

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS.
Miscellaneous.

FEEDING EGGSHELLS—POULTRY BREEDING
QUERIES.

1. Would you advise feeding eggshells to hens? If so, should they be crushed fine or not?
2. How long after a fowl is mated before the eggs become fertile?
3. How long will eggs remain fertile after the male is removed?
4. Is it inbreeding to allow a male to remain with pullets of the same setting of eggs?

Lincoln Co., Ont.

Ans.—1. Yes, if available. Crush them up, else the hens, by breaking large pieces, may acquire the habit of egg-eating.

2 and 3. It is not definitely known exactly how long it takes for the eggs to become fertilized. A practical rule is to mate the breeding pens up five or six weeks previous to the earliest date of hatching. "On the farm of the Ohio State University, 40 Leghorn hens, which had previously been kept without males, were placed in pens with the male birds February 18th, and the percentage of fertile eggs observed for nine days after mating. This increased from 0, on the day of mating, to 95 per cent., on the eighth day after mating. July 1st, the males were removed from the pens. The fertility of the eggs was apparently not materially affected until the twelfth day after removing the roosters. Unfortunately the eggs were saved only fifteen days, and hence it is not shown how long hens may lay fertile eggs after removal of the male bird." The above, however, is the result of only one experiment, and final conclusions should not be drawn from it. Some authorities allow a shorter time, from four to fourteen days, as the time after mating during which fertility may be depended on.

4. Yes, if the eggs were laid by the same hen, or sired by the same cock.

Veterinary.

TUMORS.

Last June two lumps appeared on my horse's breast—one on each side of the throat, just under the skin. They are as large as large hen's eggs. They are not painful.

C. C. K.

Ans.—These are fibrous tumors, and should be carefully dissected out. As they are in such close proximity to large blood vessels the operation must be skillfully performed, and I would advise you to employ a veterinarian.

CONGENITAL MALFORMATION

When calf was born it could not suck, but drank milk out of a pail. It is over two months old and cannot suck yet. Saliva is continually flowing from its mouth, and every time we go to feed it there is one or two wads of straw in its mouth.

M. M.

Ans.—There is some congenital malformation of the mouth or tongue, or both, and it is not probable anything can be done. It may be it is what is called tongue-tied, and it is possible this might be corrected by an operation. It requires a personal examination to diagnose the trouble, and the possibility of a successful operation.

CONSTIPATION.

Colt was sick in October and again in January. It refused to eat, became restless, would paw, lie down, rise on its fore feet, rub hind quarters against the stall, etc. Is it indigestion, and is it liable to further attacks?

W. J. T.

Ans.—This is a form of indigestion. The colt appears to be predisposed to the trouble. All horses are liable to an attack, and those who have congenital weakness of the digestive organs suffer from slight provocation. I would advise you to give him a purgative of six drams aloes and two drams ginger; follow up with a dram each of gentian, ginger and nux vomica, night and morning for two weeks. Feed regularly on moderate quantities of food of first-class quality, and do not make any sudden changes in his food. If he is attacked again, give injections of soapy warm water per rectum, and give one ounce chlorhydrate dissolved in a pint of warm water every hour until relieved. Follow this with a purgative and treatment as above.

A WARNING NOTE
FROM THE BACK.

People often say, "How are we to know when the kidneys are out of order?" The location of the kidneys, close to the small of the back, renders the detection of kidney trouble a simple matter. The note of warning comes from the back, in the shape of backache. Don't neglect to cure it immediately. Serious kidney trouble will follow if you do. A few doses of

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Veterinary.

WORMS.

Six-months-old colt is not doing well. He eats well and feels well, but will not gain in flesh.

G. W. S.

Ans.—It is probable he has worms. Take four drams each sulphate of iron, sulphate of copper, tartar emetic and calomel; mix, and make into twelve powders. Give him a powder every night and morning. After the last has been taken, give him a purgative of half a pint raw linseed oil. Feed bran only for twenty-four hours after giving purgative.

AGALACTIA.

Mare that has bred several times, and always was a good milker, produced a foal on February 14th, but she had no milk. She was well fed and in good condition. I gave her bran and chopped oats, warm, with a tablespoonful of saltpetre, and warm water to drink. Would you advise me to breed her again? Would you advise me to breed her three-year-old daughter, weighing 1,200 lbs. to a Clydesdale stallion weighing 1,800?

W. C.

Ans.—Agalactia, or absence of milk, occasionally occurs in mares without appreciable cause, and nothing can be done for the condition, other than feeding on milk-producing food. You fed her all right, but should not have given the saltpetre. This drug had a tendency to prevent milk secretion, but I do not think it made much difference in this case. I would breed her again so that she would foal while on grass. The sire mentioned should mate well with the filly, but I would prefer one not quite so large.

LOCKJAW.

Calf was castrated January 14th. On the 25th, its appetite failed; in a few days it bloated, became stiff in every joint and muscle. Its neck became very stiff, and if the animal was turned on its back, the head and neck would support the shoulders clear of the ground. In four or five days we killed it. An examination of the scrotum revealed some puss.

1. Was it lockjaw?
2. Would cold cause it after castration?
3. Would indigestion cause it?
4. Is there any cure?

W. E. S.

1. It was lockjaw.
2. No. The disease is caused by a germ that exists in the earth or stables and gains entrance through a wound or sore. Any operation may be followed by the disease, and it often follows pricks in the foot, sore shoulders, scratches, or any sore. No blame can be attached to the operator when tetanus (lockjaw) follows an operation. The only blame in this case is your own for allowing the wounds to close too quickly. They should have been kept open to allow the puss to escape, but this neglect is not responsible for the disease.
3. No.
4. In rare cases recovery takes place.

V.

ENLARGED KNEE

1. Heavy mare started off slightly lame, but went all right in a few minutes. She was given a long drive in deep snow with crust. Next day her knee was badly swollen. I applied liniment, and reduced the swelling, with the exception of a bunch on front knee. I drove her again in about three weeks, and now her knee is badly swollen, and she is very lame.

2. How can a team be prevented from crowding in deep snow?

F. B. G.

Ans.—I am of the opinion she bruised her knee in some way, and a serious abscess has formed. If fluid is present, it must be removed, either by lancing or using an instrument called an aspirator. As the knee is a critical part to operate on, you had better employ a veterinarian. If you decide to treat yourself, give rest, bathe long and often with hot water, and apply camphorated liniment (which you can get at any drug store) after bathing. When the inflammation is allayed, rub well once daily, to reduce the bunch, with the following liniment: four drams each of re-sublimed iodine crystals and iodide of potassium, and four ounces each of glycerine and alcohol. It will require patience and attention.

2. There is no known means of curing a team of crowding in deep snow, when once the habit has been acquired.

V.

Children
Are Underfed

THE RESULT IS WEAKNESS, RICKETS, ST. VITUS' DANCE AND MANY ILLS OF CHILDHOOD
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