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#### Questions and Answers. Miscellaneous.

##### Feeding Musty Oats.

Will you kindly answer, through your paper, whether it is safe to feed to horses oats that have been heated, or if there is anything to put on the oats to be able to feed them with safety?

C. S. F.

Ans.—See "Whip's" article in our issue of Nov. 25. Start feeding lightly, and gradually increase. Do not feed heavily. Damp with lime water.

##### Flowers and Geese.

1. I planted some flowers last spring which need a little protection in winter. What is best thing to cover them with? I thought of putting a light cover of horse manure on them, but feared I might smother them. When should I put protection on, and when should I take it off?

2. Are there certain stones which represent different months? I have seen different lists, and none of them the same. If there is a birthday stone for each month, would you please print the correct list for the twelve months?

3. How many geese is it advisable to keep with one gander?

H. S.

Ans.—1. If you do not put in too much manure it will be quite suitable. Put on right away, and remove in the spring as soon as the weather starts to warm up, and after all heavy frost is over.

2. Can any reader give the proper list?

3. Two or three.

##### Flower Queries.

Would like to know what time of the year to plant tulip seed, Aristolochia seed (otherwise known as Dutchman's pipe), and Oriental poppy seed. My pot Hydrangea has grown very long and straggly branches. Would I be wise to prune it, and if so, where? Thanking you in advance.

##### FLOWER LOVER.

Ans.—Aristolochias are very easy to grow. Plant the seed in spring according to directions on package. The vine can also be propagated by cuttings in a frame. . . Sow Oriental poppy seed as early in spring as the ground can be worked, in the perennial border, where the plants will not be disturbed. If necessary to divide the roots, this should be done in fall after the plants have flowered. All poppy seed should be sown thinly, and, if necessary, the plants should be thinned to six inches apart. . . Tulip seeds are seldom used, as it is much more satisfactory to set out the bulbs. This is done, as a rule, in the autumn. . . Mrs. Ely recommends trimming back Hydrangea grandiflora, at least three-quarters of the new growth every year.

##### Feeding and Ensiling Corn.

1. Is it profitable to remove the cobs from fodder corn and feed the same to hogs, and make silage of the stalks for cattle of the ordinary kind? Corn can be grown in our locality to perfection, and produce 100 bushels per acre, and that is worth at least 30 cents per bushel for hog feed over expense of pulling and husking.

2. Has a wooden silo any advantage over a cement one in the keeping quality of the silage?

3. Is it profitable to grow corn and draw it out into the pasture fields without husking, to feed ordinary cattle?

R. A.

Ans.—1. Under many circumstances this might be a good practice. If the hogs are being fattened and the cattle are only of the store kind, it is quite likely that it would pay in the end to husk the corn for pigs and make silage of the stalks. Under other circumstances we can see how no advantage would accrue from such methods.

2. All silos properly constructed give very good satisfaction. Advocates of the wooden silo claim that the silage does not freeze quite so much as in the cement, and therefore is of better quality.

3. This will depend upon the character of the pasture. When the grazing land must be augmented with some sort of soiling crop, this would not be a bad practice at all. Corn is usually grown for silo or for husking, but where some special soiling crop is required, corn gives very good satisfaction.

##### Thirty-Share Beef-Ring.

We have a 20-share beef-ring in our community, and at our wind-up meeting it was mentioned to have a 30-share beef-ring. Please publish in "The Farmer's Advocate" as soon as possible, rules and regulations for running one; also a chart.

J. T. W.

Ans.—Can any of our readers send us plans for a thirty-share beef-ring? We have no such chart on hand.

##### Eczema in Horses

I have a four-year-old horse which broke out last fall with eczema in his mane and tail, losing most of the hair from his tail. I had him to a veterinary surgeon, who gave me medicine which stopped the disease, and hair started to come in on his tail, but now it has a dead appearance about it. The tail has been sore for some time, in fact, it has been a trifle sore ever since the disease set in, but now I can take the tail and squeeze matter from it. Why has the tail not done properly since starting to come in? What can I do for it to remove the matter and bring in the hair? W. H. N.

Ans.—Since your veterinarian was successful in curing the eczema, we would advise that you see him again, and have him prescribe for the trouble. Questions on eczema in horses were answered in our issue of Nov. 25.

##### Alfalfa for Silage.

Would you kindly oblige us, through the medium of your esteemed paper, with information, preferably experience by actual tests, on the subject of alfalfa as a successful and suitable silage? In this locality, where three and four crops are taken off, experience has taught that some one of the crops is sure to encounter a very wet and unreasonable spell of weather. It is called the "dry belt," but the two seasons I have been here convinced me it wasn't very dependable, and to live through an experience such as that of last summer, when it rained every day for thirty days, with cloudbursts and hailstorms pounding off tons of leaves, leaving only a matted, tangled mess, that no machine could take off the ground, makes us look around for some way to avoid the loss and inconvenience, and to be more independent of the weather. In this district it would be impossible to have any other crop, such as corn, to mix with the first cutting of alfalfa, at time of putting into the silo, say, 12th to 20th of May, or two weeks earlier than we would be starting to cut the first cutting for hay. If it were not a suitable crop to feed as silage alone, if it would ensile properly alone we could build two silos side by side, and later in the season fill the second with corn, mixing them as desired when feeding. We will not hand you out the usual series of questions, but leave you to fix that up, knowing that you can tell us the how and the why and the when, and thanking you for the feast of good things you have been sending us every week.

S. O. L.

Ans.—Could you not mix your second or third crop alfalfa with the corn. We have seen such done here in Ontario very satisfactorily, putting in one load of the alfalfa to every ten or twelve loads of corn. We would not care to advise the ensiling of alfalfa alone. Alfalfa is very high in protein, and it seems that it contains very little sugar from which the acids necessary to preserve the silage are formed. It is said that better results are obtained when the alfalfa is put in with green rye or green wheat, cut when just past the milk stage and rich in sugars. We have read reports of success in ensiling it alone, but they are not numerous. The failures outnumber them. Why not try to dry the first cuttings of alfalfa on tripods, as suggested by a reader some time ago, and reported on as a success in your Province, and ensile the third or fourth cutting with the corn?

"I wonder what we're here in the world for?" asked the little boy, who seemed to be suffering from some childish grievance.

"We are put here to help others, of course," answered the little girl, with an air of superior wisdom.

"Um!" exclaimed the boy, disdainfully; "then what are the others put here for?"—Tit-Bits.

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R. H. Reed, Bristol Center, N. Y., writes: Year ago mare had bad splint close to knee. I blistered three times. Then another Vet. blistered four weeks. She grew worse, could hardly get to water. I saw your adv. in Farm Journal. Used one-half of Save-The-Horse and she is all right. I want to thank you for advice and medicine.

J. M. Shelton, R. 2, Tonkawa, Okla., writes: I know Save-The-Horse cures spavins and broken down tendons for it did for me. The horse would lie down mostly when not eating. I cured him and cut 200 acres of wheat, and he helped plow and sow the same 200 to wheat again.

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