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Questions and Answers. Miscellaneous.

Switching Mare.

Have a mare that will become peevish when working and switch her tail around in a circle, sometimes catching the reins, and kicking. Is there any method of breaking or curing the habit?

A. B.

Ans.—If using a harness with a breeching try tying the tail to it. A hole can be bored in the breeching and a string fastened there for tying the tail. Some have found a thick crupper to cure a switcher. At any rate the line cannot be held fast. A piece of iron about 18 inches long can be bent the shape of a crupper at one end and covered with leather so as to be buckled on in place of the regular crupper. The tail is strapped to the piece of iron which extends the length of tail bone.

Feed for Hens.

How much buckwheat and fall wheat should 70 hens get twice a day to make them lay?

R. J. McR.

Ans.—No hard and fast rules can be laid down regarding the amount of feed to give a bunch of hens. A guide which is followed by many poultrymen with a degree of success is a handful of grain per bird per day, buried in a litter. Grain alone will not make hens lay; conditions must be similar to summer feeding. Therefore, green feed and meat feed must be included. For the winter we would be inclined to add a little corn to the grain mentioned; keep some rolled oats in a hopper and feed a mash occasionally. Ground bone, beef scrap or milk will furnish the meat part of the diet, and clover leaves, cabbage, mangels, or sprouted oats will supply green feed. Grit and oyster shell are also necessary.

Yeast Treatment.

I have a registered Shorthorn heifer that I have been breeding all summer and fall, which does not get in calf. I have had two veterinarians examine her. They say they see no reason why she should not breed. Is there some treatment that I could give her that would be likely to make her get in calf?

A. M.

Ans.—What is known as the yeast treatment may give the desired results if the heifer is physically all right. Mix an ordinary cake of yeast to a paste with a little warm water and allow to stand for 12 hours in a moderately warm place, then stir in one pint of freshly-boiled luke-warm water, and allow to stand for another eight or ten hours. The mixture will then be ready for use, and the entire quantity should be injected into the vagina of the animal to be bred. Use the mixture when period of heat is first noticed and breed when period is about ended.

Cement for Wall—Drain from Sink.

Last summer two of our hens took sick; one of them died, but the other got all right again. When stooping to pick up feed they acted as though blind, and did not appear to be able to measure distance. What was the trouble with them?

2. How many barrels of cement will it take to build a cistern 8 feet square? How many barrels of water will it hold?

3. Would an ordinary 3-inch tile be all right to take away the sink water and the overflow from the cistern?

J. W.

Ans.—1. Evidently the birds were affected with some brain trouble which may have been caused by the heat, or tumors causing pressure on the blood vessels. It may have been caused by fright. It is advisable to administer a laxative, as 2 teaspoonfuls of castor oil and keep the birds in a cool, quiet place.

2. The depth of the cistern and thickness of walls are not mentioned, but, presuming that it is to be 6 feet deep and a 10-inch wall, it will require about 5 barrels of cement if the concrete is mixed one to eight. The cistern will hold about 60 barrels.

3. If the tile are well laid and do not run anywhere near the well they should be satisfactory for carrying off the sink water and overflow. If a well happens to be near, it would be advisable to cement the joints of the tile in order to prevent water from the sink contaminating the well.

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