

Questions and Answers. Miscellaneous.

Heifer Sucks.

What can I do for a heifer two years old that, after she gets through drinking, puts her tongue between her teeth and sucks until the froth runs out of her mouth? Sometimes the water runs out of her nose. She seems to eat well.
E. S.

Ans.—This seems to be a habit. Has she persisted in doing this since being fed as a calf? It will likely be difficult to break her of it. Have any of our readers had any experience with such a case?

A Puller.

I have a horse that would be valuable as a driver only that he is a bad puller. I have tried different kinds of bits on him, but none of them had the desired effect. Perhaps some of your subscribers may have had some experience with hard-mouthed horses and could give me some advice, through the columns of "The Farmer's Advocate."

D. F. M.

Ans.—Although very severe, a curb bit is sometimes used. Good results are sometimes had by using a double-twisted wire or scissors bit. Have any of our readers any experience to offer?

Blackleg.

1. What is the cause of blackleg, its symptoms, cure, etc.?

2. Horse is lame on hind leg. Does not flinch under pressure, nor does it show signs of spavin. Could spavin be there and not visible?

D. M.

Ans.—1. Blackleg is caused by a micro-organism which infests certain kinds of soils. It gains entrance to the animal's body through the food or abrasions and sores. 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 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. The 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 bands of fibrinous exudate. They break easily and eripitate on being incised. There is no cure for the disease after it has once attacked an animal. The preventive in vogue is vaccination. Animals up to six months of age are seldom affected, and those over two years of age do not often contract the disease, yet they are not considered absolutely immune. Vaccination may render an animal immune for eighteen months, but an animal that has been vaccinated before it was six months of age is liable to take the disease at any time. Vaccination should take place as the season for blackleg approaches. In infested areas the pasture has been burned off each summer for two or three seasons, but this is not considered practicable, and it is not very widely practiced. The Health of Animals Branch of the Dominion Department of Agriculture, at Ottawa, have charge of such work, and any outbreak should be reported to them.

2. It is possible that a horse may be troubled with occult or blind spavin and give no external evidence of it except in occasional lameness. A good test for spavin is to put the shoulder over the hock. Lift the foot and bend it backwards towards the leg. Drop it quickly, and at once start the horse off at a brisk trot. If any spavin exists, the horse is likely to go lame at first.

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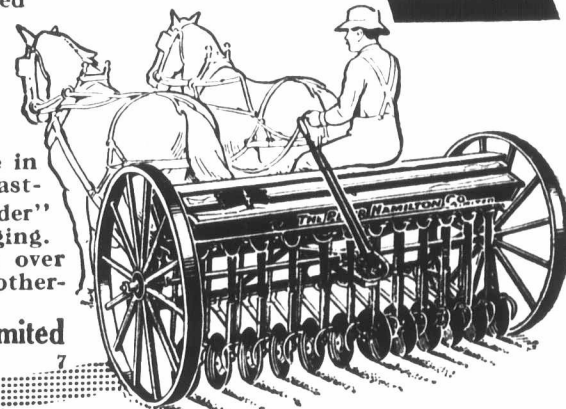
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