

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS. Miscellaneous.

REMOVING HORNS WITH CAUSTIC.

How should caustic potash be applied to a calf's horn-buds to destroy the horns, and at what age of the calf?

A. J. C.

Ans.—Get a stick of caustic potash from the druggist. Wrap all but half an inch in paper so it will not burn the fingers. Dip the end in water, or spit upon it, and rub it on the horn-button when the calf is three to six days old, but do not allow it to spread beyond the button, and do not use enough to make it run down on the skin, as it will eat into the flesh and cause pain. If it does spread on the skin, use some vinegar to neutralize the caustic. It may be necessary to repeat the operation in a few days.

EXTERMINATING HEN LICE— CONCRETE FLOOR.

1. Would you kindly inform me how to rid lice out of a henhouse, as I want to turn it into a corn stable?

2. Also, how to put in cement floors? Will it do to put in earth, as I want to raise it about one foot and a half, then stone and cement? What depth of stone should be under the cement?

READER.

Dundas Co.

Ans.—1. Clean out, and burn all litter and fixtures. Then close the house up, and fumigate by burning sulphur, taking care, of course, to prevent damage by fire. Leave the house closed a week or ten days, if convenient, and repeat the fumigation. Then whitewash thoroughly with strong milk of lime. To make the whitewash adhere, add to each pailful of it two or three handfuls of coarse salt. It might be well to apply coal oil with a brush before whitewashing, taking care to get it into all crevices and cracks.

2. See "The Farmer's Advocate" of March 19th, 1908. Cement floors may be laid on a solid earth bottom, and it would even do to raise the foundation by filling in earth, providing it were thoroughly rammed as each layer of five or six inches was spread on. It will, however, make a drier floor to apply six inches, or a foot, of cobblestone, broken stone, or gravel, well rammed down before applying the concrete coating. If stone is to be had conveniently, we would do this.

Veterinary.

ITCHY LEGS.

Stallion has itchy legs. W. M. W.

Ans.—It is good practice to give a purgative; but if he is doing stall service, this should not be done. Give him 1½ ounces Fowler's solution of arsenic twice daily for ten days. Rub the following lotion well into the skin on the legs three times daily: Corrosive sublimate, 15 grains; water, 1 quart.

V.

COLIC—PIGS COUGHING.

1. Mare is subject to colic for a week or two after foaling. She becomes sick after eating a little grass. How can I prevent this? I am told to give her charcoal.

2. For two years I have been troubled with young pigs coughing, and they do not thrive well.

J. D.

Ans.—1. I do not think charcoal will prevent it. Feed a tablespoonful of ginger in a little damp bran or chop twice daily. After foaling, feed a little at a time (especially grass) and often. If the mare has been on pasture before foaling, I would leave her out, unless she becomes sick. If she becomes sick, give 1½ ounces each of laudanum and sweet spirits of nitre, and 1 ounce fluid extract of belladonna, in a pint of cold water as a drench, and repeat in two hours, if necessary.

2. This is due to germs in the building. As soon as the present litter can be let out, sweep the building thoroughly, and give a thorough washing with a five-per-cent. solution of carbolic acid. In a week, give a thorough coat of hot-lime wash, with five-per-cent. carbolic acid. Repeat the whitewashing in a month or two, and the premises should be safe for the sows to farrow in the fall and winter.

V.

INDIGESTION.

Bull calf, two months old, has been sick for two weeks. His bowels are constipated, and he lies most of the time.

J. H. S.

Ans.—Give him six ounces raw linseed oil. Take equal parts sulphate of iron, gentian, ginger and nux vomica. Mix, and give him a teaspoonful three times daily in a little water as a drench. Feed on new milk and a little grass. Keep him in a cool stall.

V.

PUFFS ON KNEES.

Two-weeks-old colt has soft lumps on its knees. I first noticed them a few days ago.

M. C. B.

Ans.—These puffs, which are bursal enlargements, are not uncommon on foals. They do not cause inconvenience, and usually disappear without treatment. Leave them alone, and if they do not disappear by the time the weather becomes cold in the fall, apply a blister.

V.

Weed Seeds in Feeding Stuffs.

The Maine Agricultural Experiment Station is now mailing Bulletin 156 on feeding-stuff inspection. The bulletin contains the analyses of approximately 500 samples of commercial feeding stuffs as received from correspondents and taken by the inspector. Following the tables giving the results of the analyses is a discussion of the different feeding stuffs.

A special examination was made of gluten feeds for the presence of acid and added coloring matter. Some brands were found to carry inexcusable and dangerous amounts of acid, apparently showing that sufficient attention was not given in the manufacture of the goods to prevent an excess of acid accumulating. A feed containing such amounts of free mineral acids as some of these goods carried would be apt to be destructive to the teeth and harmful to the digestive apparatus of the animals. Many of the brands are artificially colored with the apparent intention to deceive.

The finding of a large number of weed seeds of a dangerous character in certain feeding stuffs, led to a thorough examination of practically all of the feeding stuffs offered in Maine in 1907-08. Germination tests were also made of the weed seeds in many of the brands. The results of this examination are striking and also disquieting. One feeding stuff, very widely advertised, and sold in the State, was found to be made up of from 20 to 60 per cent. of viable weed seeds. A germination test showed that this feed would produce at the rate of about two million noxious plants for each 100-pound bag.

Some whole grain shipped into the State was found to carry large amounts of foreign weed seeds. One car of oats carried over 15 per cent. foreign weed seeds, including 22 different kinds of bad weeds. There would seem to be need of a law regarding noxious-weed seeds in feeding stuffs. An occasional feed was found to carry corn cockle, the seed of which is poisonous to stock. This matter of weed seeds in feeding stuffs is discussed at considerable length.

The bulletin (156) will be sent free to anyone in Maine, on application to Director Chas. D. Woods, Orono, Maine.

TRADE TOPICS.

THE HANDY STANCHION for fastening cattle in the stable, advertised by Mr. R. Grafton, Mt. Charles, Peel County, Ont., has strong claims to favor, among which is the saving of time and safety in securing or releasing the animals, especially useful in case of fire, as by means of a lever a whole row may be secured or released at once and instantly, while one or more may be released or retained as desired. It is claimed that the saving of time alone saves the cost of the stanchion annually.

The Molassine Company, through Mr. Andrew Watson, 91 Place d'Youville, Montreal, Que., will be pleased to mail, free, any of the following very interesting booklets, by Frank Townsend Barton, M. R. C. V. S., and entitled "Internal Parasites (Worms) of Domestic Animals," "Molassine Meal and Its Value for Horses in Health and Diseases," "Some Skin Diseases of the Horse," and "The Use of Sugar as a Food for Animals," by Colonel Nunn, F. R. C. V. S., D. S. O., Army Veterinary Dept.

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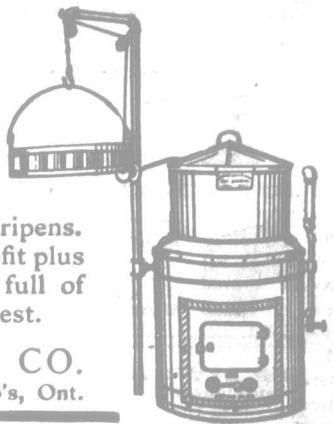
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