

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS.

Miscellaneous.

FROSTING WINDOWS.

What is the "frosting" for church windows composed of?

I. T. M.

Ans.—There are different methods of frosting glass.

1. Rub with a small muslin bag containing fine sand, powdered glass, or grindstone grit and water. Some sand may be placed directly on the window.

2. Clean the window thoroughly and moisten with hydrofluoric acid. When sufficiently frosted, wash thoroughly.

ALIEN CARPENTER.

Is there anything in the laws of Canada to prevent a citizen of the United States, a carpenter by trade, coming into Canada and working at his occupation? Prince Edward Island.

D. B.

Ans.—The law does not seem to deal directly with this point, but doubtless a carpenter coming over from the United States could work at his occupation. Communications with the Department of Labor brought evasive answers, with a disinclination to interpret the statute as bearing on the above query.

COW GIVES BITTER MILK.

A few weeks ago the milk from a Jersey cow that has been milking since August, 1907, became so bitter that it was almost offensive. We couldn't churn, at least we couldn't get butter, though we churned a full half day. It foamed up just like whipped cream. Then we fed her a medicine made up of resin, sulphur, salt-peter, alum, copperas and salts. At the same time we kept her out of the gully where she had been tied, thinking the gully grass wasn't good for her. Instead, we fed her on corn and lucerne. She got better and we had two churnings of good butter. We put her back in the gully and she became worse again. The milk wasn't so bitter, but we couldn't get butter, so we again put her in the stable on the old rations, but her milk isn't right yet, though it is improved. The cow is in good flesh and healthy.

F. A.

Ans.—I would judge that the cow, when pasturing in the gully, gets something of a bacterial nature, which causes the trouble referred to. Sometimes cows get material in their pasture which gives the milk an unpleasant flavor, also makes it difficult to churn. Usually pasteurization of the milk or cream will overcome the difficulty. If the trouble continues I would suggest giving the cow one or one and one-half pounds of Epsom salts and pasteurizing the milk for use at a temperature of 160 degrees, then cool to as low a temperature as possible. In the case of churning the cream into butter, the cream should be pasteurized 24 hours before it is needed for churning. After cooling to about 70 degrees, we would recommend the addition of about one cupful of good-flavored sour skim-milk or buttermilk to induce the ripening process.

H. H. DEAN.

BUILDING ICE HOUSE.

Kindly give me a plan for building an ice house that would hold about 80 or 100 blocks. I would like one in which the ice and sawdust would not come in contact with each other.

G. M.

Ans.—There is no need of going to great expense in building an ice house. It is well to place it on the north side of a large building, or in such place that it does not stand exposed to direct sunlight throughout the day. The main object should be to protect the ice from being melted by the hot air of summer months. Sawdust has been proven to be the most satisfactory material for this purpose when cheapness and efficiency are considered. A building ten feet square should suffice for storing 100 blocks. It is necessary to have 12 inches of sawdust on a dry bottom, and to leave space for a foot of sawdust on all sides of the ice. Then a foot or more also should be used as a covering on top. Posts can be set as required, and rough lumber used as siding. Some advise nailing the lumber in place, but for appearance sake it is well to have the posts inside. For efficiency it might be wise to leave slightly more than 12 inches space for sawdust, and to see that the sawdust is thoroughly packed around the posts. Openings should be left to allow free circulation of air above the sawdust.

Your suggestion to have the ice and sawdust not come in contact is attractive from the standpoint of having clean ice, but for efficiency of protection it would cost too much for construction. A little water will readily wash the sawdust off a block. Thorough insulation of walls and ceiling, as well as double doors, would be required.

CHARGE FOR ILLUSTRATIONS.

I have been a subscriber for "The Farmer's Advocate" for a number of years, and in that time I have been benefited very much by reading your valuable paper. It is through "The Farmer's Advocate" that I got to breeding pure-bred stock. I have some very nice animals at present and would like to know what it costs to have pictures of pure-bred animals appear in "The Farmer's Advocate?"

H. P. D.

Ans.—The charge for illustrating pure-bred animals in "The Farmer's Advocate" is \$6 for a cut 1 column wide, \$8 for a cut 1½ columns wide, and \$10 for a cut 2 columns wide. When the photograph is supplied to us the charge for illustrating is \$1 less than the figures quoted above. Only creditable illustrations are accepted at any price.

COMPARISON OF BREEDS.

How do the four following breeds of sheep compare for size, hardiness, and for mutton and wool?

Oxford Down, Suffolk, Shropshire and Southdown.

I have a chance to secure Suffolk. Would this breed likely be as satisfactory as any other, where the pasturage is only average, and where mutton is the chief object?

C. P.

Ans.—In size these breeds compare in the order named, the Oxford being the largest and the heaviest. In hardiness there is little difference, though the Southdowns, being the smallest, would probably do best on sparse pasturage. For quality of mutton and wool it is a question between the Suffolks and Southdowns, while for quantity and quality combined, it is between the Oxford and the Shropshires. The Suffolks are well adapted to farms with some good arable land, and a considerable range of pasture, not over luxuriant. The quality of their mutton is first-class.

GRAIN RATIONS FOR STEERS.

Is it necessary to feed steers any grain during the first month's feeding, when they are being fed silage, well matured, and with lots of corn in it, and a good feed of hay at noon? Which is the best for fattening purposes, fed along with silage, such as I mention? Barley, ground fine; oats, ground fine; bran, ground fine? Would it pay to buy oil cake to feed to them at \$32 per ton?

H. B.

Ans.—In suggesting a meal ration to be fed with corn silage, it is rather important to know the kind of hay fed with it. If the hay is alfalfa or clover, the steers might be started fairly well without any concentrates, although a pound of bran and a handful of oil cake would certainly give results. If straw or timothy hay is fed with the silage, we would certainly advise using a little bran, oil cake, and possibly a little oat chop if it is plentiful, say two or three pounds of the mixture a day, during the first month, gradually increasing the oil cake and oatmeal and adding some barley meal or corn meal as the feeding period progressed. It will certainly pay, and pay well, to use a pound or so of oil cake per day on the average during the feeding period when this can be purchased at \$32 per ton. Bran and oil cake are especially well adapted for feeding with corn silage, and while the bran possesses a special virtue as a diluent of the heavier meals, the oil cake contains over twice as much protein per pound and about three times as much vegetable fat, or oil, as bran; only in carbohydrates is it lower, and as this element is abundantly contained in the silage and the rest of the meal mixture, its comparative deficiency in the oil cake is not of such great consequence. We buy bran and oil cake mainly for the protein they contain. While oil cake should not be fed in large quantities alone, there is no doubt that at current prices it is the cheapest one at concentrated feed that can be bought by the dairyman or cattle-feeder, particularly for feeding along with corn silage, corn or barley meal, straw or timothy hay.

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