

Questions and Answers. Miscellaneous.

Fertilizer for Potatoes.

I have broken an acre of land which has been in sod for one year. I wish to plant it with potatoes. The soil is light and well drained and received a light coating of stable manure last fall. Would you advise the putting on of any commercial fertilizer? C. C.

Ans.—It depends a good deal on the fertility of the soil. If the land has been well treated in the past few years, you might grow a profitable crop of potatoes by applying stable manure. It is one of the best all-round fertilizers, but, of course, it cannot always be obtained in satisfactory quantities. Sulphate of potash is an excellent potato fertilizer, but it is rather difficult to get at the present time; in fact, the price is almost prohibitive. Nitrate of soda, 100 lbs.; acid phosphate, 400 lbs.; and sulphate of potash, 150 lbs., is generally considered to be a good mixture to apply to potato land. This quantity could be applied to an acre. Comparatively light soil that contains a sufficient quantity of plant food should prove very satisfactory for potatoes.

Worms—Feed for Sows.

My father has 61 acres of good soil but is not able to cultivate it himself so he wants me to stay home and work it for him. We came to an agreement and I have been doing this since I came of age. Nothing, however, was said about wages. What would be a good way to have arrangements made now? What should it have been worth a year to bear the responsibility? Could I have things fixed up so as to resign the management of the farm and draw my wages when I feel like starting for myself. There are a number of boys and girls in the family but all have their own homes.

2. What is a good cure for worms? I have a two-year-old colt and a mare which are affected.

3. One of my cows dropped a calf the last of December, although she was not due to freshen until sometime in April. She is in fair condition and has been fed corn from the shock, turnips and clover hay. I am now feeding 3 quarts of oat chop with the other feed. What is the trouble?

4. I have two brood sows to which I am feeding roots and warm swill. How long before they farrow should they be fed grain? I have buckwheat and oats; what proportions would you advise feeding?

5. Can a two-year-old colt be driven if well fed and cared for? Would a ten-mile trip be too much for him? Would you advise shoeing him? I purpose turning him on grass for the biggest part of the summer. G. L.

Ans.—1. It is always advisable to have some understanding regarding wages, etc. It very often saves a good deal of trouble. We believe you could collect wages from the time you were of age; as to how much, would depend on what agreement you could make with your father. From the details given we are not in a position to say what would be a fair wage.

2. Take 1½ ounces each of sulphate of iron and sulphate of copper and one ounce of calomel. Mix and make into 12 powders. Give a powder night and morning in damp feed. If it is not eaten in this way, mix with a little water and drench. Starve for ten hours after the last powder and then administer a purgative of 8 drams aloes and 2 drams ginger. Do not give the purgative to a mare that is in-foal.

3. It is probable that abortion was due to an accident. It is not likely that the feed was the cause.

4. You can scarcely expect to have a large litter of strong pigs from a sow fed entirely on roots and swill. She should have a little grain. One part buckwheat and three parts oats would be a fair mixture. After they farrow, shorts might be added to the ration.

5. It depends a good deal on the colt. If he is a fair size for his age, light driving should not materially harm him. After he has been driven a little, a ten-mile trip should not hurt him, provided he is carefully driven. A colt's feet will sometimes stand a good deal of roading. If the hoofs start breaking though, flat shoes might be put on to protect the hoof. If he is running on grass and not being put on the road much, his feet would be better without shoes.

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