

POTATOES FOR HORSES.

E. H. B., Elva, Man.:—"What action have potatoes on the system of a horse when fed raw? Would boiling improve them?"

[They give variety and succulence to the diet. There is nothing gained by cooking them for horses.]

POTATOES FOR PREGNANT EWES.

SUBSCRIBER, Middlesex Co., Ont.:—"Can you tell me, in your next issue, if potatoes are good feed for breeding ewes? I have fed twelve ewes one half bushel once a day all winter, and may have done wrong, but we have a great many potatoes, and the sheep are very fond of them. They are due to lamb about the tenth of April."

[The proof of the pudding is in the eating. So far the results seem all right, and we expect they will continue so. We would like subscriber to report to the FARMER'S ADVOCATE the luck he has with lambs, which will be a guide to others in feeding pregnant ewes potatoes.]

A NEW-FANGLED CHURN.

L. W. R., Kent Co., Ont.:—"I enclose you a circular of a butter separator made in the States. Will you please tell me if you know anything about it, and if it is anything like what it is represented to be?"

[We had a thorough test made of an alleged separator (it was really a churn) resembling the one you refer to, and another claimed to "do wonders" in buttermaking by the aerating principle, but both fell far short of what was claimed for them, and we could not recommend either. Nothing equal to the barrel or box churn without internal fixture has yet been devised.]

CHARACTERISTICS OF SHROPSHIRE SHEEP.

SUBSCRIBER:—"Please let me know through columns of your so valuable journal characteristic and distinctive features of the up-to-date Shropshire sheep."

[Constitution and quality, indicated by a deep body on short, strong, well-placed legs; wide in breast and between fore legs, thick through the heart, fair length, but compact, strong loin, back wide, straight, and well covered with lean flesh, full in twist, deep in flank, skin thick, but soft, and of fresh pink color; neck short, thick, and strong, especially in rams; head short and broad between ears and eyes, ears short and of medium size; color of face dark brown; head well covered with wool to a point even with the eyes; any appearance of horns an objection, as also is black wool in the head covering; fleece fine, dense and lustrous, with no tendency to mat or felt together, and no coarseness in wool on thighs or hips; scrotum of rams well covered; weight when matured, in fair condition, rams about 225 lbs., ewes about 175 lbs.]

ROOF FOR ROOT HOUSE UNDER DRIVEWAY TO BARN.

ENQUIRER, Megantic:—"To build a root house underneath a driveway (which rises say 8 feet) to a barn, as is suggested on page 45 of this year's ADVOCATE, how should the roof be constructed, so as to form a good driveway, be durable, waterproof and frostproof?"

[By all odds, the best style of roof we know of for a root house, feed room or box stall, built beneath a driveway to barn, consists of an arch of brick, stone or cement. Probably cement is best, because it is cheapest and can be built by ordinary workmen. A brick arch of this sort was described in the FARMER'S ADVOCATE, November 15th, 1900, issue, in the description of cattle barn for 200-acre farm; also in May 1st issue of last year. The arch runs parallel with the barn, and is constructed similar to an arch culvert underneath a road or railway. When cement is used, an opening can be left in the top by building in an ordinary barrel and knocking it out when the cement has become hardened. The cement over the arch should not be less than 10 inches thick, and should be covered with a foot of soil. This will be durable, waterproof and frostproof.]

JUSTICES OF THE PEACE.

SUBSCRIBER, Ont.:—"1. What value of property is required above encumbrance to qualify for a justice of the peace in Ontario?"

"2. Does it require to be real estate?"

"3. Before whom will affidavit of qualification have to be taken?"

"4. How does it read?"

"5. Does a justice of the peace have to pay for statutes and all other necessary books and instructions, or are they furnished free?"

[1. \$1,200.

2. Yes.

3. Before a J. P., a commissioner for taking affidavits, a notary public, or the Clerk of the Peace for the county for which the justice of peace so qualifying has been appointed.

4. "I, A. B., do swear that I truly and bona fide have to and for my own proper use and benefit such an estate as qualifies me to act as a Justice of the Peace for the County of _____, according to the true intent and meaning of the Act respecting the Qualification and Appointment of Justices of the Peace; to wit _____, and that the same is lying and being within the Township of _____. So help me God."

5. He is furnished with the Ontario Statutes and Dominion Criminal Statutes free, but not with the other books mentioned.]

SALE OF SWINE—RIGHT TO WAGES.

