

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS.

1st.—Questions asked by bona-fide subscribers to "The Farmer's Advocate" are answered in this department free.
2nd.—Questions should be clearly stated and plainly written, on one side of the paper only, and must be accompanied by the full name and address of the writer.
3rd.—In Veterinary questions the symptoms especially must be fully and clearly stated, otherwise satisfactory replies cannot be given.
4th.—When a reply by mail is required to urgent veterinary or legal enquiries, \$1.00 must be enclosed.

Miscellaneous.

A WEAVER.

I have a two-year-old colt that has developed into a confirmed weaver. What causes the habit of weaving, and is there any treatment for it?

SUBSCRIBER.

Ans.—It is generally brought on by lack of exercise, and standing in stable. It is overcome by regular exercise and hard work.

TANK SWEATS.

We have water pumped in house from well at barn. All the water flows through a heavy galvanized-iron tank in house, that is five feet high and twelve inches in diameter. There is a large pressure in this tank, as the one in the barn is much higher than the house tank. These very hot days the water condenses on the outside of this, as the schoolboy of to-day says, or in plain, old-fashioned words, it sweats enough to make it wet on the floor around it. The tank rests on the floor. Can this sweating, or dripping be prevented?

SUBSCRIBER.

Ans.—It is possible to prevent the condensation referred to by insulating the tank. It would be necessary to surround it with some poor heat conductor, such as asbestos wool, and the surface would have to be properly finished. However, this would be cumbersome, and the tank rendered more unsightly by it. Perhaps the simplest plan to overcome the difficulty is to have a drip-basin made so as to surround the base of the tank. The drippings would drop into this and gradually evaporate.

W. H. D.

ALFALFA HOG PASTURE—INSIDE WATERING.

1. Have about three acres of good flat low land which is well underdrained, no water standing on it. I have just cut off it about as heavy a crop of clover as I ever had. The land is clean and in good heart. I was thinking I would plow it this fall and give it a good top dressing of manure in the winter, and seeding with alfalfa in the spring with the intention of pasturing hogs on it the following season. Would they do well on it, with plenty of clean water and a little grain twice a day, or how many hogs do you suppose this would pasture? Hogs would be between two and three months old when put on it. I was thinking by dividing it in two pieces I could keep it fresher for them. Would you advise sowing with a nurse crop of barley, or sowing the alfalfa by itself? How many pounds of alfalfa do you put on per acre? Do you think if I got a good catch of alfalfa this would be a good plan? Land is a dark clay loam.
2. Do cattle do better with the water in front of them or without it, and be turned outside for half an hour twice a day to drink? I would like your opinion on this, also some of your subscribers' experience.

G. P.

Ans.—1. If the land is low, your success with alfalfa is problematical, even though the drainage is good. You might get an excellent stand, but the question is how long it would last. For best results, sow without a nurse crop, though a light seeding of barley would interfere but little with the alfalfa, of

which latter eighteen to twenty pounds of seed should be sown per acre. Hillsides are the proper place to sow alfalfa, but, lacking hillsides, try your best-drained land. Alfalfa makes excellent hog pasture, but will not usually stand many years' grazing.

2. In the long run, we believe they will be more vigorous and do better if turned out, providing they can be sheltered from the wind, and watered in the barn with pails on particularly inclement days. Many persons, like the writer of this answer, have installed inside watering systems, and waxed quite enthusiastic about them for a time, but modified opinions after two or three seasons' use. One great drawback is the common tendency to keep the stable too close and warm for fear of pipes freezing. With this danger provided against, and regular exercise independently given, the main objections to inside watering would be removed, and it has some advantages in bad weather.

SOLDIER BUG LARVAE.

A correspondent from Clarke, Ont., sends larvae, or nymphs, of the soldier bug, a species of *Perillus*, that he found upon his potato vines. These insects, both in the larvæ and mature stages, prey upon the larvæ of the potato beetle.

J. D.

SHORTS VS. OATS FOR PIGS.

Which do you consider the better feed for pigs, or hogs, any age, oat chop or shorts, pound for pound?

