

in June, 1898, and at once make into ensilage, cutting it into silo for feed during July, August and September? Has it been tried successfully? Would I be safe in trying fifteen acres this August or September? I must feed milk cows with it, and sell the milk to a Toronto dairy. Will it taste the milk wrong?"

[Re fall rye for ensilage I beg to say that during the summer of 1891 some green rye was put into one of the silos at the College. The result was not satisfactory, as it did not keep well, and even that which came out in fairly good condition was not relished by the stock; in fact, it was difficult to induce the animals to eat it at all. As for its effect on the flavor of the milk I cannot say, but in an experiment this spring with green rye and alfalfa, the butter made from green rye scored five points lower for flavor than that from alfalfa, the green rye butter scoring 35 and the alfalfa 40 out of 45 points.

G. E. DAY, Agriculturist.
Ontario Agricultural College.]

YOUNG TURKEYS GOING BLIND.

JOS. MYERS, Grey Co., Ont.:—"I have young turkeys that go blind when three or four days old. They act dumpy and refuse to eat. Can they be cured? If so please give remedy."

[Evidently the young turkeys have been exposed to wet and cold, and suffering from its effects or from injudicious feeding. A cold will cause bowel trouble, which will affect their sight. I would advise feeding bread crumbs, to which add onion tops cut fine, also curd. If turkeys are allowed to "brood" on the same ground or left in coop without being cleaned out regularly, will cause similar sickness, as the excrement from turkeys is more poisonous than from any other fowl. Young turkeys should never be allowed out in the morning while the dew is on the grass. Reader did not say what kind of treatment these turkeys were receiving, or a more satisfactory answer could have been given.

L. G. JARVIS, Poultry Manager.
Ontario Agricultural College.]

TROUBLE WITH PIGS.

W. CLAYTON, Wellington Co., Ont.:—"I am obliged to call on you for help. I am in trouble with my pigs. In 1893 I built a pigpen and hen-house combined (stone). It is 24x40 feet inside, 12 feet of one end for chop bins, turnip house and boiler, and 12 feet of the south end for hens, and they have 13x40 feet over the collar-ties. In 1893 I fed 8 pigs that weighed 187 pounds at 5 months old. They were the first in the new pen. Then I bought 13 lean pigs; when I put them in they weighed 1,100 pounds. They went onto the market in 52 days, and they weighed 2,640 pounds. The next were 5 at 6 months and 2 days old went 210 pounds each. Then after that they did not do so well: they started to be lame—sometimes on one front leg and sometimes on a hind leg, but not what you would call a founder. And this last two years they started to cough; they cough worse after lying down for some time, and if you stir them up you can see each side thumping as if their heart was beating very heavily. My pigs have been doing worse every year. In the winter I feed chopped barley, buckwheat, peas, and oats, shorts and bran, also turnips, that is the winter feed. In the summer I have clover in place of roots. They are fed regular, and their bed is always dry, and (they get charcoal, sulphur, salt and earth in the winter) they are out for an hour every day except Sunday, and their pen is cleaned, and I use an abundance of straw. They will go and lie on a snow bank in the spring, and will go and lie in a water hole even when it has ice on it $\frac{1}{2}$ inch thick. The pen is never very cold, sometimes the feed will freeze, and it never is very hot. The thermometer runs as high as 50 or 60 degrees, and as low as 15 or 20 degrees below freezing, but it bothers me badly now to make my pigs go 140 pounds at 7 months old. I have four old pens that I keep for the brood sows and the hog. I have tried all kinds of breeds of pigs with the same result. The young pigs do splendid as long as I don't put them in the stone pen. Early this spring I thought it must be the concrete floor, so I put a plank floor in and left a 3-inch space. I bought 25 pounds of sulphur, and I burnt 1 pound each day, and I left the pigs in the pen and let them inhale the smoke until it would get too strong. I would then let them out, but it made no change. Sometimes there will be one or two in a lot that will not come to the trough for two or three days, and by the time they start to eat there are others that act the same way. There are always some of them that are all drawn up, but I never had one pig to die. I have inquired and explained my case to all the leading farmers in this part of the country, and none of them ever heard of anything like it. There are three windows in the pen, eight lights in each, 10x12 inches—two windows in the south end and one in the north end, and three half-sized windows upstairs. It is 8 feet high from the concrete floor to joists, and the ventilator is six inches square up through the roof, and three 3-inch tile in each side, and I never let the pen get dirty enough to cause a smell."

