

Questions and Answers

WEAK FOALS.

I have a mare which was due to foal on May 7, and on April 25 gave every indication of foaling but continued this way up to May 15. The colt was alive when it came but was very weak and never got up. The mare is healthy, is

fourteen years of age and this is her first colt.

Another mare went a month over her time and had a big colt but it was weak and died in two days. The mares were fed on oats and oat straw, some roots now and again and bran mashes near foaling time. Why should these colts be so weak, the sire was an imported Percheron? Would it be advisable to breed to the same horse?

Man.

C. P.



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Ans.—Possibly the stallion is not of rugged constitution, the general average health of his foals would indicate that. Or the mares most probably did not have sufficient outdoor work or exercise right up to foaling. In-foal mares require to be fed on bone and muscle forming foods and if the supply of oats was not very large say six quarts a day that would account for the weakness in the foals. The feeding just before foaling was alright. The fact that the first mare was not bred until thirteen years of age might have a little influence on the health of the foal. If the general average of the horse's colts come strong you would be safe in breeding to him again.

IRRIGATING LAND.

About seventy five acres of my homestead lies low on the banks of the Little Bow River and can be irrigated by taking the water from a point on the river about a mile north of my line fence.

1. Can my neighbors prevent me from running the water through their land by means of a ditch, providing it does their land no damage as I can run it along the steep banks?

2. Have I any right to raise the water several feet on another party's land by means of a dam?

3. Can you instruct me as to building a substantial dam?

4. What would be the value of irrigated as compared to non-irrigated land?

Alta.

"IRRIGATOR."

Ans.—Before taking any definite action in this matter you should make application to the Federal government and find out whether you will be granted an appropriation for water out of this particular stream for irrigation. For you should know that you will be allowed to use the water after the ditch is built, as well as to know that your right to the same will be protested.

1. The simplest way to proceed is to go to your neighbor and come to an agreement with him as to what the land is worth that would be occupied by the ditch and the amount of damage, if any, to his land by having the ditch put through. If you cannot come to some satisfactory agreement between your selves you can, of course, obtain a right of way for a ditch, if such a ditch can be shown to be necessary, across another man's land by the proper process of law, after paying him the amount of recompense that will then be determined.

2. This is in a sense answered under the former question, for if your neighbor objects to having the water flooded over his land and you cannot agree between yourselves what his recompense should be your course would be the same as with the ditch.

3. When a pile dam is not used, a cheap and usually effective dam, provided one does not attempt to raise the water too high, may be built out of brush and rock mixed through with a little straw. Then by putting a small amount of straw and earth on the upper side, the water is checked sufficiently to raise it somewhat. Such a dam is not usually water tight but it will often stand considerable high water before being washed out.

4. If properly handled in hay it appears that one acre of irrigable land would be equivalent in value to from three to five acres of adjacent non-irrigable land.

W. H. FAIRFIELD, Lethbridge.

PILES IN BULL.

A young bull seems to me to have something of the nature of piles. Stands with his tail out a good bit, and sometimes presses heavily. He turns the anus out a little, which looks rather red and sore, sometimes a little blood on it. Bull is fed a variety of food. His manure is soft, and he is in good condition, but yet does not do so well as might be expected.

G. D.

Ans.—Hemorrhoids, or piles, are a varicose condition of the rectal veins, very often produced by liver disorder or habitual constipation. A careful examination should be made in case it might be tumors. Feed soft diet. Give half-pint doses of raw linseed oil daily for three or four days, and use an injection once daily: Tannic acid, one ounce; warm water, one quart.

RABBITS AND PIGEONS.

1. Where is the best place to keep rabbits, and what is best to feed them? What kind do you think the best? Could you tell me where I could get a pair?

2. How would you take pigeons to market, dead or alive?

R. T.

Ans.—1. There are bad rabbits, and worse rabbits, and good-for-nothing rabbits, but there are no good rabbits. For some years considerable talk has been indulged in about Belgian hares; but our advice to anyone who wants to get a pair is "don't". Keep chickens, ducks, turkeys, geese, or even cats instead. Rabbits may be kept in any old outhouse, and fed on clover and such other green feed as they will eat.

2. The squabs, or young pigeons, about four or five weeks old, and weighing eight pounds to the dozen, are marketed in a dressed condition.

TUBERCULOSIS?

Ox is out of form, is poor and scouring, makes water quite often, more so than the other ox. About three weeks ago he refused to eat for about a half a day, but eats good now also chews his cud fairly good, have been feeding chop and hay but feed whole oats now. He passes some whole oats. He drinks good. He is about nine years old, has a bad cough, puffs hard when plowing, he has been sick about a month. I feed him condition powder and give him oil of tar, but it does not seem to help, I water out of the slough.

Heward, Sask.

H. W.

Ans.—The symptoms resemble tuberculosis very much, you might try the following tonic powders: nux vomica powdered, two ounces; powdered gentian, four ounces; powdered cinnamon, four ounces; powdered copper sulphate, two ounces; powdered iron sulphate, two ounces; divide into sixteen doses, give morning and night in the feed. From the symptoms, his teeth are not good, do not feed whole grain.

I have land in the Swift Current district that I am getting broken, and I want to know which would make the best job. To have it broken two inches and backset four inches, or to break it thin and disc it well. I am told it is the custom there to break and disc only, but as I am afraid the climate is a little dry there, do you think that backsetting will hold the moisture in the soil better? The soil is black loam with clay subsoil; in some places it is a chocolate colored soil with clay subsoil. As a first crop on breaking, do you think flax a good thing? I am told it is hard on the soil, that it impoverishes it and affects the following wheat crop.

L.

Ans.—See issue of May 16, page 726.

ABORTION IN MARES.

I have two mares. One I bought April 3, 1906, and on the 25th I drove her to town, two and a half miles, and put her up in a stable where she threw a colt dead. I left her there four days before bringing her home. My other mare threw her colt this morning also dead. She was not due to foal till June 21. The first mare I didn't know was with foal or the man I bought her from. The other mare was in foal to a registered Clydesdale. I have been working them steady right along and feeding four of them good hay, three oat sheaves and gallon of bran each a day also gallon of oats every other day, and after work at night let them run out for an hour or two. I have a good frame barn without drafts but ventilated.

I should like to know if I would be wise to put them to the horse this year or leave them as I understand they are liable to throw the colts again.

SUBSCRIBER.

Ans.—You are perfectly safe in breeding them again, but it might be well to take precautions against the accident next spring by giving one ounce daily of fluid extract of black haw and one dram fluid extract of blue cohosh, once daily for two weeks; such are supposed to act as uterine sedatives.