

Chapter 1 : The Book of Draft Horses : Donna Campbell Smith :

Before trucks and tractors, draft horses performed the heavy work of pulling wagons, plowing fields, and hauling logs. But the internal combustion engine did not entirely replace these animals, and they are still used in many parts of the country for agricultural and other jobs, as well as for pleasure driving and county fair pulling contests.

This book does cover briefly a few showing guidelines. The video covers a brief history of the breed, the disposition and working ability of this gentle breed of horses, and its relationship with the American Belgian horse. This book has a delightful blend of nostalgia, history and resourceful information for people who want to farm with horses or want to identify the relics at the sales and on the farms - especially in the west. The history, development and breeding of Belgian horses in the United States up to Because there are several of these I wanted to include them as a group instead of alphabetically by title. He is using Frisians in these training tapes. Introduction to Long Reins "Long reining, long lining or ground driving" a training technique by different names. This works well for young horses and the older horse. Learn how and why lateral movement taught from the ground can be a benefit to your horse. Tandem Riding "Expand your horsemanship skills and the relationships with your horses with the challenge and fun of tandem riding. And find out what to look for in horses and equipment. Train Your Horse To Drive "An easy-to-understand, safe, thorough system for training your horse to pull a carriage. Also included, tips on selecting your first carriage. Smith This small book is packed full of information on the early Victorian agricultural machinery including the plough, grubbers, cultivators, harrows, rollers, drills, reapers, binders, root lifters, manure spreaders, rakes and other types of implements. Gentle, effective techniques for driving and working horses in harness. A continuation of the first tape plus harness adjustment, adjusting team lines, discussion of bits, fitting collars, intro to mowing, skidding logs and more. Hooking up lines, harness, pulling and holding back, foot care, attaching doubletrees and more. A delightful half hour for children of all ages. The Horses Can Do It! A Guide to the selection, care and use of work horses and mules today. This book is now out of print but I have found a few used copies. This book covers the aspects of caring for draft horses, basics and monitoring their health, describing things that can go wrong and what to do. A great book for the beginner. All color photos and illustrations. A wonderful book giving information on how to make hay with horses using old and newer equipment. A must for your farming with horses library! This video was filmed during the annual celebration for the G-K Ranch which at one time was one of the largest cattle ranches in the west. Here is a short on youtube. Everything you have ever wanted to know about this subject. Miller has created another "gotta have" book for people who are using the 9 mowers with their horses. How to operate, upgrade, repair and maintain the mower. He also has chapters on the John Deere and other mowers. Also Forecarts, spreaders and farm vehicles. If you are farming today with horses - you should have this book! A documentation of the Percheron horse in the history of America. Black and white photos. The only book devoted to the history, commerce and social condition of the Shire horse through the changing of times. If you love the Shire horses and want to know the history - this book is for you. Hardcover with dust cover, over pages! I might be able to find some copies if you want one. Also shows how to braid manes and tails. This is out of print but I have a few copies left in stock. He shares his 30 years of training horses and 20 years of teaching about driving in this informative book. He also produced a set of very informative videos available on this site as well. Lots of black and white photos to depict the history of wheat, the mills, growers, binding, heading and threshing, crewmen and women, sweep power, steam power, 32 horsepower combined harvester, cost comparisons between tractor and horse farming and more. The second part teaches the craft of driving. If you have never been to this incredible draft horse sale you can see 75 minutes of it on this DVD. If you have been to Waverly you might like to see famous and infamous characters who put on the sale or who have gone to it for many years. A very nice tribute to the best driving horse sale in the country. Detailed information on working and hitching draft horses from single to the multi-hitches. Many diagrams and measurements on the equipment used, how to run the lines and more. Hard cover with dust jacket. An hour and 26 minutes showing head of spectacular Percherons- the largest draft horse show ever. Book rate is available if you want to save a little money - ask for rates. Contact me for cost to

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Chapter 2 : The Book of Draft Horses: The Gentle Giants that Built the World by Donna Campbell Smith

The Book of Draft Horses is a celebration of these "gentle giants," as well as a practical handbook on breeding, care, training, competition, and working horses. Product Details ISBN

Origins of Draft Horse Breeds The origin of the draft horse is unclear. Some prehistoric cave paintings already show steeds of a similar type. Phylogenists have postulated a post-glacial wild horse as ancestor of today? No such wild population survived until modern times, though, and all current draft breeds are influenced enough by others to make it impossible to determine a "draft genotype". According to some hippologists, the primitive wild ancestor was from the northern cold plains and steppes; according to others it was more of a forest dweller. In any case the origin is believed to have been related to the wild Nordic pony, today still represented in the Exmoor of southwestern England, sharing several anatomic characteristics. Both wild forms were adapted to survival in a wet and cold climate, and to thrive on coarse feed of low nutritional value. The two wild forms may have interbred at an early time, and sort of fused into what remained as the Nordic pony, sometimes leaning in phenotype more towards the pony type, sometimes more towards the draft type.