[Our correspondent has our sincere sympathy in his trouble. His enterprise and energy and his intelligent efforts to meet the difficulties deserve a better return, and we would gladly give advice and counsel if we were sure it would prove helpful. It would perhaps be poor comfort to one who has gone to all the expense of building what, in

his judgment, was a first-class pigpen, to say that we have never favored the building of a piggy with stone walls. We have witnessed so much of rheumatism and coughing in such quarters for pigs that it causes us to shudder when we enter a piggy of that description; but it is there, and the best thing we can think of recommending is to put up studs on the wall sides and board closely on these, leaving an air space of 4 to 6 inches to prevent contact with the damp walls. It is a laudable ambition to have a large and well-arranged piggy, and it would appear it ought to be possible to have such, and have it answer the best purpose. Yet in actual practice we have seen so many cases where such buildings have proved disappointing, we have largely lost faith in them, and we find that the men who are the most successful handlers of hogs—those who fit them for prize-winners—even when they have first-class buildings do not keep their best hogs in them, but generally in an orchard or grass field, with a temporary shed to sleep in and for shelter from sun or storm. This course is easily practicable in summer, but not so easily in winter. It is true that yards for exercise may be arranged so that each pen may open into them, but when snow is deep and the weather cold it is almost impossible to make the pigs take exercise. If the pens face the barnyard where there is generally more or less of straw, and where the cattle keep the snow tramped down, the pigs can generally be induced to go out for exercise, and we know no better arrangement than this for winter conditions. From the apparently feverish condition of the pigs we should judge that the feed has been of too heating a nature, probably too large a proportion of peas and buckwheat. We have an idea that much of the trouble with pigs in winter is the result of indigestion brought on by feeding too much cold, sloppy food. In very cold weather we think the food should be mixed with warm water or else fed dry, water or swill being placed within reach in a separate trough. We have seen pigs very successfully fed in winter in this way. We shall be glad to hear from any of our readers who can give helpful advice in reply to Mr. Clayton's enquiries.]

DAMAGED MILK GLANDS.

F. H. P., Brome, Que.:—"I have a sow that had a litter of pigs in March, which were weaned at four weeks old, and four or five weeks after weaning I noticed that one teat was enlarged, and it grew as large as a pint bowl, and was very solid, and then broke in five or six places, and at first it discharged heavy, yellow pus, and now it is milky fluid. Can you explain the cause and suggest a remedy?"

[The cause was evidently too great an accumulation of milk, which might have been prevented by letting the pigs with the sow two or three times, at intervals of two or three days, to relieve the pressure. Treatment should have been given before the trouble had advanced so far as to permanently injure the glands. The best that can be done now is to wash the part well with warm water and soap, and apply antiseptics, such as creolin, one tablespoonful to a pint of water, well shaken, or carbolic acid, 20 drops to a pint of water. Repeat two or three times at intervals of a day.]

PLANTAGO LANCEOLATA.

WM. ARMSTRONG, Grey Co., Ont.:—"I enclose sample of weed which has appeared in my clover field. This stalk is one of forty from the same root. Please identify it, and refer to its properties?"

[The plant sent us is English plantain (*Plantago lanceolata*), sometimes called rib grass. It has been introduced into many sections in grass and clover seed, and becomes very troublesome, although in England it is sown for sheep pasture, in which capacity it has considerable value. It is a simple perennial. Its leaves are long, ribbed, hairy, and narrowed at the base. The stems which support its seed spikes are usually about a foot high, though sometimes attain a height considerably greater. Several spikes from one to two inches long are commonly borne by each plant. It is most troublesome in meadows and pastures, while it infests lanes, roadsides and by-places. To eradicate this weed the infested fields should be broken up and followed with a hoed or cultivated crop. It will not withstand cultivation. Before buying clover or grass seed, numerous samples of it should be carefully examined with a magnifying glass, and unless free from known or unknown weed seeds it should be rejected. There is no doubt but very many of our most troublesome weeds are introduced in imported seed or that from dirty farms.]

COWS WITH A COUGH.

M. S., York Co., Ont.:—"I have two cows that have a slight cough, it seems to be more in their throat than on the lungs; they are in fine condition, and giving large quantities of milk. I feed pea meal and bran on cut straw along with grass. They do not bring up any phlegm when they cough. 2. Should bran be fed dry or mixed with boiling water or cold water; which is best?"

