

CFR 0728

John S. Billings

To qualify as a Century Farm a farm must have not less than 10 acres with a gross income from farm use of not less than \$500 per year for three out of the five years immediately preceding application for Century Farm honors.

APPLICATION FOR CENTURY FARM HONORS--1974
(Rules Attached)
Deadline for filing application: July 1, 1974

PLEASE PRINT

Your name (Mr., ~~Mrs.~~, ~~Miss~~) John S. Billings

Your address: Route 1140 Jackson Road P.O. Box _____ Town Ashland

Location of farm: 1140 Jackson Road, Ashland Jackson

Acres in your farm today: 150 (Address) Acres in original farm: Possibly several thousand acres. (County)

Does your farm comply with the definition at top of page? yes

Name of family member who was founder or original owner of farm (please print):
W. C. Myer

Year founder settled on farm? 1870 Where did he come from? Kansas City
However he had come to Oregon in 1853 & homesteaded nearby land which he sold 1868.
How many families have farmed this land? four

Are any of original buildings still in use? yes

Who farms land today? You? yes A renter? _____ A manager? _____ Other? _____

If you own the farm but live in town, do you manage the farming operation? _____

What relation are you to the original owner? Great grandson

If you know crops or livestock raised on farm 100 years ago, please list Jersey cows (first Jersey family brought to Oregon), Percheron horses, Shetland ponies, some sheep and hogs, hay crops, grain, corn. In recent years the farm was run as a dairy, milking up to 45 Jersey cows. Dairy herds were sold from time to time, the most recent about four years ago.

What do you raise on farm today? Hay crops, beef cattle.

How many generations live on the farm today? (Names) Two. John S. Billings Gladys M. Billings (wife), Timothy L. Billings, Virginia M. Billins.

Has the farm ever been rented? no How many times has original farm been divided? 1

Please list on separate page attached other historical facts you know about this farm.

Do you declare that the statements made above are accurate and correct to the best of your knowledge? yes.

Mail to: Oregon Dept. of Agriculture
Agriculture Bldg., Salem, OR 97310

John S. Billings
(Signature of owner)

Submitted by Mrs. John S. Billings

(Name and Address)

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

The original farm had a large area of grazing land attached to it. However, when W. C. Myer died his two children divided the land. Frances Myer Billings inherited the cultivated area and the farm buildings, and her brother, Will Myer, took the grazing land and later sold it.

The farm had a house and barn on it when Mr. Myer bought the farm and both of these structures are still standing. The barn has had some additions. Another much larger house was built in about 1887 immediately adjacent to the old house, which is now used as a utility building.

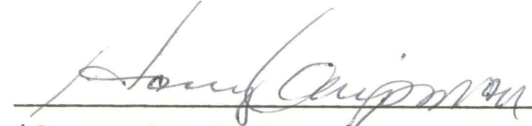
Enclosed is a brochure, one of many, that Mr. Myer circulated. He was more interested in breeding animals to sell than in routine farming. He took his animals to fairs and livestock shows at every opportunity.

Ralph Billings, a son of Frances Myer Billings, assumed the operation and ownership of the farm in 1905 and farmed it until his death in 1956. Since that time the John S. Billings have owned and operated it. It has been a wonderful place to raise our four children--two of whom are now married and away from home.

State Department of Agriculture
Oregon Historical Society

CERTIFICATION OF OWNERSHIP OF CENTURY FARM

I hereby certify that the farm for which John S. Billings
Owner's name and address
1140 Jackson Road, Ashland is applying for Century Farm honors,
has been in his family continuously for 100 or more years.


County Commissioner Recorder

Date: 2-13-74

*Please strike office not applicable

1870's used to carry a big sign painted across the front "W. C. Myer, Breeder of Percherons.

(M.T. Photos by Joe Cowley)

Ashland Area Farm Honored For 100 Years Operation

By JOE COWLEY

West Tribune Farm Editor

ASHLAND — A certificate denoting a century farm was presented to Mr. and Mrs. John Billings Saturday at the Oregon State Fair.

To be eligible for such honors a farm must have been farmed continuously by the same family for at least 100 years and never have been rented. The owner must live in Oregon. The farm must be at least 10 acres and have had a gross income from farm use of not less than \$500 per year for three out of five years immediately preceding the application for such honors.