H. W.

Ans.—For young pigs, shorts, by all means, if pure. Ground oats are good, however, with the hulls sifted out. For mature hogs, the hulls are not so much of an objection. Usually a mixture of the two feeds is better than either alone. Try to get a good grade of shorts. Often they are adulterated with mill sweepings.

CLIMBING FALSE BUCKWHEAT

What are the enclosed weeds?

KOLAPORE.

Both plants belong to the section of the knotweeds known as the wild buckwheats. The one with the shining black triangular seeds is the climbing false buckwheat. These weeds are a pest of the grain fields, and sometimes in hoed crop fields. Harrowing infested grain crop when it is two or three inches above ground is sometimes resorted to. After harvest, cultivation is recommended. The seeds germinate, and the young plants are killed by the winter.

J. D.

SULPHUR CINQUEFOIL.

There is a weed spreading on my grass-farm. I enclose a specimen. Can you give me its name, and the means of treating it?

A. D. M.

Ans.—The specimen (*Potentilla recta*), sometimes called the sulphur cinquefoil, is a European weed of meadow and pasture. It may be distinguished from the other common cinquefoils of the meadow by its larger yellow flowers and its leaves, consisting of five or six strongly-serrated leaflets, rising from their common petiole-like fingers from the palm, and hence said to be palmate. It spreads pretty rapidly by its numerous seeds, but it disappears with crop rotation, or it may be kept in check by cutting when it begins to flower.

J. D.

COW EATING CLOTHES.

My next neighbor has a cow that has the habit of eating clothes. She watches the clothes line, and when any cloth is on will tear them off and eat them. I saw her pull a towel off, and before I fairly got started for her, she had it down her throat. The owner says she has eaten a bundle of rags lately. Only yesterday she tackled their little girl, tearing her clothes, and would have eaten them only for the child's mother hearing screams, beat off the animal. What is the trouble with this cow, and what can be done to break the habit?

SUBSCRIBER.

Ans.—This appears to be an abnormal craving, such as some cows have for chewing bones, said to denote a lack of mineral matter in the food, for which a handful of fine ashes in the feed two or three times a week has been recommended. The cows should have salt regularly, preferably a lump of rock salt in the manger. Try a change of food, or pasture, or some addition to what constitutes the present ration.

APPLE LEAF-HOPPERS.

I am mailing you a couple of specimens of insects which infest my orchard, and seem to be doing considerable damage to the foliage. It is a sort of green fly,—very difficult to catch for specimen. You will notice the leaves enclosed have been attacked. They seem to suck the juice from the underside of leaf. Have sprayed three times thoroughly. Last spray was for bloom.

S. A. L.

Ans.—The insects on apple leaves sent are known as the apple leaf-hoppers. It will not pay to make any special spray application for them, as it is very seldom indeed that they do much damage to bearing trees. Occasionally they are more destructive on nursery stock, but even there they are seldom a serious pest. These insects attack many other plants besides the apple, so that they are general feeders. They are closely allied to the so-called "thrips" on rose-bushes, but are not the same species.

L. CAESAR.

SWEET CLOVER.

I am sending you under separate cover a stalk of sweet clover, as we know it here. Is this its correct name, or is it the sweet clover grown by Wm. Linton? I would very much like to have this matter threshed out, viz.: Its adaptability to or for either pasture or hay. It is certainly considered here a weed. I have never seen it eaten. There are only a few patches by the roadside, and don't know if any cattle come in reach of it.

M. M. L.

Ans.—The plant you have sent is sweet clover all right, and most people consider it a weed. Cattle can, however, be educated or forced to eat it, and when it is consumed in a succulent or tender condition, they will do tolerably well, it is said. For our own part, we have little use for it, unless as a means of improving very poor land where other plants can scarcely be induced to grow. It is not, however, much to be feared as a weed in cultivated fields, apprehensions to the contrary notwithstanding.

McINTOSH RED.

1. What is the best winter apple to plant, flavor and quick bearing considered?

2. I had young trees die this summer, this being the second year, having long streaks on the stalk dead when they leafed out in the spring, some five or six inches long, and some on both sides, but not meeting. Was it frost that killed them?