American Cream The pink-skinned American Cream maintains the cream coat for life but is much more than a color, having a good gait and a willingness to work in harness or under saddle. This is oldest of European heavy breeds.

Auxois The Auxois of France is larger than the Ardennais, but has suppleness and nice gaits. The Auxois is mostly but not always red roan in color.

Belgian The Belgian, the gentle giant, comes from and is called Brabant as well as race de trait Belge. There were once two types of Boulonnais, both very graceful, but the larger is the one bred today. The Brabant resembles the original Flemish Horse more so than does any other.

Breton The Breton of France, is one of the oldest and the most populous of all the draft horses in that country. Two types of Breton are recognized in the same stud book, a lighter version and the massive heavy version.

Clydesdale The Clydesdale, originating in Scotland, is highly popular and no other equals his action and style. Much cross-breeding of the Clyde is now producing top quality, internationally competitive sport champions.

Comtois The Comtois of France is one of the most ancient, dating from the sixth century. Strong and hardy, plus sure-footed, the Comtois also has lively gaits, having once been famous in military use. A lighter weight bred first in Normandy, royal stud farms dated from onward with much performance testing of young stock.

Percheron The Percheron is one of the most elegant of the heavy-horses and is very ancient, perhaps dating to the Ice Age.

Rhenish German There are only a few of the Rhenish German left. Breeders receive subsidies for every one they keep, and the more modern trend is for lighter in weight with more agility.

Shire The Shire comes from 4 British midlands shires and has ancestors of great antiquity. Early on the Shire was also influenced by the Friesian and the most popular color is black, with white feathering.

Suffolk Punch The Suffolk Punch comes from England and is the oldest heavy-horse existing in the UK and is as strong as any, famous for getting down on their knees in a typical Suffolk drawing attitude.

Draft Horse breeds include those of heavy weight and build traditionally used for farm work, mining, logging and for the hauling of freight. They provided the power and mobility that enabled man to forever move forward. Characteristics Draft horse breeds of today are a blend of many breeds, and it is indeed hard to pinpoint what exactly we should consider draft characteristics. If the Exmoor pony could be blown up in proportion to 15,2 or 16 hands, it would very much look like a draft type. Other characteristics are considered to be draft characteristics that are hardly found in the Exmoor, but it is hard to say where they actually stem from. Drafts are called a "cold blood", even though it may be a purebred representative. Generally, "hot blood" refers to a lightly-built, quick, more active, sometimes high-strung mount, designed for speed and endurance, while "cold blood" denotes a heavier, coarser, slower-moving animal. The classification into "hot bloods" and "cold bloods" was made a long time ago, and will serve for lack of better terms. The actual temperature of the blood is of course the same in all. The appearance can be deceiving, though, as drafts can be just as sensitive as a Thoroughbred, they only show it differently. Drafters are not only different in conformation, but also in attitude and in the way they react. Where a hot-blooded has the tendency to jump or buck or run away, a draft might stall, or even go backwards, or put up a fight. Where a hot blood may be persuaded to try this or that against his instinct, a

