

Judging, showing among draft horse topics

BY DICK ANGLESTEIN

UNIVERSITY PARK — The words and the subject of the words blended well together.

The words, outlining some tips and techniques for showing and judging of draft horses, were being spoken by James Gallagher, professor of animal science extension at Penn State.

As they listened to the words, the eyes of the keenly interested group at the Draft Horse Conference on the Penn State Campus were glued to the ton of well-muscled and groomed Clydesdale before them.

And just as the conference, held for the second time last weekend, exemplifies the renewed interest in these massive animals among horsemen, the Clydesdale stallion, who only came to Pennsylvania a few months ago, serves as another reminder of the growing rebirth of the draft horse.

The stallion used by Gallagher in his discussion of judging and showing will become more familiar to Pennsylvanians as he will be participating in upcoming Farm Show competition. Jonesway King George, who comes out of the Anheuser-Busch string, was just acquired in February by Jim and Dail Corl, of State College.

Gallagher pointed to the thickness through the rear of stallion that judges look for in the show ring.

"The hocks should be pointed slightly in," he said.

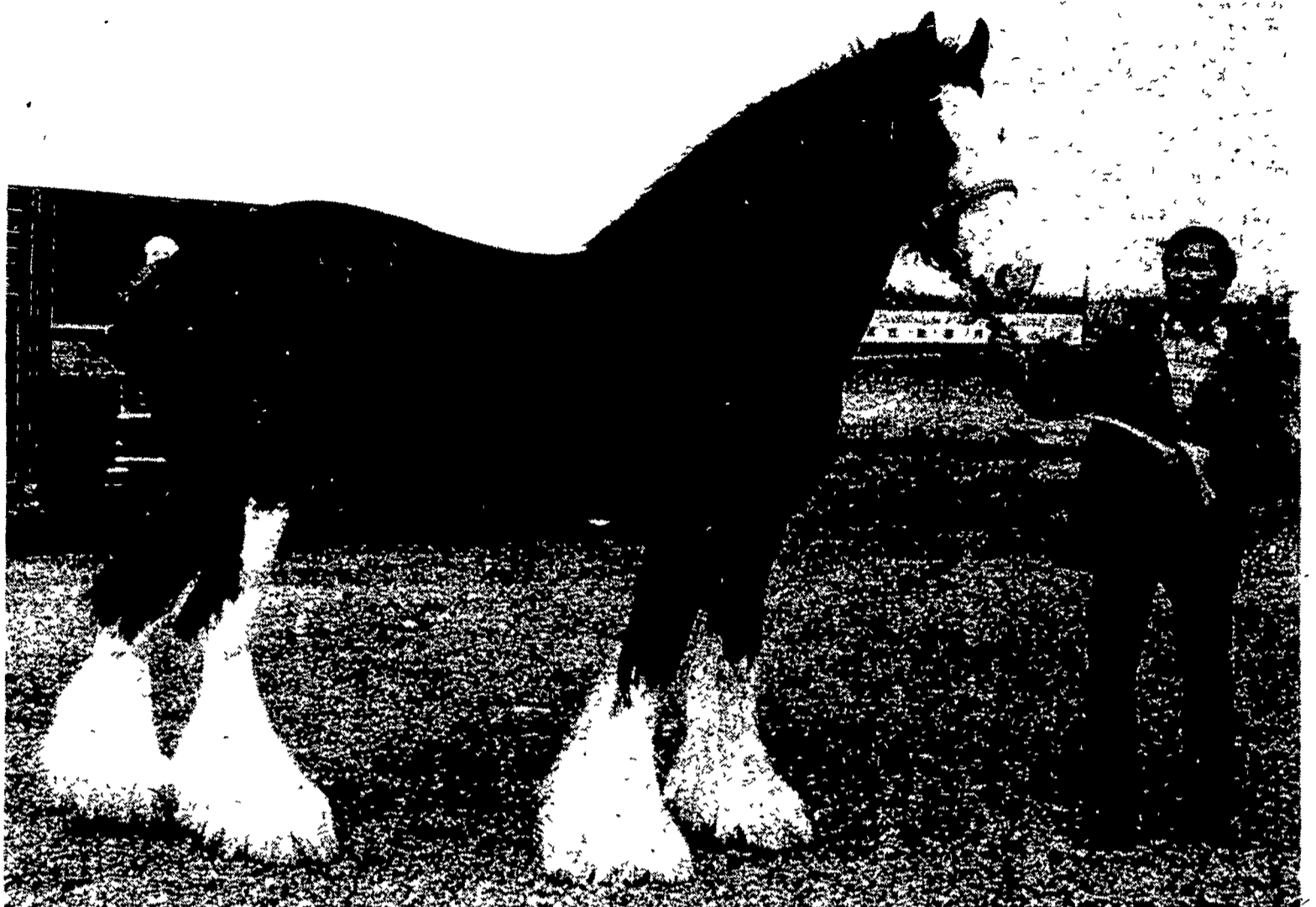
"There should be a slight set to them."

