

THE FARMER'S ADVOCATE & HOME MAGAZINE

THE LEADING AGRICULTURAL JOURNAL IN THE DOMINION.

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Our Monthly Prize Essays.

CONDITIONS OF COMPETITION.

- 1.—No award will be made unless one essay at least comes up to the standard for publication.
 - 2.—The essays will be judged by the ideas, arguments, conciseness and conformity with the subject, and not by the grammar, punctuation or spelling.
 - 3.—Should any of the other essays contain valuable matter, not fully covered by the one awarded the first prize, or should any present different views of the same topic, and we consider such views meritorious, we will publish such essays in full, or extracts from them as we may deem best, and allow the writer ten cents per inch (one dollar per column) printed matter for as much of such articles as we publish. By this rule each writer who sends us valuable matter will receive remuneration for his labor, whether he be the winner of the first prize or not.
- See section 9 and four following in publisher's announcement above.
- A prize of \$5.00 will be given for the best essay on "Poultry Breeding from a Farmer's Standpoint." Essay to be in this office not later than February 15th.
- A prize of \$5.00 will be given for the best essay on "Profitable Horse Raising for the Manitoba and Northwestern Farmers, with Suggestions on Breeding, Feeding, Training and Marketing." Essays to be in this office not later than March 15th.
- A prize of \$5 will be given for the best essay on "How to Make a Success of Winter Farm Dairying in Manitoba or the Territories." Essays to be in this office not later than April 15th.

Everyone interested in dairying should not only read, but study that instructive little book, "Dairying for Profit, or the Poor Man's Cow," which may be obtained from the authoress, Mrs. E. M. Jones, Brockville, Ont. Price, 30 cents. Over 62,000 copies have been sold, and in order to further stimulate its circulation, we will give two copies to every old subscriber sending in his own name (renewal), and that of one new yearly subscriber, accompanied by two dollars.

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS.

Veterinary.

ANSWERED BY W. A. DUNBAR, V. S., WINNIPEG, CONDITION POWDERS.

WM. SHEPHERD, Rathwell:—"Will you kindly inform me if it is safe to feed St. John's Condition Powder to a mare in foal, and, if safe, how much and how often should it be fed. If this is not a safe thing to use, please prescribe the best medicine to clear her blood, with directions how to use."

We are ignorant of the ingredients that compose St. John's Condition Powder, and therefore not in a position to certify as to its fitness as a medicine for your mare. Most of the so-called "condition powders" may be safely recommended as being very harmless, but usually very useless. Your mare being in foal, we would not advise a very extensive use of medicine, unless the state of her health demanded it. You do not mention any special ailment, but merely that her blood requires "clearing." Give the animal wholesome food, such as moderate rations of good hay and oats, and an occasional diet of boiled wheat or barley. Give twice a week, for three or four weeks, in bran mash:—Epsom salts, two tablespoonfuls, and powdered gentian, two teaspoonfuls. See that your stable is clean, comfortable and well-ventilated.

MARE IN POOR CONDITION.

W. H. McLAREN, Clearwater:—"I have a mare four years of age, which suckled a foal last season; she is in very poor condition, is affected with worms, and her blood is all out of order. She is hidebound, and very rough and dry in the hair. During the last month or six weeks I have fed her Hagyard's powders, four tablespoonfuls per week, one cup linseed meal per day; and I have given her two cups Epsom salts, but they have taken no effect. She eats and drinks well. I fed her the above in chopped oats and wheat—three quarts wheat, one quart oats."

Feed your mare exclusively on a bran-mash diet for at least sixteen hours, and then give the following, made into a ball: Barbadoes aloes, six drachms; Calomel, one drachm; ground ginger, two drachms; soft soap or syrup, a sufficient quantity. Continue the mash diet until the physic has ceased to operate. After this, give morning and evening for ten days: Sulphate of iron and gentian, of each one drachm; nux vomica, half a drachm. This should be given in the morning in oats, and at night in mash, made by boiling a teaspoonful of flaxseed in sufficient water to scald four quarts of bran. Examine teeth carefully, and see that they are in a proper condition. Keep, if possible, your stable clean, warm, and sufficiently ventilated.

ROUP.

J. BARBOUR, Balmoral:—"Some of my turkeys are sick. The head becomes very feverish, then swelled to a great extent, and now there is a heavy discharge from the nostrils with very little reduction in the swelling. Can you or any of your readers name the disease and give me a cure for it?"

The disease is probably roup, which generally attacks fowls kept in pens the air of which is damp or impure. Turkeys will thrive better if allowed to roost on the binder (though it's not best for the binder) out in the implement shed, than if kept in a warm, damp, poorly ventilated stable, even in this climate. The hatchet is usually the most satisfactory remedy for the roup, as it very often runs into consumption. However, if taken in the early stages, the following treatment may avail:—Cleanse head with hot water, adding one part carbolic acid to ten parts water; clear nasal passage to throat; if throat is filled up, gargle with coal oil for a few mornings; give castor oil, and, once or twice a day, give one grain doses of bromide of potassium in milk. Feed nourishing diet, and put a little sulphur in feed occasionally. Of course the cause must be removed, viz., the damp, foul air.

ANSWERED BY DR. MOLE, 280 ADELAIDE ST. WEST, TORONTO.