cold blood might stubbornly keep refusing. The natural instincts of the ancestor of draft horses had to be different for survival -- not having enough speed and stamina to save himself from an attacking predator, it was more likely to hide quietly, and, if attacked, would put up a formidable fight to defend himself. Those with draft influence have been known to fight off wolves and even bears. Breeders have constantly tried to give more nerve, movement, even refinement, by crossing drafts with light breeds, including Arabs. Most draft are a blend with pony blood, Iberian blood, and some oriental blood, and often show this in their conformation. Some lighter draft breeds are borderline cases between draft and warmblood, or draft and pony. The tallest of draft, the English Shire, got his size from Iberian blood. The West Friesian, often just referred to as "Friesian", may be considered such a borderline case. Also known to have received a shot of Iberian blood, some insist that it is not a draft, even though the breed shows unmistakable draft characteristics. Traditional Uses Some weigh more than a ton pounds , and were bred for heavy farm work, and freighters. Most were bred for smaller farmers, or for those preferring to work with teams, and that breeding goal asked for more agility. Frugality was also often an issue in breeding them, because the farmers that depended on them for their livelihood were often, if not mostly, rather poor. Being smaller usually offers more power in relation to size, and in relation to the amount of feed needed. The draft, even in relatively recent history, and for many years in every country, delivered the merchandise, took people where they needed to go, hauled just about anything that needed to be moved and did the jobs that needed to be done. Although they have mostly disappeared in their once commonplace presence on city streets and farms world wide, they are still the mighty steeds of the show ring, in hitches, multiple hitches, in parades, in pulling contests, and plowing contests. As man continued to develop horses for this or that task, crossbreds using draft horse blood, were often produced. In international sporthorse competitions, for instance, the Irish hunter made a name for himself, which was basically a Thoroughbred x draft cross. The history of draft horses is a rich and spans the history of civilization, the role of the heavy horses being in the nature of a necessity to man up through the end of World War II, which marked the last spurt in their use on city streets. No longer a necessity in the everyday life , they ceased to be a part of the everyday life of man as the machine age began to take over. Man however does not seem inclined to live life without them and societies and associations still exist to preserve the pure draft breeds. Let us all hope that these gentle giants continue to be part of our world in the future. In various parts of the world, types and then recognized breeds of draft horses were developed and became famous as they were exported to other countries where they were also bred pure, and also crossed with local stock. For links to governing associations for each, visit their individual pages.

Chapter 3 : Draft Horse Grooming and Care - Horsetopia Forum

A nicely written book on draft horses. Short versions of the basic history of the draft, a few of the main draft breeds in the USA, a chapter on diseases related specifically on draft horses, and a couple of chapters on types of pulling draft horses did and can do, along with another short chapter on their up-and-coming popularity as general riding horses.

Custom Search Draft Horse Books We are excited to offer a strong collection of draft horse books for both the hobbyist and the dedicated work horse teamster. Yet relatively few people know about modern work horses, let alone work horse books. If you would like to learn how to select, train, feed, house and manage workhorses, or merely read about those who do, we highly recommend these draft horse books. Many of these work horse books also cover horse-drawn implements. Once an endangered species, many implements are coming out of storage, being restored, and going back to work in the fields. New implements are also being designed and built for modern needs on modern horse-powered farms. As with the draft horse books above, so few people know about horse-drawn equipment that we felt the need to share. Whether you are a horse owner trying to figure out if your horses can pay their way, or you already work your horses and you want some expert guidance, these draft horse books will help you find your answers. On the other hand, perhaps you just want work horse books which salute a noble and timeless approach to farming. These books can do that too.

Training Workhorses, Training Teamsters by Lynn Miller We start with this recent book from Lynn Miller, long an advocate for sensible horsepower on the farm and in the woods. He has written a number of books, several more of which will be listed below. But we listed this one first because it speaks so eloquently about that partnership between work horses and their human handlers. It is a careful, even cautious relationship, which must be entered into with great care. But with care and training and respect, this partnership can provide many years of both service and friendship. If you are looking for a starting point with work horses, this is a good one. This was also my first introduction to the topic of workhorses. While the above book discusses more of the training aspect, this handbook covers the actual use of workhorses in a variety of settings. Miller covers harness, tools, feed, housing and management. He also discusses the cost effectiveness of horse power versus tractor power. It is not a how-to as much as it is a survey of the possibilities, guided by the steady hand and voice of experience.

The Draft Horse Primer by Maurice Telleen This large book was another one of the first I ever read when beginning to learn about draft horses. Some of the information here overlaps with the Work Horse Handbook described above, but not as much as you might think. Telleen is another experienced teamster. Even as many of the same topics are covered in both books, Mr. Telleen has his own gift for relating his lifetime of experience. I highly recommend it as a founding member of your draft horse library.

Horsedrawn Plows and Plowing by Lynn Miller While technically not a book about work horses, this reference is a critical piece of information for those trying to preserve and rebuild the knowledge base for animal powered implements. An encyclopedia as well as a work of art.

Haying With Horses by Lynn Miller Another book which technically is not so much about horses as it is about working with horses to achieve a very specific farm goal - making hay. This book talks about both the tradition and the functional practices related to haymaking. For those who would like to put up their hay with their horses, this is the book to get started with. This is also a good selection for those who simply want a very pretty book on how traditional method are still in use on the modern farm.

