

BLACK LAMBS.

I bought a registered Shropshire ram from a prominent breeder, bred him to my flock of pure-bred Shropshire ewes, and out of 42 lambs 14 were solid black, which occasions heavy loss to me. Have I any claim for redress from the breeder from whom I got the ram?

SHEEP BREEDER.

Ans.—It is an unusual circumstance. We have known occasional black lambs to come from pure-bred parents, but seldom more than two or three in a crop of 50 or 60 lambs. Can any of our readers account for the freak? The question of redress, it appears to us, should be a matter of compromise, since while one may charge it to the ram, the other may blame the ewes, and both may be right or wrong.

LAME FILLY.

I have a two-year-old colt that took very lame about six weeks ago, in her shoulder, while running in the pasture. Her shoulder was slightly swollen at first; but now the swelling has disappeared, but she still remains quite lame. I took her to a veterinary about two weeks ago. He said it was caused from a strain. He gave me some liniment to apply, and said she would be all right in a short time. But I do not see much improvement. Will you please give your opinion, and what to do for it?

SUBSCRIBER.

Norfolk Co., Ont.

Ans.—From symptoms given, I infer that there is no doubt about the seat of lameness, neither is there any doubt about it being a sprain. Injuries of this kind are frequently tedious or slow in making a recovery. I would advise you to blister the parts with 1½ drs. each of powdered cantharides and biniodide of mercury, well mixed with 2 ozs. vaseline. Clip the hair off the parts, rub blister well in. Tie her head so that she cannot bite the parts. In 24 hours rub well again, and in 24 hours longer wash off and apply some sweet oil or vaseline; let her head down now, and oil the parts every day until the scale comes off, when, if necessary, blister again. Repeat the blister every month until a cure is effected.

J. H. REED, V. S.

UNTHRIFTY COLTS.

We have two colts, one a draft and the other a Thoroughbred; both about nine months old, and from healthy sires and dams. The colts are being fed clover hay, and ½ gal. of fine-ground oats every day, and bran mash every other night for a change, the oats being omitted. They are in a warm stable, get plenty of fresh water and exercise, have a good appetite and are hearty, but will not eat roots or apples, etc.; they are thin in flesh. What is probably the cause of their being thin, and also a remedy?

C. D.

Ontario Co., Ont.

Ans.—As long as the colts are in a healthy condition there is no advantage in having them fat at that age, unless you want to sell them. The treatment you are giving them is rational and would seem to be all that they should require. We would prescribe patience until the early grass comes in spring, when "Dr. Green," as the English herdsmen term it, will probably cool their blood and make them thrifty, if they do not pick up before that time, which is unlikely, as they may have been thin to start the winter and require time to fill up. If it is necessary to have them fitted for sale, you might give them milk, either skimmed or new, if they will take it.

Miscellaneous.

PLANNING A BARN.

1. As I intend putting up a new barn next summer, between 80 and 90 feet long and about 50 feet wide, I would like to see in your columns a convenient plan. I would like to have the root-house, silo, feed-room and cistern all combined along the back.

2. Would you advise stone silo as high as the basement walls and tub on top.

READER.

Ans.—1. A plan of the style that might suit "Reader" appears in our Jan. 15th issue, 1897, and another in Feb. 15th, 1898, which he can see by referring to his file of the "Farmer's Advocate." We give in this issue a plan of a cattle barn which with modifications might suit him, and others will appear shortly.

2. No. Better make the silo tub from the ground up, as it will be less expensive, easier to build, and the silage will probably keep better.

THE BUTTER COMES NOW ALL RIGHT.

I followed your instructions and had good success in churning; but find I get butter in less time if the cream is ripened for 48 hours. Thanking you for your favor, I remain,

Middlesex Co., Ont. **MRS. N. D. MUNRO.**

WANTS THE PAINTING.

Where and at what price can I obtain a copy of picture, "A Visit to Old Friends," which appeared in Christmas number.

B. C. AMES.

Aroostook Co., Me.

Ans.—Write Paul Wickson, Paris, Ont., the painter of the picture.

LUCERNE FOR WINTER COW FEED.