[1. The trouble may be only temporary, as the cows are thrifty. If symptoms grow more serious give each a physic of salts and ginger—2 pounds salts, $\frac{1}{2}$ ounce ginger, dissolved in a quart of hot water, and give to each cow. After purge operates give teaspoonful of the following twice daily to each in feed: Soda bicarb., ginger, pot. nit., of each 2 ounces; nux vomica, 1 ounce; well mixed,

Blister the throat with mustard when above medicine has been used. Report us again fully as to condition. 2. When fed with pea meal it is usually fed dry. If the object is a large flow of milk it is preferable to pour boiling water with a pinch of salt on the bran, and allow to stand awhile before feeding.]

GROUND-HOG KILLING—PREFERENTIAL TRADE.

W. M. SHIELDS, Ontario Co., Ont.:—"1. Will you please let me know, through the columns of the ADVOCATE, methods for the destruction of ground hogs other than poison? 2. Can you tell me if the preferential tariff in favor of Great Britain is likely to cause foreign competition in agricultural implements in this country, and consequently cheapening Canadian-made machines?"

[1. The favorite methods with which we are acquainted are shooting and trapping with a strong steel trap put down a foot or so in the hole and partly secreted by a little clover and securely pegged at the entrance. Smoking and drowning out have also been tried, but are very tedious plans. Carbon bisulphide, used with the precautions described on page 130, March 15th issue of the FARMER'S ADVOCATE, is a useful agent for killing these troublesome pests.

2. If British manufacturers take advantage of the opportunity thus presented by catering for the Canadian demand, it should have the effect suggested. Up to the present, large numbers of Canadian reaping machines, also plows, etc., made on this continent have been sold in England.

Since writing the above reply to query No. 1, the following testimonials for bisulphide of carbon were noticed in the *Ohio Farmer*:

"My gardens are bounded on the river side by sandy and gravelly ridges and hills. When I bought the place, two years ago, it was overrun with ground hogs that burrowed in these hillsides. A half acre of sweet corn was only a matter of two or three days' rations for them. The former owner had tried everything but the right one—shotgun, traps, poison, etc.—for their extermination. I had no time to lie around with a gun. I had no traps, and I disliked the idea of a wholesale administration of poison. As an experiment, I procured a quart of the bisulphide of carbon and proceeded as follows:

"Having closed all openings to the den but the main entrance, I saturated some soft paper with about a half ounce of the drug, and quickly thrust it as far as convenient into the den, closing the opening at once with earth. My first trial was with 38 dens. Since that I have treated as many more in the same way. No ground hog ever left a den so treated.

"I might add that the same treatment has proved equally effective on rats and many other pests. The only condition essential is that your game be confined in a comparatively air-tight enclosure with the remedy. No living thing that breathes the air can live in such condition. The fluid, on exposure to air, rapidly turns to gas which is a deadly anesthetic and produces death by asphyxiation, which is probably painless. There is no danger to the one handling it if he takes the precaution to keep it away from fire. The gas is highly explosive, and this precaution must be strictly observed. It is a valuable remedy and has a wide range of application. I have just returned this evening from making application of it to my early cabbage and cauliflowers, and late cabbage seed-beds, all badly infested by maggots. With a small dibble a hole is made four or five inches deep near the root, and about a half teaspoonful to a teaspoonful of the liquid dropped in and quickly secured by closing the opening with earth.

"Lawrence Co., Pa. I. A. T."

"I have used bisulphide of carbon in ground-hog dens with complete success. It is sure death. I used one pound can to fifteen dens. I have used three cans this spring. The druggist charges me 30 cents per can. Perhaps less would do, but these were in the clover and I wanted to be sure of them. C. H. H., Ohio."

EWES FAILING TO BREED.

A SUBSCRIBER, Ontario Co., Ont.:—"Out of a flock of eleven ewes bought last winter, eight proved barren, but as they are good sheep I would prefer to keep them over if they would be likely to breed again. I believe they were mated last year with a ram lamb, to which, perhaps, the fault belongs. What can be done to promote fecundity? Will the fatty condition resulting from having no lambs to suckle prevent conception again? In my neighbor's flock of twenty seven ewes, ten missed, though he had two rams. Please advise through the ADVOCATE's next issue, and oblige."

[We would not sacrifice good, sound ewes that had missed breeding one year. We have frequently known cases where ewes that failed to breed one year produced good lambs the next year, and made extra good nurses. A yearling or older ram in moderate condition is more likely to prove sure, especially with large, fat ewes; but a good strong ram lamb is generally reliable if not overtaxed. We do not think the ewes will get too fat to breed on pasture alone. If you have suitable buildings for early lambs, we would advise breeding these ewes early, say last of August or first September. They will probably come in season earlier than ewes that have raised lambs. The ewes will then have a longer season in the fields while in lamb, and the exercise they will get will tend to bring