulmonary Emphysema)
 4. Ridgling (Cryptorchidism)
 5. Stringhalt
- II. Hereditary unsoundnesses characterized by bony enlargements
 1. Bone Spavin
 2. Ringbone
 3. Sidebone
- III. Hereditary unsoundnesses involving softer structures
 1. Bog Spavin
 2. Thoroughpin
 3. Curb
- IV. Unsoundnesses not quite so strongly hereditary as the above list
 1. Rheumatism
 2. Melanotic Tumors
 3. Cribbing
 4. Weaving
- V. Poor conformations of all kinds

Some Things to be Considered in the Improvement of the Kansas Horse

1. Breed with a definite ideal in mind.
2. Patronize only the best sound, pure-bred sires.
3. Use only sound mares for breeding purposes.
4. Do not mix types.
5. As far as possible, stick to one breed.
6. Feed liberally the mares you have bred.
7. Be sure to read the state license of the stallion you patronize.

If you are breeding draft horses, seek for a combination of soundness, size, proper conformation, quality, and action.

If you are breeding light horses, seek for a combination of soundness, proper conformation, quality, speed, style, and action.

Boost for your local fair. Enter your stock and have it well broken by show time. Exercise every care and attention, that your stock may show to the best possible advantage.

Join the Kansas Horse Breeders' Association.