The tall white farmhouse and huge, old weathered barn are mileposts in Oregon, and particularly Southern Oregon, history. To this farm was brought possibly the first family of purebred Jersey dairy cattle to be raised in the state. On this farm some of the first purebred Percheron draft horses to appear in the state were bred. Shetland ponies were also raised.

It was also here where the farm's original owner, W.C. Myer, John Billings' great grandfather, protested vehemently by letter and word of mouth that the horse was the only fit transportation for man. He declared the draft horse would never be replaced. This, in spite of the steam engine then coming into use. He protested loud and long that the bicycle and motor car were ridiculous.

"The horseless age will never be here," he would thunder forth. "With horses we will become an emasculated race of dudes."

According to Mrs. Billings, the family historian, Myer imported the Jersey cows into Oregon in 1872 from Illinois. His cows formed foundation stock for many Jackson County dairymen in the early days, John Billings added.

W. C. Myer came to Oregon in the Myer wagon train in 1853. Mrs. Billings recounted. At first he settled in Ashland's Valley View district — at "Four Corners". Then, in 1869, he drove over 200 herd of stock east and sold them along the way and in Kansas. In 1870, he returned. Apparently by then he had sold the Valley View holdings, Mrs. Billings said.

It was in December, 1870 that he brought White Prince, a stud, and some mares from Ohio. This started his breeding of Percherons, heavy draft horses. White Prince originally came from France.

Naturally, the farm became a gathering place for stock buyers and received visits from various dignitaries. The original house was a small wood frame building. Later, in 1887, the tall white farmhouse in which Mr. and Mrs. John Billings now live, was built. The original farmhouse was connected to it at the rear.

A president of the United States was one of the digni-

taries brought to the farm. Family documents don't reveal the president's name. Myer met the president in the Siskiyou with a pony cart.

John added that Myer raised cows to sell, but the farm was not really a dairy in those years. He took registered cows to various fairs. But, after some kind of disagreement with state fair officials, he refused to show any more animals there. However, he almost required the buyers of his animals to take them to the various fairs, according to Mrs. Billings.

"He (Myer) wasn't really all that impressed with the Jersey

cow at first," Mrs. Billings said, referring to letters and old family documents. "He thought the Jersey was just a scrawny cow until he tried butter from Jersey cream. He thought that was delicious."

"The original farm was huge," John Billings said. "It ran right up to the skyline and included much of what is now the Imperatrice Ranch."

In the early days, cattle would be driven to the mountains in the summer and hay would be put up on the farm's pastures down below. This practice continued for many years. Now, John has about 24 beef cows and offspring. He crossbred beef animals with Jerseys to produce better milking ability in the females, hence more nourishment for the calves, he explained.

Although the farm continued to use draft horses for many years, John never really liked to work with them. He said he liked to work too fast and hard for most horses and he didn't have the necessary patience. He would work with mules when a boy.

Mr. and Mrs. Billings showed us through the big farm house crammed with antiques. In the front room, John pointed out a stool and two tables made of walnut. Grandma Billings had planted a walnut tree about 20 feet above the where the highway is now. In the 1930's when the highway was cut through, the tree was cut down and lumber made of it, John explained.

He added that the railroad track originally was in the front yard. The Billings' farm was a recognized stopping place. All members of the family had to do was flag down the engineer, hop aboard the train and ride to town.

The place is still an old-fashioned type farm. John raises wheat and barley to feed the chickens. Neighborhood children still swim and fish in the pond. John keeps a clipboard plus pad of paper and pencil on the back porch so the children can sign in and out.

John led us to the old barn which contains several tools and trappings of early day farming. As we looked at the old barn, a flock of ducks went quacking by.

Up in the barn's hay loft is a thick old rope with a big knot in one end. It hangs from a rafter high up against the roof. Strands above the knot, used for a seat, are worn from many young legs rubbing against them. On a raised section of the loft, at one end, blocks of hay are stacked to mark off an area still used for square dancing.

John and his wife are hanging onto the farm as a marker of a way of life which is rapidly disappearing in this country — completely gone in some sections. Eventually, they may have to sell for a subdivision development as taxes become even higher. Now the farm is an island of green, right next to a subdivision in the Ashland area.