Horsedrawn Tillage Tools by Lynn Miller Whether you are interested in horsepower, or simply want to know what that implement is stuck in the weeds out behind the shed, this is the book for you. As with his other books, Mr. Miller has created a reference text, historical record and modern guidebook for appropriate technology on the small farm. If you have inherited an old farm with a barn or side yard full of old tools, this book can help you sort out what those tools are and how to use them.

Chapter 4 : Draft Horse Book

The Book of Draft Horses is a celebration of these "gentle giants," as well as a practical handbook on breeding, care, training, competition, and working horses. Product Identifiers ISBN

Characteristics[edit] A gray Percheron The size considered ideal for the Percheron varies between countries. In France, height ranges from A black Percheron The head has a straight profile, broad forehead, large eyes and small ears. The chest is deep and wide and the croup long and level. The feet and legs are clean and heavily muscled. The overall impression of the Percheron is one of power and ruggedness. Enthusiasts describe the temperament as proud and alert, and members of the breed are considered intelligent, willing workers with good dispositions. They are considered easy keepers and adapt well to many conditions and climates. Several theories have been put forth as to the ancestry of the breed, though its exact origins are unknown. One source of foundation bloodstock may have been mares captured by Clovis I from the Bretons some time after AD, and another may have been Arabian stallions brought to the area by Muslim invaders in the 8th century. Other possibilities are captured Moorish cavalry horses from the Battle of Poitiers in AD, some of which were taken by warriors from Perche. A final theory posits that the Percheron and the Boulonnais breed are closely related, and that the Boulonnais influenced the Percheron when they were brought to Brittany as reinforcements for the legions of Caesar. It is known that during the 8th century, Arabian stallions were crossed with mares native to the area, and more Oriental horse blood was introduced by the Comte du Perche upon his return from the Crusades and expeditions into territory claimed by Spain. After the days of the armored knight , the emphasis in horse breeding was shifted so as to develop horses better able to pull heavy stage coaches at a fast trot. Gray horses were preferred because their light coloring was more visible at night. This new type of horse was called the "Diligence Horse", because the stage coaches they pulled were named "diligences". After the stage coach was replaced by rail, the modern Percheron type arose as a slightly heavier horse for use in agriculture and heavy hauling work moving goods from docks to railway terminals. Early histories of the breed point to two gray Arabian stallions from Le Pin, Godolphin and Gallipoly, as the blood that helped to restart Percheron breeding. However, later research found that Godolphin was a chestnut Arabian of ordinary conformation and no special worth, while Gallipoly was a gray saddle horse of unknown breeding. Modern breed historians contest that there was enough breeding stock left after the early 19th century to restart the breed without further Arabian influence, and state that it is unlikely that two horses of unremarkable breeding and conformation had a significant influence on the breed. Today, all Percherons trace their ancestry to this stallion. Soon after, two stallions and two mares were imported; one mare died shortly after arrival and one stallion went blind and was retired within a year. Although the first importations of Percherons were less than successful, the remaining stallion, named Diligence, was credited with siring almost foals. In , three stallions were imported: Normandy , Louis Napoleon and Gray Billy. Throughout their stud careers, each had significant influence on American draft horse stock. In addition, many existing horses were lost as people were too poor to purchase or care for large draft horses. In , importations began again as abruptly as they had ceased, with an average of horses a year imported between and In alone, over 13, horses were imported to the United States from France. In , the word "Norman" was dropped from the name. Since , the group has been known as the Percheron Horse Association of America. The first Percherons imported to Britain included some of the thousands of crossbreds from the United States. In Britain, many of the horses, once they finished their bus-pulling career, were sold to farmers. Other imported horses were sold to the British Army, and in , horses were shipped to South Africa for use in the Boer War. Breeders could sell their horses for significant amounts of money, especially in the United States and Canada, where breeding stock brought a premium price. Other than an exception in April to allow 59 horses to be shipped from France to the US, this embargo remained in place until the end of the war. The war took its toll on the Percheron breed as horses, fodder, and handlers were requisitioned for the fighting, and even after the embargo was lifted France did not have the quality or quantity of stock to fulfill the needs of American breeders. Their quick trot on paved roads made them more versatile than motorized vehicles, and they were useful for work with guns

and in forward units due to their calm temperaments. British breeders and owners continue to import Percherons from France, and also occasionally from Canada, when not prohibitively expensive. These breeders kept the American population alive through these years, however, and the s saw renewed interest in the breed. The largest and heaviest stallions were selected for breeding. All the imported stallions were black, reviving the popularity of black Percherons in France. One reason for this lay in the desire to protect the cradle of breeding Percheron horses: This limitation excluded several nearby populations of horses foaled outside of Perche, such as the Maine and the Augeron. The Percheron is the most famous and populous of all French draft breeds in the world today. They are crossbred with lighter horses by breeders of heavy hunters in order to increase size and improve disposition. These crossbred horses are used extensively in both the sub-Antarctic climate of the Falklands and the sub-tropical climate of Australia for working stock. In Australia they are also crossed with Thoroughbreds for use as mounted police horses.