Would you recommend lucerne as a better plant to produce winter feed for cows than red clover on light land in fairly good condition? Our clover does pretty well, but we can only count on one cutting, as the summer is too dry, as a rule, to produce a good second crop. If we seeded with oats could we depend upon a good crop of hay the following year? We have been successful in seeding with red clover in the fall with wheat.

Western Ontario.

READER.

Ans.—Lucerne is pre-eminently a summer forage crop, either for pasturing or cutting several times in the season for soiling purposes. Grown for hay, the coarseness of stalk occasions waste, but to overcome this thick seeding—say 20 lbs. per acre—is recommended, as giving a stand of hay of fine growth, and the curing of the hay should be done mainly in the cock, as if much exposed to the sun the leaves dry up and break off in handling.

The success of second and subsequent cuttings will depend (if rainfall be absent) upon the water from the subsoil, and this should not be too near the surface or root growth will be hindered, nor yet so deep as to fail to reach the plants. Here and there we have found lucerne doing well in Ontario, but as a rule the results seem variable. Better try it on a limited area first. If sown alone, it may be drilled or broadcasted, but the weed growth must be reckoned with, and the mower will have to be run over the crop the first season, lightly—perhaps twice. Sown with a nurse crop like a thin seeding of oats, the latter may be cut for fodder at an early stage. The seed should be lightly covered. With a good crop and suitable conditions, the second season's crop should be satisfactory.

INEFFICIENT BULL.

I have a pure-bred Durham bull, 14 months old, weighing about 1,050 lbs., that has never served yet. Veterinary surgeons pronounce him fit to serve. I feed him three quarts of ground oats and a peck of pulped turnips mixed with chaff three times a day and give him daily about two hours' exercise with other calves in yard. He mounts, but lacks ambition to serve. He always has been dull and sluggish since I bought him. I might feed more hay. I have tried him loose and on rope with heifers and dry cows down, but to no use. I would like to have your advice, and treatment, if any?

E. G.

Bruce Co., Ont.

Ans.—The bull has probably been fed rather heavily and kept fat before you got him, and without sufficient exercise. The treatment you are giving him is as nearly right as we could suggest. It might be well to give him less turnips and a little more hay to reduce his paunchiness. He will probably come to his work later on, and when the weather gets warmer, towards spring, he might be left out longer for exercise, which is the most likely thing to bring him right. As a rule a clumsy bull is more likely to serve if let loose with a small cow or heifer to hustle around and follow her up, and even if he fails, the exercise will tend to bring him right in time, but in winter care should be observed that he does not take cold. If he does not come right before spring, we would turn him to pasture with the cows and would expect him to get over the difficulty, but it means a great trial of patience in the meantime. We would try him by lowering the cow's hind feet in a hole, say in a manure heap.

SCOURING ON ROAD.

We have a valuable horse, rising five years old, that when driven scours. He is in first-class shape and feels well. What would be good to give him to stop it? He scours on the road only. I am as careful as I can be about feeding and watering. Some think it is his teeth. Others think it is his stomach. But on account of his good form and feeling, I can hardly think it is either.

D. C.

Elgin Co., Ont.

Ans.—Horses subject to the above trouble should be watered and fed as long as possible before going on a drive. The evening feed should be the heaviest, and only clean oats fed from a slow-feed manger; take chill off water and give before eating. Give small quantity of clean hay in rack. Give also an occasional feed of peas, dry, uncracked, and mixed with the oats. Keep body well clothed, and try the following powders: Powdered opium, 1 oz.; sub-nitrate of bismuth, 2 ozs.; bicarbonate of soda, 4 ozs.; powdered cinchona bark, 1 oz.; charcoal, 2 ozs. If there is much flatulency accompanying the diarrhea, or the discharges have a disagreeable odor, try sulphate of soda ½ oz., alternate with liquor arsenicatis, 2 drs., in the animal's drinking water daily. See Dr. Reed's answer re "Washy Colt," in this issue.

SHORTHORN HISTORY.

Could you inform me of the best book containing the history of Shorthorn cattle and their origin; where can it be obtained, and price?

ADAM DAWSON.

Ontario Co., Ont. **Ans.—**Sanders' History of Shorthorn Cattle; price \$3.00; order through this office.

