

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS. Miscellaneous.

SHEARING MACHINE.

Would you please tell the best place to get the sheep and horse shearing machine?

A. L. M.

Ontario Co., Ont.

Ans.—Write Chicago Flexible Shaft Co., Chicago, Ill.

DIVIDING A SCHOOL SECTION.

Our trustees made an application to the township council to divide our public school section into two sections. The 41st section, clause 2, of the Public School Act, 1901, authorizes the council to notify the ratepayer in such a manner as the council shall deem expedient.

1. Is it lawful for the council to call a special meeting of the council for that purpose?

2. Another special meeting will be called to pass the by-law. Who has to pay the cost, the school section or the township?

SUBSCRIBER.

Ont.

Ans.—1. Yes.

2. We should say the township.

UNWARRANTED USE OF ADJOINING PREMISES.

A had two sons, O and P. O had land joining A's, but living in with A. A died, willing the farm and house to P; the barn and barnyard to O. P sold to R. O left the house.

1. Can O use the lane to his barn the same as when living with A?

2. Can he throw the fence down, and leave it down for his cattle to come in R's grain?

3. What steps should R take to prevent O from pulling the fence down?

4. Can R sue O for damages? O does not need to come to R's house to get to his barn, as the barn and yard are alongside his own lane.

Ont.

SUBSCRIBER.

Ans.—1 and 2. No.

3. R should warn O by written notice against further trespass, and in the event of such warning being unheeded, an action of trespass and for damages would be in order.

OLD BURIAL GROUNDS.

There is a large burial ground in this vicinity (known as — cemetery), the oldest in the locality. It is fifty years since the first corpse was interred there. About thirty years ago, three trustees were appointed and books and a map issued, but since then the said trustees have moved away from this part of the country, and none have been appointed in their stead. The grounds are getting in a very delapidated condition, and need fencing and gates, and a few general repairs.

1. What steps are necessary to elect trustees, appoint a caretaker, and put the grounds in order, legally?

2. What proceedings should be taken to convert the grounds into a cemetery, legally?

SUBSCRIBER.

Ans.—We would refer you to the Act respecting conveyances to trustees for burial grounds, and the Act respecting cemetery companies (R. S. O., 1897, chapters 213 and 214); but you can hardly get on without the assistance of a solicitor, and we would advise you to consult one personally, and have him devise a scheme and attend to its being carried out.

EWES ABORTING.

I have a flock of ten cross-bred ewes, two to three years old, which were due to lamb about March 15th. During the last three days, four of the ewes have dropped seven dead-born lambs. Sheep are in a dry, roomy building, apart from other stock. They are fatter than average condition; have plenty of chance to exercise; fed clover hay twice per day, with a middle meal of oat chaff, no grain nor roots. Ewes have all borne lambs before without mishap. Can you give me any cause for their losing them this year? Would the same thing be likely to happen the same ewes next year?

H. E.

Ans.—Abortion in ewes is very unusual. An examination of several veterinary works fails to throw any light on the subject, and in an experience of thirty years with sheep, the writer never had more than two or three cases in a year. It may be caused by a sudden fright, or by crowding through a narrow doorway. The treatment has been all right, and we do not think the trouble is likely to recur if the ewes are kept for some time again.

Miscellaneous.

FROZEN WHEAT.

If wheat, being ripe, gets frozen before it is cut, would it injure it for seed?

J. S.

Ans.—It all depends upon the extent of the freezing. If the outer skin is simply blistered, it is not useless. We would advise testing a given number of kernels before sowing to find the percentage of germinating seeds.

HORSE ROLLING.

How can I prevent a horse rolling in stall?

R. N.

Ans.—The horse rolls either because he is itchy or wants exercise. Let him run outside the greater part of the day. If he scratches himself continually, give him treatment with one of the advertised sheep dips, and clean and whitewash the stable.

WEIGHING PLATFORM.

