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QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS. Miscellaneous.

TWITCH IN CORN FIELD—SCOURS IN CALVES.

I have a field in which I wish to plant corn next. Have taken a crop of clover off it, but there is considerable twitch in it. Would it be advisable to plant corn there on account of the twitch?

2. We feed our calves separator milk. They have all scours more or less. Is there anything we can give them to stop the scouring? They don't scour when given skimmed milk that has not been through the separator. They have good mixed hay and chop twice a day. K.

Ans.—1. There is no reason why, by spring plowing, thorough preparation of the seed-bed, planting corn in hills and frequently cultivating both ways afterwards, the dual purpose should not be accomplished of growing a first-class crop of corn and materially subduing the twitch. It depends, however, upon the season, and the thoroughness with which the work is performed. In spring plowing, turn a broad, flat furrow, about five inches deep, and follow each day's plowing promptly with roller and disc harrow.

2. Separator milk is not a complete food for calves, being unbalanced by abstraction of the fat, hence it is prone to cause indigestion, which results in scours. The trouble is aggravated by the common tendency to feed too much milk at a time, thus unduly distending and overtaxing the digestive apparatus. Ordinary creamer milk contains a small percentage of fat, and is to that extent better adapted for calf-feeding. If dairymen who have separators would mix a small quantity of whole milk with the separator milk for all calves under three or four months, they would find it a profitable investment. Butter-fat is said to be expensive calf food, and so it is when fed in quantity, but the fact remains that it agrees with the system of the young calf better than any substitute, and hence, when whole milk is fed sparingly, diluted with separator milk, it is economical after all. As a means of checking the trouble, first clean the pails, and keep them clean, feed the milk as nearly as possible at uniform temperature, reducing the quantity of milk by one-third or half and gradually increasing to from two quarts to a gallon three times a day, depending on the size of the calves. The following prescription for scours in calves, foals and lambs is strongly recommended by an English breeder: Powdered chalk, 2 ounces; powdered catechu, 1 ounce; ginger, 1 ounce; opium, 2 drams; peppermint water, 1 pint. Give a tablespoonful night and morning. It is well to give a dose of castor oil first, and, after the oil has passed, give the cordial, which may be administered for several days, if the scouring continues. Another remedy, and a very simple one, recommended by an Alberta doctor for scours in all kinds of young stock, is a cup of black tea, given almost cold. He says it is a sure cure, though we confess scepticism. Will some Eastern stockmen try it and report results?



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OIL CAKE FOR COWS AND IDLE HORSES.

Is oil cake a good feed for cows giving milk, fed in place of grain? Would oil cake be good for idle horses in winter? W. T.

Ans.—Coarsely-ground oil cake, mixed with bran or shorts, spread on corn ensilage or cut straw or chaff, is good feed for milking cows. Oil cake is not a suitable feed for idle horses, except in small quantity, mixed as above with rough fodder.

VERMICIDE FOR IN-FOAL MARE—CONDITION POWDER.

1. What is good for worms in a brood mare?
2. Give a recipe for a good condition powder for horses.

Ans.—1. A specific that has often been recommended through these columns for worms in an in-foal mare is as follows: Take 1½ ounces each of powdered sulphate of iron, sulphate of copper and tartar emetic. Mix, and make into 12 powders. Give a powder every night and morning in damp food, or mixed with one-half pint of cold water as a drench. After the last powder has been given, feed only bran for eight or ten hours, and then give 1½ pints raw linseed oil. Feed only bran for twenty-four hours longer, and give water in small quantities and often.

2. The following prescription makes a good condition powder: Two ounces each of ferric sulphate, pulverized gentian, pulverized nux vomica and nitrate of soda. Mix, and give a teaspoonful night and morning in ground oats or bran. Also give two or three times a week a feed of boiled oats, and to the regular grain ration add a handful of oil cake or ground flaxseed, which is also laxative and aids digestion.

HULLING WALNUTS.

You would oblige by having me advised how to prepare black walnuts for the market. The difficulty seems to be the removal of the outside rind or shell. I have done it by putting the nuts in hot water, then scraping them with a knife; but surely there is a better and more expeditious way. I have large quantities of these nuts. A. S.

Ans.—When walnuts have reached full maturity, the husk usually separates readily from the nut when it is tramped upon. The method usually adopted to remove the husks is to spread the nuts on a barn floor, or other hard surface, and crush the husks by means of the foot. One soon becomes expert in separating the nut entirely from the husk. The nuts may be left to dry where husked, and when dried may be removed with little difficulty. If, however, it is desirable to separate them at once, it is best to use a leather mit to avoid getting the hands stained with a stain which takes a long time to wear off. Usually the nuts require no other cleaning than removing the husks, but if one wishes to give them an extra cleaning, they may be dipped in a barrel of water and stirred about for some time, and then spread out to dry. H. L. HUTT.

O. A. C.

GOSSIP.

Mr. J. H. Patrick, Ilderton, Ont., writes: "Allow me to correct your report of prize list in the Lincoln class at Western Fair, London. You credit J. T. Gibson with first prize for four lambs, bred by exhibitor, when it should read J. H. Patrick. It is true, according to the judge's award, Mr. Gibson won first, but owing to one of the four lambs not being bred by Mr. Gibson, he, later, withdrew his claim to first prize and accepted second, and thereby saved protest from being entered."

At a draft sale of Aberdeen-Angus cattle, at Perth, Scotland, on Sept. 26th, from several herds, the highest price was 85 gs., realized by the seven-year-old Erica cow, Edvyra, from Donavoured. Erica was bred at Ballindalloch, and is by Bion. Mr. Grant, Knockanbule, gave 61 gs. for a two-year-old of the same family, from Pitpointie; Mr. Stewart Clark, of Dundas, 58 gs. for another three-year-old Erica, from Woodhill, and Sir G. Macpherson Grant, Bart., 60 gs. for the yearling bull, Young England, by England, also from Donavoured.

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