Chapter 5 : Percheron - Wikipedia

Its a great book when you haven't researched draft horses before, but if you know a lot about drafts already than much of this is a review. I really enjoyed the chapter on the descriptions and history of draft horses, as well as all the information on how draft horses aren't just 'work horses' but pleasure horses which have been used in all.

Equine conformation Size comparison of a draft horse of Percheron breeding with a stock horse type light riding horse Draft horses are recognizable by their tall stature and extremely muscular build. In general, they tend to have a more upright shoulder, producing more upright movement and conformation that is well-suited for pulling. They tend to have broad, short backs with powerful hindquarters, again best suited for the purpose of pulling. Additionally, the draft breeds usually have heavy bone, and a good deal of feathering on their lower legs. Many have a straight profile or "Roman nose" a convex profile. The largest horse in recorded history was probably a Shire named Sampson later Mammoth , who was born in One type of horse-powered work was the hauling of heavy loads, plowing fields, and other tasks that required pulling ability. A heavy, calm, patient, well-muscled animal was desired for this work. Conversely, a light, more energetic horse was needed for riding and rapid transport. Thus, to the extent possible, a certain amount of selective breeding was used to develop different types of horse for different types of work. It is a common misunderstanding that the Destrier that carried the armoured knight of the Middle Ages had the size and conformation of a modern draft horse, and some of these Medieval war horses may have provided some bloodlines for some of the modern draft breeds. The reality was that the high-spirited, quick-moving Destrier was closer to the size, build, and temperament of a modern Andalusian or Friesian. There also were working farm horses of more phlegmatic temperaments used for pulling military wagons or performing ordinary farm work which provided bloodlines of the modern draft horse. Records indicate that even medieval drafts were not as large as those today. Of the modern draft breeds, the Percheron probably has the closest ties to the medieval war horse. In this picture, members of the public are being given a ride. In the late 19th century and early 20th century, thousands of draft horses were imported from Western Europe into the United States. Many American draft registries were founded in the late 19th century. Beginning in the late 19th century, and with increasing mechanization in the 20th century, especially following World War I in the USA and after World War II in Europe, the popularity of the internal combustion engine, and particularly the tractor , reduced the need for the draft horse. Many were sold to slaughter for horsemeat and a number of breeds went into significant decline. Today draft horses are most often seen at shows , pulling competition and entered in competitions called "heavy horse" trials, or as exhibition animals pulling large wagons. However, they are still seen on some smaller farms in the USA and Europe. They are particularly popular with groups such as Amish and Mennonite farmers, as well as those individuals who wish to farm with a renewable source of power. They are also sometimes used during forestry management to remove logs from dense woodland where there is insufficient space for mechanized techniques. Crossbred draft horses also played a significant role in the development of a number of warmblood breeds, popular today in international FEI competition up to the Olympic Equestrian level. Small areas still exist where draft horses are widely used as transportation, due to legislation preventing automotive traffic, such as on Mackinac Island in the United States. Care[edit] Feeding, caring for and shoeing a one-ton draft horse is costly. Although many draft horses can work without a need for shoes, if they are required, farriers may charge twice the price to shoe a draft horse as a light riding horse because of the extra labor and specialized equipment required. Nonetheless, because of their sheer size, most require a significant amount of fodder per day. Generally a supplement to balance nutrients is preferred over a large quantity of grain. Overfeeding can lead to obesity , and risk of laminitis can be a concern. List of horse breeds A number of horse breeds are used as draft horses, with the popularity of a given breed often closely linked to geographic location. In North America, there were five draft horse breeds on the classic list: Belgian, Clydesdale, Percheron, Shire, and Suffolk.

Chapter 6 : The book of draft horses : the gentle giants that built the world

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The Book of Draft Horses is a celebration of these "gentle giants," as well as a practical handbook on breeding, care, training, competition, and working horses.

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Chapter 9 : Draft horse - Wikipedia

A draft horse (US), draught horse (UK, A breed developed exclusively in the U.S. was the American Cream Draft, which had a stud book established by the s.