Gallagher went on to differentiate between a blemish and unsoundness. A blemish is a man-made unsightly condition, such as a wire cut, while unsoundness interferes with the function of the horse.

As Jim Corl put the Clydesdale through his motions, the firm, thumping clop, clop of his hooves resounding through the building, Gallagher explained what the judge may be looking for.

"You should have good, straight ground-covering motion," he said.

"The horse should clearly display action with good-true



Jonesway King George, sired by Dunsyre Silver King, of the Anheuser-Busch string, is now a part of the growing Clydesdale operation of Jim and Dail Corl, of State College. The six-year-old stallion stands 18 hands high and tips the

scales at 2,090 pounds. The stud was used in a discussion of judging and showing, which were among a variety of topics and subjects covered at the craft horse conference held on the Penn State campus last weekend.

moves and length and snap to the action."

In the chest area, there must be the necessary width to set off the proper placement of the legs and good depth from where the neck begins.

Some onlookers expressed interest in the feet feathers — one of the recognized trademarks of the breed.

"The feather around the hoof

obviously was considered a desirable characteristic by the Scot breeders," Gallagher said.

"They do provide some protection to the legs and could be trimmed up more if the horses are worked, but that depends on the preference of the owner."

They do require more care though, Gallagher added.

Turning to the mane, Gallagher said it can make a difference if it is roached, braided or combed for the show ring.

"Which technique to be used depends on the individual horse," he said.

"For example, an Aberdeen braid can help create the illusion of a longer neck and aid in enhancing the beauty of a horse."

The judging and showing discussion was just one segment of the two-day draft horse conference held May 1 and 2 by the University's College of Agriculture and the Pennsylvania Draft Horse and Mule Association.

Jim Corl explained that the Clydesdale used in the demonstration-discussion is one of eight that he and his wife, Dail, now have in their operation west of State College.

"We've been breeding and raising Clydesdales for the past three years," Corl said.

Presently, we have three geldings, three brood mares, a yearling stud colt and this stud, which is six years old.

Jonesway King George was sired by Dunsyre Silver King, of the Anheuser-Busch string. He was acquired from Dan Jones, of Bangor, Wisc., — among the best-known Clydesdale operations in the country, which is now in its third generation in the family.

The stallion, which stands 18 hands high and tips the scales at about 90 pounds over a ton, has already captured a lengthy list of grand championships. These include the Ohio State Fair, Detroit, the National Clydesdale Show at the Wisconsin State Fair, Waterloo, Iowa and Belvedere,

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Feathers, which are a trademark of the Clydesdale breed, require added care and can be trimmed up more for working.



Persons attending the next Farm Show will be able to get an in-person look at the Clydesdale stallion, Jonesway King George, who just recently came to Pennsylvania from Wisconsin.