73 HARLEY DAVIDSON Sportster 1000cc. Burgundy with freeway pets. Less than 2200 mi.

Medford OR
mail tribute
Aug 27
1974

Ashland, Oregon
Daily Tidings
(Cir. D. 5,263)

LAND
AUG 29 1974

Allen's P. C. B. Est. 1888

Century Farms - 1974

5064

BEFORE 1887—This photograph of the first house that W.C. Myer built on his property near Ashland was taken sometime between 1876, when the sign on

the barn was painted and 1887, when the farmhouse was modified and a new house added on to it. In order to avoid building over a small creek when he

added on to the old farmhouse, Myer gave the entire house a quarter turn on its foundation.

Ashland farm given 'century' designation

By FRAN GARDNER
Tidings Staff Writer

In 1853, a man named William Cortez Myer came with his family to Oregon by wagon train. He bought a piece of land in the Valley View Road four-corners area which he sold in 1869. In 1870 he purchased some land closer to Ashland, and now, after 104 years, his descendants still live in the house he built on that land.

The old farm house is at 1140 Jackson Road, and the people who live in it now are the John Billings family.

This year, the Oregon Department of Agriculture and the Oregon Historical Society designated the property as a "century farm." It was one of 26 century farms recognized state-wide this year, and the only one in Jackson County.

There are a number of requirements that must be met for a farm to qualify as a "century farm." It must have been farmed continuously by the same family for 100 or more years, it must never have been rented, and the owner must reside in Oregon.

The farm must also be at least 10 acres in size, and it must have a gross income from farm use of not less than \$500 per year for three out of the five years preceding an application for the "century farm" designation.

Billings' farm has been put to various uses during its 104 years of existence.

Billings' farm has been put to various uses during its 104 years of existence. It was used for logging, and covered several acres of grazing land.

divided or sold, so that now the farm consists of a comfortable 150 acres.

The original owner, W.C. Myer, was a livestock breeder. He is said to have imported the first percheron horses and the first entire family of jersey cattle into the valley. He also bred Shetland ponies, as well as hinnies, which are related to mules.

Myer's daughter, Frances, who was six months old when the 1853 wagon train first reached the valley, inherited the part of the farm with the house and barn on it when her father died in 1903. Her brother Will got the grazing land.

Frances was married to G.F. Billings, the owner of a local insurance agency. One of their sons, Homer, continued his father's insurance business. The other, Ralph, took over the farm and turned it into a jersey dairy.

Following Ralph's death in 1956, his adopted son, John Billings, kept the dairy herd for a while, then abandoned it for a small herd of beef cattle. Billings also runs a real estate appraisal service.

Billings, his wife Gladys, and the youngest of their four children still live in the farmhouse built in 1887 on the property. When W.C. Myer decided to add on to the original farmhouse, built in 1870, he gave that building a quarter turn on its foundations so that the new portion would not have to be built over the small creek which crosses the property.

According to Mrs. Billings, the family now uses the portion of the farmhouse

built in 1870 for storage.

The huge barn on the farm was also built in 1870, with the second story loft added in 1876. Billings took a reporter on a tour of the barn, pointing out the cement silo which he said was the oldest of its type in this part of the state, and passing through the dusty, unused dairy barn.

Billings explained the structure of the beams of the barn. No nails were used in its construction; the whole barn is held together by a system of tongues and grooves and wooden pins. A few iron bolts have been recently added for reinforcement, but for the most part, the beams stand on their own.

Billings pointed out a "volunteer colony" of leaf-cutter bees which had taken up residence in one of the beams near the barn door. The bees, which resemble small flies, are of a special type which is used to pollinate alfalfa.

Like termites, the bees bore small holes in the wooden beams of the barn. They leave their eggs and a bit of food in each hole, then plug it with a piece of leaf. The mature larvae work their way out of the nests and continue the cycle, Billings explained.

Upstairs, in the loft, where the hand-hewing on the beams is easily visible, Billings' children have set aside an area for square dances and parties. On the other end of the floor, the loft is huge and empty.

Light streamed onto the loft floor from dozens of round holes in the north wall of the barn.

Woodpeckers made those holes, Billings said. "They drop acorns in. Trouble is, it's a bottomless pit."

