

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS.
Miscellaneous.

SEEDING TO ALFALFA.

1. Will alfalfa do to sow in August on light ground? Should it have some other grain with it?

2. What will cure blotches on the face; is it bad blood?

Ans.—1. Quite probably it would, though July seeding would likely be preferable. Choose a time when the soil works up nice and mellow after a rain. A nurse crop of grain is not necessary. Better without.

2. This is one of the questions we do not pretend to answer authoritatively. It is "out of our line." There are many things that will tend to cause the condition described, overheating, for instance.

RHEUMATIC COWS.

A number of my cows seem lame, especially mornings when we bring them up to milk; they do not care to walk, and seem crippled all over. Could you tell me the cause and suggest a cure?

SUBSCRIBER.

Ans.—Symptoms resemble rheumatism. If this be the affection, treat as follows: Keep affected ones in a dry, comfortable place, and feed well. If bowels become constipated, give one to two pints raw linseed oil. Give each animal affected one ounce of salicylic acid in a pint of cold water, as a drench, three times daily. If swollen in joints or legs, bathe those parts with warm water, then hand-rub well with camphorated liniment, with which your druggist will supply you.

FEED FOR CALF.

I wonder if you could give me any advice on a calf that I am feeding for Christmas. He eats very well, and is doing fair, but he seems to have a craving for something. Salt is where he can get at it once a day, and am feeding him meal, mixed barley, peas and oats, also oil cake. Fed one last year that was the same. Would grass be better than hay? If so, would cutting the grass and mixing it with the meal?

STARTER.

Ans.—This craving may possibly be due to lack of mineral elements in the food. If convenient, would suggest substituting wheat bran for the peas, or else adding some bran to the mixture. Undoubtedly, it will be better to feed some grass or green clover, unless the calf is a young one receiving milk, in which case there is room for difference of opinion as to the wisdom of substituting grass for cured hay. Early-cut well-cured clover or alfalfa would be the thing in that case. Do not mix the grass with the meal.

ERADICATING PERENNIAL SOW-THISTLE.

Would a stiff-tooth cultivator, fitted with seven-inch points in front, and ten-inch behind, be a good thing to work a summer-fallow? Will the cultivator kill sow thistle, or will I have to plow the ground? Will I be able to kill sow thistle in time to sow fall wheat, or will it be better to work the ground till fall and then seed down the following spring?

A. M. B.

Ans.—In eradicating perennial sow thistle, the aim should be to exhaust the vigorous root system by preventing the weed from breathing. This is accomplished by thorough and rather shallow cultivation, repeated often enough to keep the leaves from appearing above the surface. A broad-share cultivator such as you mention should be excellent for this purpose. The only possible objection to it, beyond its draft, is the danger of carrying pieces of the root to parts of the field not previously infected. However, if the whole field is summer-fallowed in this thorough way, the cultivation should destroy any new patches before they become established. Do not plow. Keep shaving the whole field two or three inches below the surface with your broad-share points. By thorough methods, we think you should succeed in exhausting the weed by the time of sowing fall wheat. If not, continue work until winter, ridge up lightly, and next spring cultivate until June or July, then sow rape or buckwheat.

SWEET CLOVER IN ALFALFA.

A. B., a subscriber, called at the office the other day with a strange plant he found in his alfalfa field. It is much taller than alfalfa, but resembles it in the field.

The plant is yellow-flowered sweet clover, *Melilotus officinalis*, which grows luxuriantly along roadsides and in waste places. The white species, *Melilotus alba*, is similar, and possibly rather more common. It is an erect, branching, woody annual, or biennial, and seldom proves very troublesome in fields, though, of course, the seed constitutes an impurity in alfalfa. It is not much relished by stock, though cattle will do passably well upon it when forced to eat it. Cut the field early, with a view to preventing seeding, and no particular trouble need be anticipated.

MEADOW FOXTAIL.

The grass sent by A. D. McK., Bruce County, Ont., for identification and valuation, is the meadow foxtail; the scientific name is *Alopecurus pratensis*. It is a common grass in Nova Scotia, and in some of the French districts there it is known as French Timothy. Usually this grass does not exceed two feet to thirty inches, but Mr. McK. reports it growing to a height of four feet on his farm. It is a native of Europe, and is said to flourish on rich lands in moist situations.

Prof. C. V. Piper reports it a valuable meadow and pasture grass in England, but adds that it has not proved important on this side of the Atlantic. In Dr. Vasey's report on the forage plants of the United States, J. S. Gould is quoted as saying that it matures four weeks earlier than timothy, and is one of the earliest grasses to start in the spring; that it does not do well on dry soils, but is not injured by frequent mowings. It has been grown at Guelph, and Prof. Zavitz's favorite permanent-pasture mixture includes it.

It might be worth while for Mr. McK. to save the seed of the strain that has come to him and experiment with it.

J. D.

TRADE TOPICS.

Volume 3, of the American Saddle-horse Register, edited and compiled by David Castleman, has been recently issued from the press, and a copy has, by courtesy of the Secretary, I. B. Ball, Louisville, Ky., been received at this office, is a substantial and well-compiled and printed book, containing, besides the constitution and rules of entry, a continuation of the history of the breed, the pedigrees of stallions numbering from 3001 to 3500, and of mares numbering from 3001 to 3541.

THE DITCHING MACHINE.—The importance of underdraining as a means of ensuring uniformly good crops is steadily becoming more generally acknowledged and appreciated. And the knowledge that a successful and satisfactory Traction Ditcher, which prepares the ditch for the placing of tiles, has been placed upon the market, one which, with one transit over the ground, leaves the ditch ready for the laying of the tiles, should be of special interest to farmers in general. The Buckeye Traction Ditcher Company, of Findlay, Ohio, advertise in this paper their ditching machine, which has, to our knowledge, been tried by several parties in Canada, and found a great success. It is said by reliable persons who have seen it at work, that it is capable of preparing 120 to 150 rods for the tile in a day, at a cost of about 20 cents a rod. There are many sections in which so necessary is tile draining that an enterprising man, or a club of farmers, could profitably join in the purchase of a ditcher, and undertake the preparation of the ditches, at a price that would soon pay for the machine, while the results in the improvement of the condition of the land and the yield of the farm would in a very short time repay the outlay. Farmers may do well by giving early attention to this necessary improvement, and the advertisement should attract general attention and interest.

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