J. W. Halton Co., Ont.:—"1. A buyer offers a lump sum for a pen of pigs. No money is paid down. Next day he brings a man and we kill the pigs on the place. The pigs do not turn out as he expects, and he offers a price per pound. Could I have held him to his first agreement?"

"2. If a man comes to me of his own accord and works for a time without an agreement, can he collect anything as wages?"

[1. We think so.

2. It is not at all clear from your statement that he is legally in position to do so. But it is possible that he might be held entitled to recover some amount on the principle that you have accepted his services and derived a benefit from his work under circumstances such as raise an implied promise on your part to pay for same.]

OATS AND PEAS: GREEN OR RIPE AS FODDER.

C. J. S., Halton Co., Ont.:—"If I sow an acre of ground with peas and oats mixed, and cut it green and cure it like hay, and sow another acre with the same and let it ripen and thresh it, cut the straw and grind the grain and mix it all together, which will have the most feeding value for milking cows?"

[As you put the question, I am of the opinion that you could get more feed—that is, could feed an animal longer—from an acre of peas and oats ripened, threshed, etc., than from an acre cut green for hay. But the acre cut green and cured would make better feed for milch cows, because it would contain a larger per cent. of digestible protein, and cows would give a larger flow of milk on it while it lasted. Besides this, that cut green would not cost as much to prepare it for feeding, which would probably fully compensate for the slightly less time it would feed the same animals.]

C. P. GOODRICH,

President Wisconsin Dairymen's Association.]

ROOFING SILO—RYE FOR PIGS.

J. T. W., Hastings Co., Ont.:—"1. I purpose putting up a stave silo this coming summer. How would you go about putting on a cheap roof, that will keep out the rain and stand a wind-storm. I intend building one that will hold the corn off from three to five acres."

"2. How is rye chop for feeding brood sows that will be coming in about the 1st of April?"

[1. So far as we have been able to learn, farmers generally believe it is unnecessary to expend much in material and effort in roofing round stave silos, and were it not for its staying power, a roof has little value, since the little rain and snow that falls on the silage in an open silo does little or no harm to the feed. Some even go so far as to say an occasional rain-storm does good. We believe, however, most silos have coverings of some sort, a flat-topped layer of boards being most common. This can be made in sections, held together by scantling resting on the edges of the silo. These can be removed while filling the silo, which can be heaped up several feet in the center, so that the silo will be nearly full when the silage has settled. If one side of cover is a few inches higher than the other, the slope being lengthwise of the boards, some of the rain and melting snow will run off, rather than leak through upon the feed. We would very much like to hear from readers who have round silos, regarding the best method of putting on suitable roofs or coverings.

2. For feeding pigs, rye gives results about equal to barley, both in gains and quality of pork. We have not fed it to brood sows, but since fattening pigs thrive well on it, we would have no hesitation in feeding it to breeding sows in small quantities, mixed with an equal bulk of wheat, bran, and some pulped roots, milk, whey or slops. It is always safer to underfeed than overfeed sows that are soon due to farrow.]

LICE IN HENHOUSE.

A. P., Wellington Co., Ont.:—"Would you kindly, through the FARMER'S ADVOCATE, tell me how to rid my henhouse of what I believe to be spider lice? They are of a steel-gray color, but when full of blood are red. I have a new henhouse, shingled and tar-papered outside and boarded inside, and last summer it was nearly impossible to gather the eggs, for these vermin, and they were outside on the ground around the henhouse."

[The best treatment for lice we know of is to dust the fowls thoroughly with insect powder by opening the feathers at intervals of about two inches, and applying it with a pepper caster or powder gun. They should then be transferred to a clean house, while the henhouse is receiving treatment. Then thoroughly clean the house, remove nest boxes, roosts, etc., and spray the entire inside surface, touching all the cracks and crevices with the following solution: Corrosive sublimate, 4 ounces; common salt, 4 ounces; dissolved in 4 quarts of water. Then dilute to 25 gallons and force it into every crack and crevice. It would be well also to close the house tightly, set in a pot of live coals and throw on them half a pound of sulphur. After a few hours open the doors, and, after the fumes have escaped, replace the roosts, nests, etc., after thorough cleansing, put in fresh straw and return the fowls. It would be well to give the hens a second dusting with insect powder. It is a good plan to apply coal oil to the roosts once a week, and occasionally spray the house with sheep dip, cattle wash, creolin or diluted crude carbolic acid. Corrosive sublimate, referred to above, is strong poison, and should be used accordingly. Nothing short of very thorough measures will rid a badly infested henhouse of lice.]

WHAT ABOUT THE SULKY PLOW?