Billings and his family have lived on the farm for 17 1/2 years now. Mrs. Billings said they aren't sure yet what they want to do with the farm eventually. In the past, for the most part, the farm passed on to an only child. With four children to plan for, the Billings aren't sure what the fate of their farm will be.

The
Best

Draft Horse.

Forty Years' Experience With
Draft Horses,

—BY—

W. C. MYER.



ASHLAND, JACKSON COUNTY,
OREGON.

A Little Horse Sense.

Many think, talk and write that as in the cities where the horses were used for street cars by the thousand, and are now, especially in the United States, superseded by steam, the cable and trolley, and so many bicycles being used, that this has knocked the bottom out, for all time to come, of the horse-breeding business.

Let us philosophize a little on this matter: It is true there is no present or prospective market or demand for common, medium-sized horses, such as were used for street cars. When the other means of propelling them were put into use it not only stopped the demand, but put thousands that had been in active use on a market where there was no use for them. While this is the case of the above class of horses, and the general depression in most all kinds of business, nearly every product of the farm, except hogs and cattle, has depreciated in the last three years from 30 to 40 per cent, especially is this so in wheat and wool. Large, well-formed draft horses have not suffered any larger reduction in price in the leading markets of the East. But the reduction that has been made in the price has greatly stopped the breeding of horses I might say all over the United States for the past two or three years, as is shown by the statements lately published by the Chicago dealers in horses who handle over 100,000 per year.

Please notice what they all say in favor of the Percheron stock. A card from a Chicago horseman of February 4, 1896, says: "Foreigners are increasing in numbers daily and buying good, sound, smooth chunks, 1150 to 1300 pounds. The demand for these chunks is so large, and the supply so small, that the few that arrive are picked up almost immediately, and four times as many could be sold daily. Prices on these have improved since the first of the year at least \$15 per head." And he reports it is difficult to procure as many 1500 to 1700 pound horses as are called for.

It is self-evident, when this condition of the horse-breeding business is considered, that by the time horses of the right kind can be bred and grown for market, (which cannot be accomplished under five years), there will be a great deficiency and they will bring a good paying price. Steam and electricity cannot fill the place of the large draft or family driving horse. And the bicycle is a fad that for a time may amuse the young, but is not suited for a young man to have a social time with his best girl, or a man

with a wife and family to take an out-door airing for business or pleasure. The improved light breeds are suited for this use.

The Horse, Man's Best Friend.

M. T. Grattan, the Minnesota breeder and writer, speaks in an exchange of the so-called *horseless age*, that is not here and never will be. We quote two paragraphs:

"The *horseless age* is not here. It never will be here until man regains his sovereignty over the earth. A horseless age means an emasculated race of dudes, who, lacking virility, will not even be able to perpetuate their own weakness, and the race will die. The love of the horse and his companionship is inimical to vice. A man may walk and plot devilry; he may ride a wheel and fee the physician. The horse occupies his hands, his mind and stimulates torpid faculties. The great masters of men have been masters of the horse. He scatters care to the winds; he brings the bloom of health to the cheek, he makes a race of men who use and master him virile, combative, strong. The nations that have excelled in horsemanship have ruled the world; they will always rule the world, and in the great catastrophe the grand brute whose neck 'is clothed with thunder,' who smelleth the battle afar off, will go into oblivion with man, and not before.

"What fleeing, panic-stricken soldier would have vouchsafed a second glance or thought to a monkey-like form on a wheel? His big, black steed, furious with energy and power, inspired courage as well as the dare-devil rider. A horseless age, indeed! Wait until war comes again to the nations of the earth, as it surely must as long as earth lasts, and man's best friend will quickly find his place again."

In order to breed large, No. 1 draft horses, the best full-blood Percheron stallion should be used, and the produce kept growing in thrifty form, especially the first two years. The best stock, sire and dam full blood, if their produce are half bred the first two years, will never make as valuable animals as others properly cared for. Formerly 1200 to 1500 pounds answered for heavy draft, now in the cities they want them 1500 to 1800 pounds, and the chunky form.

Some farmers and breeders say they do not want a horse over 1200 to 1300 pounds for their use. This is

a mistake. Their use ought not to be the question, as their use of the horse should principally be while he is maturing for market, and when this time comes the fine, extra large one will be specially sought for, while his less brother will not be wanted for half the money the other brings. This fact I have never seen fail in the past 60 years of my observation of horse matters.

