

APRIL 17, 1913

THE FARMER'S ADVOCATE.

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Questions and Answers.
Miscellaneous.

Sweet Clover.

In "The Farmer's Advocate" of Nov. 14th, 1912, appeared an article on Sweet Clover (Melilotus), from the Ohio State College of Agriculture. Do you know of any of it being sown in Ontario, especially in Norfolk county, and with what success? I have bought a run-down, sandy farm, and want to sow something as a cover crop for young orchard, and to plow down. Would like to know what is the cost of seed per pound, how many pounds to sow per acre, and where it can be bought? E. N.

Ans.—During the past year several contributions have appeared in our columns on sweet clover. Try some of the seedsmen advertising in our columns, for the seed. They will be able to quote prices. Cow peas would likely prove a very good cover crop for your orchard, in case you fail to get desired results from sweet clover. We have never seen it grown as a cover crop, but in the article to which you refer, it was stated to give good results, being simply mowed down around the trees. Several have reported good results from growing it for feed. If not kept cut, and allowed to seed, it will become very thick, and we would advise to be careful of it in the orchard.

Blackleg.

As an outbreak of blackleg has occurred in this neighborhood—two cattle have already died—can you give, in this week's issue of "The Farmer's Advocate," a write-up on blackleg, treatment, symptoms, and, if any, preventive, disposal of dead animals, quarantine regulation, and enforcement of same? J. D. M.

Ans.—Blackleg, also known as symptomatic anthrax, quarter evil, etc., is an infectious disease, being caused by a micro-organism which invades the system through wounds of the skin or mucous membrane, sometimes gaining access through food. There is practically no cure. In some cases, the administration of about three drams iodine of potassium at the very early symptoms, and repeated every four hours for four or five doses, may effect a cure. Prevention consists in keeping young cattle off affected pastures, or from affected fodder. Immunity from the disease can be rendered with reasonable certainty by inoculation with anti-blackleg serum, or tablets, which, with instructions and the necessary instruments, can be obtained from the Department of Agriculture, Ottawa.

It is seldom an animal over two years old is attacked. The first noticeable symptom will be lameness, either in front or behind, which rapidly increases in severity, making progression impossible. Appetite and rumination are lost, the animal becomes very weak, and shows signs of high fever. If the animal is down and unable to rise, an examination will reveal a tumor or swelling of the fore or hind quarters, generally the latter, though sometimes in other parts of the body. The central part of the swelling is insensitive, feels cold to the touch, and, on passing the hand over, it emits a crackling sound. The disease runs a variable course. Sometimes the swellings are most marked, and other times the general symptoms. It is generally fatal, death taking place between 36 hours and three days following first noticeable symptoms. A post-mortem examination will show the skin covering the swelling to be mortified. On cutting the tumor, the subcutaneous connective tissue is found infiltrated with blood and serum, distended by foul-smelling gases, which give the tissues a frothy appearance. The muscles of the affected region are black, or dirty brown, streaked with yellow or dirty brown, exudate. They break bands of fibrous exudate. They break easily, and crepitate on being incised. By pressing the tissues, turbid blood, mixed with bad-smelling gas, oozes out. The blood coagulates, and outside of the regions affected by the tumor the muscles appear normal. Post-mortems, unless absolutely necessary to diagnose the case, should not be made, as bleeding is a means of spreading the infection. Better to burn the body, or bury deeply, covering with quicklime. Veterinary inspectors in the employ of the Government, look after all quarantine regulations in outbreaks of contagious disease.

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