D. F.

Ans.—1. Do not know of any winter apple which can be recommended commercially for your district, unless it would be McIntosh Red. This variety comes into bearing only moderately early, but is of very fine quality, and grown in your locality, would, I am sure, keep well into February. Bethel is a very hardy late winter apple of good quality, which I am sure you could grow satisfactorily. The tree is only a moderate bearer at best, and is not particularly early in coming into bearing. Do not know whether Wagner would succeed in your climate or not. If you could put it, say, on the north slope, and in a light soil, you might be fairly successful. It bears frequently at three or four years of age, and is a very fine mid-winter apple, considerably resembling the Northern Spy in quality.

2. Your description indicates sun scald, but if the trouble is in any other position than the south-west side of the trunk, some other form of winter injury is probably to blame. Should be glad if you, or anyone else who has lost trees, would forward a specimen of them at our expense. Simply fix a shipping-tag, addressed to us, forwarding in all cases by express, to the Ontario Agricultural College.

J. W. CROW.

OVER THE COUNTER.

On a business trip to the city, a farmer decided to take home to his wife a Christmas present of a shirtwaist. Going into a store and being directed to the waist department, he asked the lady clerk to show him some.

"What bust?" asked she.

The farmer looked around quickly and answered: "I don't know; I didn't hear anything."

Veterinary.

LAME MARE.

Mare has been lame for two months. Her foal died, and ten days after foaling she went very lame on left hind leg. The cords of her leg are swollen, and very tender between Metlock and hock.

SUBSCRIBER.

Ans.—Keep her quiet in a comfortable box stall. Get a liniment made of $\frac{1}{2}$ ounce tincture of iodine, $\frac{1}{2}$ ounce gum camphor, 1 ounce tincture of arnica, 4 ounces extract of witch-hazel, and alcohol to make 1 pint. Bathe the swollen tendons well three times daily with hot water, and after bathing rub well with the liniment. In about an hour after applying the liniment, apply a bandage that has been soaked in cold water.

CALK—TUMOR.

1. Horse calked himself last winter. When nearly healed he calked it again, tearing a piece partially loose. I cut this off, and have been treating with white lotion. The wound is nearly healed, but is quite tender. I have been advised to blister it. He took water farcy in the same leg some time ago. He is slowly recovering, but the hock is swollen.

2. Horse got sore shoulder from ill-fitting collar. A lump the size of a hen's egg formed, but has become reduced to half the size now, but is quite hard and tender.

A. M.

Ans.—1. Calks of this nature usually cause a permanent enlargement. Continue the use of the white lotion until thoroughly healed, then you may be able to reduce the enlargement by rubbing a little of the following liniment well in once daily, viz.: Four drams each of iodine and iodide of potassium, and 4 ounces each of glycerine and alcohol. The calk is probably the cause of the lymphangitis that you call "water farcy." Rubbing the swollen hock daily with the above liniment will help to reduce it.

2. This is a tumor, and must be carefully dissected out, or if it contain pus, freely opened and dressed three times daily until healed, with a five-per-cent. solution of carbolic acid.

V.

THE SPICE OF LIFE.

Show me the man you honor. I know by that symptom better than any other what kind of a man you are yourself; for you show me there what your ideal of manhood is, what kind of man you long inexpressibly to be.—Carlyle.

It is noble to be alive to the littleness of earth, but it is nobler to become impressed with its greatness; to the animal life it is only a pasture-ground; to ordinary men it is the commonplace world; but to him who lives above it, it becomes a shining moon.—Jean Paul.

There is something in the Autumn that is native to my blood—
Touch of manner, hint of mood;
And my heart is like a rhyme,
With the yellow and the purple and the crimson keeping time.

The scarlet of the maples can shake me like a cry
Of bugles going by.
And my lonely spirit thrills
To see the frosty asters like a smoke upon the hills.

—Richard Hovey.

Ethel Barrymore, apropos of leap year, told a story at the Colony Club. "A girl," she said, "looked calmly at a caller one evening and remarked: 'George, as it is leap year—' The caller turned rather pale. 'As it is leap year,' she continued, 'and you have been calling regularly four nights a week for a long, long time, George, I propose—' 'I'm not in a position to marry on my salary,' George broke in hurriedly. 'I know that well, George,' the girl pursued, 'and so, as it is leap year, I thought I'd propose that you lay off and give some of the more eligible boys a chance.'"—Globe.