A breeder may use good judgment in breeding and care with grade mares, there will be enough of medium-sized ones to supply the demand for such.

Future of Draft Horse Breeding.

A visit to one of the great horse markets, particularly that of Chicago, will prove of marked benefit to any one who is now raising horses or expects to begin breeding them. Here six firms practically control the sales of a hundred thousand horses a year, and these men will all be found of one opinion as to the kind of horse, which it will always pay to breed. They are unanimous in the belief that well-formed, heavy, weighty draft horses and stylish, breedy-looking coach horses of symmetrical build, with plenty of endurance and action, are going to be the highest price horses of the future. They all say that the best types of draft horses are already hard to find and that the supply of high-class coach horses has never equaled the demand, even when the flood of horse-breeding was at its height.

Mr. Newgass, who handles about 25,000 horses per year at the stock-yards in Chicago, recently told me that he had sold during the past year 800 coach horses at an average of \$350 each; that he had a large retail trade in heavy draft horses which demands the best type of Percheron and would have no other breed, and that 75 per cent of the draft horses sold by him to the trade were Percherons. He said further: "Tell your customers to breed all the heavy Percherons they can, and at the same time not to forget the coach horse." Mr. Jacob Koehler, who sells 15,000 horses a year at the stock-yards, Chicago, says: "There are only two kinds of horses which farmers can breed that will be sure to make them money—good Percheron horses and smooth stylish-acting coachers. There is only one draft horse for this country, and that is the Percheron. Even the English and Scotch buyers take them in preference to the horses produced from English and Clydesdale stallions."

This statement was corroborated by Messrs. Blair & Evans, large operators in horses at the yards. Mr. Blair, who formerly was extensively engaged in the importation of English Shire and Clydesdale stallions, said that the best selling horses on the market were grade Percherons, and that the English and Scotch buyers preferred them to the Clyde and Shire crosses; the farmers have stopped breeding, geldings are few, mostly mares are now coming—they will not last long—and then the man who has a good draft horse will get his own price for him. Everybody has been wild to sell; a reaction will come which will astonish the people."

F. J. Berry will handle 27,000 horses this year. He is the pioneer in the auction sales at the stock yards that have grown to such immense proportions. He sells exclusively on commission. All kinds of horses come to him, mostly from country dealers and farmers, through whom he is kept in touch with the breeding industry. He says:

"Breeding has never been at so complete a standstill. What few stallions that remain in the country are not paying expenses. Thousands have been altered and sent to this market, and we are getting at least one stag to a carload on an average, that is about 5000 per year, and other markets show similar receipts. And what is worse, all the good mares are being sold. Formerly there were two or three mares to a car of draft horses, now the mares greatly outnumber the geldings, just at the time when the farmers ought to be breeding good large horses that will command a price as high as ever they brought before. They can get them on the market if they begin now. For a draft horse the Percheron is the horse. Our cities all want them in preference to any other breed, and the foreigners are equally prejudiced in their favor. The English and Scotch were anxious to sell us their hairy-legged horses, but they don't care to buy them. The Clydesdales have had their day."

"The coach horses that come on to our market find a ready sale. Two good ones are wanted where one is found. They have had a boom in the last twelve months. These two kinds—good heavy drafters and coachers—are the best to breed."

J. S. Cooper is among the largest dealers in horses at the stock yards. He says: "We handle horses on commission only. We do not advance money or send out buyers. Our trade comes very largely from the breeders themselves. We therefore cannot control the quality of horses we sell. We do not get as

