

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS.

1st.—Questions asked by bona-fide subscribers to "The Farmer's Advocate" are answered in this department free.

2nd.—Questions should be clearly stated and plainly written, on one side of the paper only, and must be accompanied by the full name and address of the writer.

3rd.—In Veterinary questions the symptoms especially must be fully and clearly stated, otherwise satisfactory replies cannot be given.

4th.—When a reply by mail is required to urgent veterinary or legal enquiries, \$1.00 must be enclosed.

Veterinary.

HARD TO DRIVE WHEN RAINING.

I have a nine-year-old horse. For the last year, if it commences to rain while I am driving him, he drops his head to the ground and tries to rub his nose.

Ans.—Some horses have a very decided dislike to rain. Yours is evidently one of that kind. The symptoms do not indicate disease, hence medicines are not indicated. The habit must be checked by mechanical appliances. The best means is the wearing of a checkrein, not tight enough to cause the horse any inconvenience, but sufficient to prevent him getting his head down low.

LYMPHANGITIS.

We have a horse which took lymphangitis about six weeks ago. We purged and bathed, gave nitrate of potash and exercise. He got about all right, but has had two or three attacks since, which we treated in the same way, but his leg does not come to its proper size.

Would you advise giving him iodide of potassium, and how much? Would it be dangerous to give drug when there is any soreness in leg?

Ans.—Would advise light feeding, regular exercise, band-rubbing and bandaging, and the administration of 1 dram iodide of potassium twice daily. If this affects the appetite the dose should be reduced to 40 or 30 grains.

Miscellaneous.

SEEDING CLOVER WITH CORN.

I would like to hear from some of the readers who have seeded down corn ground after the last cultivation. Is it generally a success? Kindly give me such information as you can regarding this subject, as it would be a very fine way, I think, of keeping my young orchard in good clean shape, viz., planting and seeding clover first year, cut first crop and plow down second crop second year, and plant and seed next year again. Let this be discussed through your valuable paper.

[Note.—Discussion based upon experience is invited.—Ed.]

MATERIAL FOR WALL AND FLOOR—SILO CAPACITY.

1. What amount of cement would be required to build a wall one foot thick and 305 ft. long, average height 8 ft. 6 in., with an average supply of stone fillers?

2. How much cement would be needed for a stable 40 x 52 for flooring? How much for another, 24 x 34 flooring?

3. What height would a 12-ft. silo need to be to hold as much as one 14 x 30?

Ans. 1. Omitting the stone, you would require about 110 cubic yards of gravel and between 90 and 95 barrels of cement. By imbedding field stone you could easily reduce by one-quarter the amount of cement and gravel needed.

2. Taking in passage ways and everything, a barrel of cement should suffice on the average for 80 square feet of floor. One barrel will lay this area three inches thick when mixed in the proportions of one to five. Of course, stable floors are usually laid in two coats, the lower one mixed, say, one to ten, and the thinner finishing coat, say, one to three, though a single coat mixed one to five is often made to answer. At the rate above specified, 26 barrels would suffice for the first floor, and 10 or 11 for the other.

3. Approximately 40 feet. The problem is complicated by the fact that the silage in a 12 x 40 would be rather more compact than in one 14 x 30. Just how much more it is impossible to say accurately. In cubic capacity a silo 14 x 30 would be equal to one 12 feet in diameter, 40 to 50 feet high.

SWELLED LEGS.

What is good for a horse that stocks up in the legs? Kindly let me know through your paper.

Ans.—Give him a purgative of 8 drams aloes and 2 drams ginger. Follow up with one dram iodide of potassium twice daily. Hand rub and bandage the legs, and give regular exercise.

EXPULSION OF UTERUS.

I had a sow that gave birth to 12 pigs, and then threw her pig bed and died. She had plenty of exercise, being closed up only two days before, and she was fed liberally with sugar beets. Please state cause of death?

SUBSCRIBER.

Ans. It is very rare that expulsion of the uterus occurs in the case of sows, and treatment in such cases is impracticable. If the sow had abnormal difficulty in giving birth to her litter inversion of the womb may have followed as a result. Exercise and laxative food are, as a rule, favorable to easy parturition. We do not think any treatment would have saved the sow's life.

CLOGS—INDIGESTION.

1. In your issue of October 20th felt-lined clogs are advertised by the British Clog Supply Stores. Are these clogs sold by any dealer in London or vicinity?

2. Driving horse is very greedy. I was using barley straw for bedding, which he would eat, causing an attack of indigestion. Is it likely to recur? If so, what precautions should I take to prevent it?

Ans. 1. No; you will have to buy direct. Subscribers have written us expressing full satisfaction with these clogs and the method of buying and the price.

2. As the trouble is attributed to the barley straw, it is obvious that the remedy is to remove the cause. Use wheat or oat straw for bedding, or, if necessary, sawdust, though this is not the nicest kind of bedding for a horse. If the barley straw must be used, keep it well to the rear of the stall, and tie the horse short.

SOLID-CEMENT VS. CEMENT-BLOCK SILOS.

I intend to build a silo, and could get a cement hollow-block silo built for the same price as a solid one, and would save me a great deal of work, but I don't know how satisfactory they are. Perhaps you could answer these questions in your columns:

1. Is a hollow-block silo as good as a solid one in keeping silage, or is it better?

2. How are the doors put in, in a frame, or just blocks laid and a space left?

Ans. While these questions have been dealt with in our columns at various times, it is well to have the benefit of the most recent experience under a variety of conditions. Will readers who have had a chance to compare cement-block with solid-cement silos send us short letters answering the foregoing questions, and stating further the cost of their own silos, with a comparison of the cost of solid-cement and cement-block silos? Compare both material and labor, giving, besides, size of silo, thickness of walls, etc.

ALFALFA AND ORCHARDING.

Is it advisable to sow alfalfa in a young orchard? My orchard is located on a hillside, which makes cultivation very difficult, so I intend to seed it down and cultivate around the trees with a hoe, to a diameter of 6 or 8 feet.

Ans.—Except as a cover crop to be sown one summer and plowed down the next spring it is inadvisable to sow alfalfa in any orchard, save, perhaps, in the spaces between the rows of young trees whose roots do not extend across the whole distance. The trouble is, even here, that one is liable to leave the alfalfa too close, and its deep root system will pump moisture and plant food out of the soil so thoroughly that the extending feeders of the tree roots are liable to be cut off in their supply of moisture and plant food. We would not consider that all sufficient in an orchard sown to alfalfa to dig only to a diameter of six or eight feet around each tree. Better use some other crop than alfalfa if you must seed down. Try a mixture of clover and grass.

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