

Caring for the Foal.

The careful farmer will keep watch on his mare when her time for foaling has expired in order to be in a position to render any assistance which may be required. Some mares prefer to be alone, and, in that case, the watchers should be out of sight, but still near enough to be ready with assistance if necessary.

Sometimes the foal is born enveloped in the fetal membranes, which, of course, have to be broken or the creature will soon smother. If the navel strings have not been broken they should be cut about five or six inches from the body of the foal, but not until a good strong string has been tied tightly around them to prevent bleeding.

Sometimes a little trouble is experienced with young and nervous mares in starting the foal to suck, but a little patience and kindness on the part of the attendant usually overcomes that difficulty.

If the foal at birth is strong and healthy it is best to leave the mare alone. Many farmers are in the habit of giving it a dose of oil, whether the animal needs it or not, and many a foal has been injured, and, in some instances killed by this foolish practice. If constipated an injection of oil or warm water will in most cases relieve the trouble without any dosing at all.

In cases where the foal has to be fed on cow's milk owing to death of dam, or other causes, it should be reduced one-third with water and a little sugar added, and the foal should be fed every two hours for the first few weeks. As a precaution against the disease known to farmers as "foal ill," the navel should be seared over with a little oil to which a few drops of carbolic acid have been added. This is a germ disease and it is thought that the germ gains entrance to the system through the navel opening, hence the treatment recommended. This has been largely practiced in some localities where the disease has been noticed and with very satisfactory results. Of course it is not curative treatment, but used only as a means of prevention.

If we want to give the foal the best possible chance, the mare should not be worked during the nursing season, but many good foals are reared while their dams are working every day. I consider every mare should have a month's rest after foaling, and when she is put to work, the foal should be kept in the stable during the first hours its dam is at work and not allowed to follow her around at her daily task.

—Dr. H. G. Reed.

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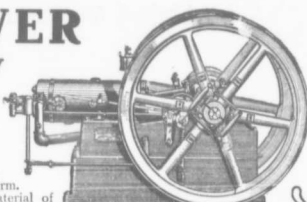
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sorted and no improvement is noted, the treatment should be repeated in two or three hours, taking the same antiseptic precautions as at first. The tape should be removed from the teats two or three hours after the cow gets on her feet. A cure will just as certainly be effected by simply pumping air into the udder by means of the bicycle pump or enema and milking tube, but the risk of introducing septic or blood poison germs is considerable, hence the adoption of the antiseptic precautions recommended above. Prevention is better than cure, and if the cows are given a dose of salts and kept on short feed for a week or so before calving, there should not be much danger. The greatest danger is with cows that are full bloated, and rapidly thriving, more so than fat animals.

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