many good ones as we would like. Good ones keep up the average price and makes peop'e better satisfied with their returns. BUT NO ONE GETS MANY GOOD ONES NOW. There is a perceptible falling off in quality from month to month, showing plainly that the supply of desirable horses is growing less. ANOTHER MARKED FEATURE IS THE INCREASING PERCENTAGE OF MARES ON THE MARKET. Many of them should be kept for breeding, but it seems that the farmers now sell anything they can sell. If it keeps on this way WE WONT HAVE ANY GOOD DRAFT HORSES IN A SHORT TIME. People complain of low prices, but for really good ones the price is not so bad. WE SOLD A CAR-LOAD OF PERCHERONS LAST WEEK FOR \$148 PER HEAD, AND I AM SURE INSIDE OF TWO YEARS SUCH A LOT WILL BRING \$500 PER PAIR. WE RECENTLY SENT OUT 25 000 CIRCULARS GIVING A SUMMARY OF THE MARKET AND ITS DEMANDS AND URGING UPON FARMERS THE NECESSITY OF BREEDING GOOD COACH AND DRAFT HORSES. IN MY OPINION THERE HAS NEVER BEEN SUCH AN OPPORTUNE TIME TO BEGIN BREEDING THESE TWO CLASSES.

"FOR DRAFTERS THE PERCHERONS ARE THE BEST OF ALL BREEDS, and in our circular we recommend the use of stallions of this breed by stating: 'As foreigners prefer the Percheron breed and our own people at least are very partial to them, it will be well for the breeder to give them the preference.'

"The foreign demand has become an important factor in this market. The exportation of horses will reach 17,000 for 1895. These foreign buyers pay good prices and their trade is worth catering to. Stylish, breedy-looking coachers of smooth form and good high action attract their attention, and command a good price, and always will. Too many of that kind can not be bred.—[Correspondence in Breeders Gazette.

During the eleven months ended Dec. 1, 1895, there were 18,441 head of horses valued at \$2,770,960 exported from this country, as against 6,919 head valued at \$1,219,761 exported during the same period in 1894.—[Breeders Gazette.

England Takes Six Thousand Horses.

For the past two months Mr. A. D. Cronk, managing partner of the well known firm of Crandall & Co., East Buffalo horse commission dealers, has been in

Europe on business, visiting the leading horse dealers of England, Scotland and France, with a view of bringing buyers of horses for export to these countries, to Buffalo market, and the success of his trip has been extremely gratifying and of the greatest importance to the horse interests of America. Mr. Cronk has returned, and while in England engaged to supply four of the largest 'bns and cab companies in London with 6000 horses, to be shipped during the year 1896. This and other contracts entered into abroad by Mr. Cronk aggregate shipments of horses that will be made from Buffalo market during the year, amounting to over \$1,000,000. This is the largest contract that has ever been made with one firm for horses, and no other country in the world than America could fill the order.

In addition to the above most extensive contract, Mr. Cronk also arranged to ship to Liverpool 100 horses each week to be sold at auction under English supervision on thoroughly American principles. On February 1st a gentleman from England will arrive at Buffalo to get thoroughly initiated into the mode of conducting horse auction sales in America, and be thoroughly qualified to handle them similarly at the big sales on the other side. A guarantee is given of the attendance of buyers from Germany, France and Scotland, as well as England, at these weekly sales,

The interest shown by the French government in horse-breeding is shown by the fact that 152 stallions have just been purchased to occupy places in the government studs throughout that country. These stallions cost \$192,000—\$1,440.78 each, and breeders are granted their service for a nominal rate. If the horse-breeding industry is worthy of so much encouragement in France, it would seem as though it would be worthy of some slight encouragement, at least, by the government in this country.

I wrote Mr J. S. Cooper for one of his circulars mentioned above. Here is his answer:

W. C. MYER, Dear Sir:—

I enclose you herewith one of the circulars recently sent out, and WE CANNOT TOO STRONGLY RECOMMEND THE BREEDING OF PERCHERONS IN PREFERENCE TO ANY OTHER DRAFT HORSE. THEY ARE USUALLY MUCH CLEAN-

ER, BETTER FEET, MORE ACTION, BETTER TEMPERED THAN ANY OF THE OTHER BREEDS, AND THEY DEVELOP SOMEWHAT EARLIER, ALSO, BESIDES THEY RUN TO BETTER COLORS; ALSO FOR A GOOD DARK GRAY IS ABOVE ALL OTHERS THE BEST SELLING COLOR IN A DRAFT HORSE.

Yours truly,
J. S. COOPER.

I wrote Messrs. F. J. Berry & Co. of Chicago, who sell on commission 20,000 to 25,000 horses annually, to know what breed of horses were used by the fire departments of Chicago. They replied:

Chicago, January 2, 1896.