CHRONIC INDIGESTION.

J. H. LADD, Lock Levin, N. S.:—"Will you please inform me what is the matter with my mare, now 5 years old? Since last autumn she has been rapidly losing flesh, skin tight, and hair standing on end; not much alteration in her bowels, excepting that they seem more free than natural. I have treated her for worms with linseed oil and turpentine, but to no purpose, as I have not seen any worms come away. Legs swelled, dull, heavy, hangs her head and does not seem to have the slightest ambition to move. Please advise as to treatment."

There is no doubt, from the symptoms you have detailed, that your mare is suffering from "chronic indigestion," which has been in existence a long time. Follow out this line of treatment:—Give a dose of purgative medicine consisting of Barbadoes aloes, one ounce, in solution. Have made up twelve balls composed of the following ingredients:—Barbadoes aloes, 6 drachms; nitrate of potash, 2 ounces; powdered resin, 2 ounces; powdered gentian, 1½ ounces; powdered ginger, 1½ ounces; powdered capsici, ½ ounce; sweet syrup, quantity sufficient to mix, and divide into 12 balls. Give one a day and report progress.

SCOURING OR PURGING.

D. SINCLAIR SMITH, Petitcodiac, N.B.:—"Will you please let me know the reason why a team of my horses, that have been accustomed to get 18 quarts of oats a day, when given the same quantity of crushed oats scoured so much that the quantity had to be lessened? Does feeding whole oats give a horse more life than the same weight of crushed oats? If so, why?"

The only reason that can be assigned is, when given the crushed oats it must cause a little indigestion, and thus the scouring. I am of opinion that feeding whole oats will keep a horse in hard condition and develop more life. Try the following powders:—Powdered sulphate of iron, 4 oz.; powdered carbonate of soda, 4 oz. A tablespoonful of this mixture to be administered in the horses' food night and morning.

MALNUTRITION.

DAVID AITKIN:—"I have a young (four years old) horse which I had on pasture August and Sept last year. Some dogs ran the horse around until he became overheated; one dog caught him by the heels, leaving several scratches. Have used such remedies as are common for healing purposes, but the hair came out in large patches on different parts of the body. Have the horse in a warm stable, feed lightly—hay and oats occasionally, still the horse is very thin and has little life, and a large number of blotches like "ringworm." I have used condition powders that are recommended for blood purifying, but this does not seem to improve the horse."

Your horse is no doubt suffering from malnutrition, and, first of all, see that the teeth are in good order. Feed on soft, nutritious food, with an occasional mash of linseed or flaxseed with bran. Try the following powders, which are at all times beneficial to horse not doing well:—Sulphate of iron, 4 oz.; carbonate of soda, 4 oz.; gentian powder, 4 oz.; capsici powder, ½ oz. Mix, and give a teaspoonful in each feed. Report progress.

SWEENIED.

J. A. S., Ida:—"I have a valuable young horse, rising five years old, which is "sweenied" in both shoulders. I have been applying turpentine and oil, but it does not seem any better. Please prescribe through the columns of your paper."

We are of opinion that these cases of so-called "sweenied shoulders" are all due to some irritation of the feet. Have both shoes removed, pare down the heels, and place the feet in bran poultices for a week, and then search for corns or bruised heels. If no better after this treatment, have a competent veterinary surgeon examine him for "Navicular" disease.

Legal.

STACKS BURNED.

A MANITOBA SUBSCRIBER:—"I have a threshing machine, and one very windy day last fall I did not wish to thresh for a farmer, as I was afraid I might burn the stacks. However, the farmer insisted of having the job done, and ordered me to go ahead; so I went ahead, taking every precaution; had a tank of water by the stacks, and with a force-pump wet the sides of the stacks, etc., before starting. We were not threshing over twenty minutes when the stacks took fire and were burned. Now, does the farmer have to bear the loss or has the thresher to pay for it?"

Under the circumstances we think the farmer must stand the loss.

HORSE OLDER THAN REPRESENTED.

VERITAS, Yorkton:—"If a person buys a registered horse with the certificate of registration only, and when the extended pedigree is obtained it is found that the horse is several years older than represented by the seller, can an action-at-law be maintained for the recovery of damages?"

No.

LEGAL HOLIDAYS.

A SUBSCRIBER, Forest, Man.:—"What legal holidays can a man claim who is hired to work on a farm by the month or year?"

Sundays. If, however, he stipulates that he is to have as holidays the days called such under the Statutes of this Province, he will have in addition New Year's Day, Christmas Day, Good Friday, Dominion Day, The Queen's Birthday, Arbor Day, Thanksgiving Day.

REPAIRING FENCES.

W. H. BREWSTER, Treherne:—"Kindly answer the following question: A sold to B half a section of land. C had one wire and poplar posts two rods apart on the line fence between A and C. A put another wire on same fence, with oak posts between every one of C's. B bought the land of A after the second wire and oak posts were put up. Which is the legal way to keep fence in repair?"

Each of the parties occupying adjoining tracts of land shall make, keep up and repair a just proportion of the division or line fence on the line dividing such tracts, and equally on either side thereof. All disputes as to line fences are to be decided under "The Boundary Lines Act," which see for further information.