H. D., Wright Co., Que.:—"A difference of opinion exists in this locality concerning the merits of the two-furrow riding plow. One party, and they are in the majority, contend that in stubble land it cannot be made to turn a decent furrow, and that even in lea the work it does is not equal in quality to the work done by the one-furrow walking plow, and that in either lea or stubble the increased acreage with the riding plow does not compensate for the feed of the extra horse and the time lost in turning at the end of our small fields. The result of all this is that the riding plow is pronounced by the majority to be a failure, and the implement has practically gone out of use in this locality. The minority claim that the defective work complained of is the fault of the plowman and not the plow, and that the loss of time in turning will be overcome by degrees as people get used to the work. What is the general verdict of the advanced farmers in your Province concerning this plow?"

[While the riding plow is not looked upon as a failure on the advanced farms of Ontario, its use does not seem to increase, and on farms that are divided up into small fields, of 12 acres or less, it is very little used. Many that were introduced a few years ago have been laid aside, just as is said to have taken place in Quebec. Their work, however, is well done when properly handled, and on the large farms in Manitoba and the Northwest, where horses and feed are more plentiful than time and men, practically all the plowing is done by riding plows. What have our readers to say?]

THE DOG NUISANCE.

J. B., Waverley, Ont.:—"Is a farmer allowed to kill dogs that are found about his buildings at night or in the morning? I shoot dogs that I don't know the owners of. There are other dogs that ought to be shot, if the law would allow. There is no attraction. I have fifty sheep, and I am afraid of those dogs, as I had ten sheep killed a few years ago by dogs. I think the farmers should urge that a tax be put on all dogs, and any dog without a tag be shot. The most of the rambles are village dogs, fishermen's dogs, and those of poor people who cannot feed them."

[The farmer is allowed by statute to kill any dog which he finds straying between sunset and sunrise on his farm, if any sheep or lambs are kept thereon, unless it be a dog belonging to, or kept, or harbored by the occupant of the next adjoining premises, or a dog so straying, either when securely muzzled or accompanied by or in reasonable call or control of its owner or other person having it in charge. Even in such case the dog may be killed if there is reasonable apprehension on the part of the farmer that such dog, if not killed, is likely to pursue, worry, wound or terrify sheep or lambs then on his farm. The Revised Statute respecting Protection of Sheep and To Impose a Tax on Dogs, R. S. O., Ch. 271, does make provision for taxation of dogs generally, and for the destruction of dogs in respect of which the tax has not been paid; and makes other provision upon the subject, and we would, accordingly, refer you for further information to the provisions of such statute.]

EARLY FODDER CORN—CLOVER FOR SOWING ALONE.

J. H., Queen's West, P.E.I.:—"1. Can you recommend a variety of fodder corn which would mature in this place (lot 20, Queen's Co.)? We cannot sow before June 1st and cannot risk it out after Sept. 24th. Have been sowing such varieties as Pearce's Prolific, Longfellow and Red Cob Ensilage. Those varieties will not mature here, as the season is too short, so it makes very worthless ensilage. The answer will affect the whole community here, as the complaint is general. Give probable yield per acre of varieties maturing within dates mentioned."

"2. Would like to know of some good variety of clover to sow without a nurse crop for fall pasturing. Is alfalfa and lucerne the same, or are they different varieties?"

[1. Your letter of the 25th inst. is received, in which you say that one of your subscribers in Prince Edward Island claims to have grown Pearce's Prolific and Red Cob Ensilage corns, and finds them too late to mature in that Province, and asks what to grow. The season in Prince Edward Island, although long, is comparatively cool, and any of the late-maturing varieties of Indian corn would not succeed there. We have, however, found both the Longfellow and Pearce's Prolific do very well during most seasons. The Red Cob Ensilage, though, would be altogether too late. I should advise your correspondent to try Mitchell's Extra Early, which is the earliest variety we have tested, and will succeed in most parts of the Dominion and give a fair crop for ensilage. It is somewhat shorter in growth than Pearce's Prolific, but branches very much, and in this way gives a good weight of fodder.

2. As to your correspondent's request for information as to "a clover that will do to sow without a nurse crop for fall pasture," I may say that I do not know any variety which succeeds better, take it all in all, than the common red clover. We have tried all the different varieties obtainable, and have had on an average better success with the common red than any other variety. In some parts of the Dominion, however, Mammoth Red will do better. It is a stronger growing sort, but somewhat later in blooming. Alfalfa and lucerne are different names for the same variety of clover.

WM. SAUNDERS, Director.

Dominion Expt. Farm.]