W. C. MYER, Ashland, Oregon, Dear Sir:

Your letter received. Our market is quite strong now. Our fire department uses horses weighing from 1400 to 1500 pounds, if anything a little on the rangy order. Good bone, plenty of substance, strong backs and lots of action, that look as though they could run fast. MOSTLY GRADE PERCHERONS.

Yours truly,
F. J. BERRY, & CO.

From the foregoing it is evident that now is the time to breed the first class registered Percheron stallions, registered in the Percheron Stud Book. There is the same difference with these as with the registry of Jersey cattle. Formerly, I understand, but few horse colts were castrated in France (this is not the case of any other draft breed). This made a huge number of stallions in the country, and when the "boom was on" a few years ago a large number of inferior stallions were imported from France to the U. S. and some of them afterwards to this coast, many of which would not be called No. 1 geldings if castrated when young.

The draft horse is the best for the farmer for several reasons. He works more satisfactorily and at less expense and worry; he sells more readily and at better prices than any other; it costs less to raise and break him and get him ready for market, because of docility; he will pay for his keep after two years old, and is fully broken when matured.

Bear in mind that the Percherons are the only draft breed that trace in their breeding to Arabian ancestry. This accounts for their kind disposition, action and symmetry of form. It is also a fact that the most noted runners in the civilized world are de-

scendants of the ORIENTAL HORSE. The same of the American trotter, for some noted ones are direct descendants of the Arabian. While Brother Johnathan has equaled the old world, and in instances surpassed her in developing the runner. America leads the entire world in breeding and developing her trotters. And France is the only nation that for hundreds of years have been successfully using the Arabian horse as an improver of their draft breeds. A French professor of zoology says, "The rest of Europe envies France the possession of this breed; and this can be said in speaking of the Percherons without national vanity."

The following registered Percheron stallions will be at the Myer ranch the coming season if not sold, viz:

Gambetta No. 2822, imported from France. This horse has proved the equal if not the best Percheron brought to this coast.

Hector No. 6916, bred in the East by Caesar 3526; awarded first premium wherever exhibited in France, and at the World's Fair at New Orleans, '84-'85. Cost when two years old in France \$3000.00, and sold at three years old in the U. S. for \$5000.00. Dam of Hector, Rosette 3661, imported from France. The sire and dam of Hector are descendants of the most celebrated Percherons in France and the United States.

L. X. L. No. 15,019, Oregon bred, by Gambetta 2822; dam, Rose Ann 1648, by Gen. Fleury 846; 2nd dam, White Rose No. 613; Gustave No. 19,629, foaled April 10, '91, Oregon bred; Grey by Hector No. 6916; dam, Juanita 816.

I am just in receipt of a letter from Northern Oregon in which the writer says: "I am much pleased with the two (Jersey) heifers I bought from you. I have been all over the Jersey islands and have owned some very pretty Jerseys, but I think one of the two beats all I have ever owned or ever seen for beauty, and they show a good size also. You must have taken great pains in selecting your animals. * * * Our people are beginning to use Jerseys, as they have found out that those having the most Jerseys in their herds get the highest butter-fat tests and, of course, the largest check from our creamery."

In addition to the folders which were recently issued by W. C. Myer describing the good qualities of Jersey cattle and his 25 years' experience with that breed of stock, Mr. Myer has now prepared another folder giving his 40 years' experience with draft horses, the merits of the Percheron horse, market reports of sales of large horses in 1895 at good prices, the growing demand and prospects for such horses and much similar information of interest to growers and others. Mr. Myer has devoted the larger part of his lifetime to the business of fine stock growing, and as a judge of stock has attained a reputation much more than local. In his importations, which have been considerable during his experience, he has always secured the best to be had regardless of cost, and to him is due great credit for first introducing to the people of the northwest coast as good stock as could be found anywhere. Percheron stock from his farm has been the standard for three states for years and buyers have come to understand that they can depend upon the stock from his farm being actually as it is represented to them to be and that the prices are fair.—[Ashland Tidings.



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I have been selling imported and registered stock for the past 40 years, and have been able to satisfy my patrons.

I am now nearing the four score mile stone of life's journey, and am not able to give that out-door attention to feeding and care that stock require, and for some time past have transferred the stock business to my son, William, who carries it on at the old stand.

Parties interested in Jersey cattle should send for my folder.