VENTILATION PLAN ASKED FOR.

Could you give me, through the columns of the "Advocate," a plan of ventilation for a one-horse box stall? The stall is very warm, and there are no means of ventilating it, except by the door or window. I remember seeing a ventilator for such a stall, which started about a foot from the floor, consisting of a box tube (4 x 4 inches, inside measure) through to the roof; then, again, another tube from outside to let in the fresh air; but I forget its details.

Two Mountains Co., Que. **E. A. BRUNEAN.**

Ans.—See Central Experimental Farm barn ventilation plan in March 1st and Mr. H. S. Foster's in April 15th (1901) copies of the "Farmer's Advocate," which all readers should preserve for reference. One of our self-binders, which you can secure by sending us two new subscribers, is very handy for that purpose.

ONTARIO FIRE RANGERS.

Can you tell me anything about the Fire Rangers of Ontario—what is their work and what salary do they get, for what length of time are they employed, and to whom should one apply for a position?

SUBSCRIBER.

Ontario Co., Ont.

Ans.—The Bush and Fire Rangers are appointed to see that the laws respecting the protection of the forests from fire and the laws and regulations respecting fish and game are strictly observed. They put up posters for the information of the public, wear badges, and in every way required endeavor to prevent and extinguish fires in the timber limits on which they are employed. They are also required to keep an accurate report, in a diary supplied for the purpose, of their doings in patrol and observations during the fire-ranging season, from May 1st to Sept. 30th in each year. The maximum salary is \$2 per day. One half the salary is paid by the Department of Crown Lands and the other half by the licensee or timber-limit holder on whose recommendations the appointments are made by the Department, of which Hon. E. J. Davis is head.

ROOTS WITH ENSILAGE—CORN CULTURE.

I would like your answer to the following questions: 1. Is it necessary to have roots, such as turnips or mangels, to mix with ensilage to make a good all-round food for cows and beef cattle? 2. Which is the best food for cattle, turnips, mangels or ensilage? 3. Can corn be worked entirely by the use of a weeder and scuffer, or should it be hoed also?

J. N.

Wellington Co., Ont.

Ans.—1. Not exactly necessary. The majority of those who have silos raise no roots. Our best feeders, however, have of late years come to the conclusion that to feed a medium quantity of roots in addition to ensilage is a decided advantage.

2. No one of them is a sufficient food alone. If only one of the three is to be grown, then ensilage would be most profitable.

3. Except for weeds which spring from the root, such as Canada thistles growing around the hill, corn can be kept perfectly clean without the use of the hoe if the other implements are good.

COLOR OF PIGS—A RIDGELING BULL.

1. Should the pigs from a pure-bred Yorkshire white boar be all white, although the sows bred to him are part Berkshire? 2. Also, have a bull, eleven months old, apparently a ridgeling. Is there any remedy for the same? Will he be any use for service?

W. S. L.

Ans.—1. The pigs sired by Yorkshire white boars are almost invariably white, even from Berkshire sows. There are rare exceptions, some of the pigs in the litter coming spotted, and occasionally, but very rarely, one or more marked like the Berkshire. 2. The bull, having his testicles held up in his body, may serve and be fruitful in a few cases, but such are rarely sure stock-getters or nearly so, and it would be unwise to depend upon him as a breeder or to use him to any considerable extent, as a large proportion of his offspring, if he got any, would be liable to the same defect. Better feed him for beef.

PUMPING WATER TO BARN TANK.]

Having been a subscriber to your valuable paper for over twenty years, and not having troubled you for any information, I felt free to ask you some questions with regard to my water supply. I have a boarded well, 188 feet deep, at about 150 feet from barn. Is it easier to pump the water into the bottom or the top of a tank situated at the barn, and what kind of a pump would be best, as I use a windmill to do the pumping.

R. T. F.

Wellington Co., Ont.

Ans.—The water can be pumped in either at bottom or top, but the former is preferable. Coming up into bottom of tank, you can easily protect the pipe from frost, which cannot well be done if brought in over top. More pipe would be required also, and a leak pipe below. In bringing in at bottom, put on a long screw and lock nuts.