

Scotland where most all the important breeds of livestock were developed, whole communities raised the one kind of cattle, hogs, sheep or horses. So much so that these breeds were usually given the name of the county or shire as they call it in England, as Shropshire Sheep, Hereford (Shire) Cattle, Yorkshire Hogs, etc. In this way they kept on improving the breeds and they are improving them yet. Several communities in the United States have gone into the raising of one breed and the communities have become known all over the country for the stock they raise, as Northfield, Minn., for its Holsteins; Waukesha County, Wis., for its Guernseys; Genaga County, Ohio, for its Holsteins; New Salem, N.D., for its Holsteins; and so on. Not only has a great deal of improvement been accomplished already in these communities but the improvement will keep going on. It is like the snowball that has been started down hill, the further it goes, the bigger it gets.

In community livestock breeding the cost of improving the stock is reduced to the minimum. In many cases the cost is no more for raising high grades and pure-breeds than for the individual farmer to raise common scrub stock, and it is easier to sell stock in a community where all the farmers raise the same breed. When a community enters on raising one breed, everybody, men, women and children, become interested in and take a pride in the stock which is a big factor in the improvement.

It will pay farmers of any community to raise one breed of livestock whether it be cattle, horses, sheep or hogs. It will result in a more rapid improvement of the stock and at less cost, in better financial returns and in a greater interest in stock than the individual farmer can secure.

Abortion in Mares

I have a team of four-year-old mares. One had a colt on June 4, the other on June 12. I bred them both again, each on the ninth day after foaling, and both seemed to be in foal. About September 16 I was cutting oats with the binder and took a few sheaves with me to the stable at night, giving one each to the mares. Before this they had been fed on hay and oats. In the morning a substance much like an afterbirth but not so long was behind one mare, and something similar came from the other at noon. Both were fed a sheaf each in the morning in addition to hay and oats. The mares worked and otherwise appeared normal. Was this abortion? If so, did the fresh-cut oats which had been recently frosted do the harm, or might it have been some weed in the oats? Would this supposed abortion have any effect on the breeding purposes of the mares for future use?—F.M., Sask.

The term abortion means the expelling of the foetus, or young, from the womb before the proper time. Your mares, without doubt, both aborted or cast their colts prematurely. In view of the fact that both of them aborted within such a short time of each other it points to a common cause operating similarly on both. This, therefore, would indicate that something which they had eaten or taken into their system had acted harmfully on the womb. Green frosted oat sheaves or other feed, particularly if damaged with rust or smut, might easily be the cause. It is possible that their aborting may have some effect on their breeding usefulness by causing a little more difficulty in getting them to conceive. It may also predispose them to cast their colts again more easily at some future time. Nevertheless, we would recommend giving these mares a further opportunity to breed, as they may prove alright. This opinion we express owing to the fact that the cause was accidental and not contagious.



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