Would some readers of your paper give a plan of a platform for weighing cattle and hogs? I have scales up in barn, and want to weigh below in the stable. I have just got scales, and would like to make it handy as possible.

F. W. N.

Ans.—A description of such an arrangement would be appreciated by our correspondent and others similarly situated.

TRIMMING SPRUCE HEDGE.

I have a neglected spruce hedge from 10 to 15 feet high. Please tell me how much I could safely cut off top, and at what time of the season?

A SUBSCRIBER.

Ans.—We know of a hedge, which was 12 feet high in places, being cut down to a uniform height of 4 feet without the least harm. It was of Norway spruce, and, though neglected, was thrifty. We would expect our correspondent's hedge would not be hurt by similar treatment. Before growth starts in spring would be the best time to cut.

CATTLE DEAL.

1. If a farmer sells fat cattle to a butcher and receives five dollars on the bargain, with the understanding that the butcher will take the cattle away in a week and pay the balance, can the farmer go to the butcher before he comes for the cattle and give him his five dollars back, and tell him he can't have the cattle?

2. Can the butcher hold him to the bargain?

3. If he can, and some accident should happen and make the cattle unfit for beef, can the butcher refuse to pay the full amount agreed upon?

4. Can the farmer hold the butcher to the bargain?

SUBSCRIBER.

Ans.—1. No. 2. Yes. 3. No. 4. Yes.

POSTS BLISTERS BREEDS.

1. We would like some hint as to what kind of end post to use in a wire fence. Can you give us any information as to construction and usefulness of concrete posts?

2. Would you advise blistering a four-year-old carriage colt for a jack, if he is not lame?

3. Is it any benefit to blister a three-year-old Roadster colt that puffs in the hock joint while standing in the stable?

4. As the difference between Clydesdale and Shire horses is not well understood, would it be too much trouble to describe the two breeds?

5. Is there any record for a cross between the Shire and Clydesdale?

A READER.

Ans.—1. Concrete is being used to a considerable extent for gate posts and in wire fences, and so far as we are aware is giving satisfaction.

2. No. It would not remove the enlargement.

3. It would be better to keep them down by plenty of exercise.

4. This difference was explained in our Jan. 7th issue. It consists chiefly in a greater development of quality in the Clyde, while the Shire excels in massiveness and weight. It should not be supposed, however, that the Clyde lacks size, or the Shire quality, but the breeders of each class appear to have attached particular importance to the characteristics mentioned.

5. Yes. The American Draft Horse Association has a list for this purpose. Jas. Mitchell, Galesburg, is Secretary.

Veterinary.

MAMMITIS.

1. Some of my cows lost their appetites and, in a few days, one quarter of udders became swollen, and gave ropy milk, and one appears a little stiff.

2. What would make a good substitute for bran and roots to feed calves?

E. L. K.

Ans.—1. The cows suffered from indigestion, followed by inflammation of the udders. Purge with 2 lbs. Epsom salts and 2 ozs. ginger. Follow up with 1 dr. each sulphate of iron, gentian, ginger and nuxvomica, given as a drench in a pint of water twice daily. Apply hot poultices to the inflamed udder, and rub well with camphorated oil three times daily, and draw the milk off before each rubbing.

2. A little silage, chaff, cut hay, etc., to which is added a little finely-chopped oats.

V.

COW HARD TO MILK.

Two of the teats of my cow are very hard to milk. The other two are all right.

W. B. D.

Ans.—This is due either to constriction of the external orifices of the milk ducts or to growths in the ducts. If from the former cause, benefit may be derived by introducing gutta-percha or wooden plugs which are slightly bulbous at the ends and constricted in the center, into the teats, and leaving them there between milkings, with the hope that the orifice may become dilated. If the latter cause is operating, the growths may be operated upon with a concealed bistoury, or other instrument made specially for the purpose. None but a veterinarian is likely to have this instrument, or sufficient skill to operate. In either case, great care must be taken, as there is danger of exciting serious, and possibly fatal, inflammation of the udder. Our advice is to do the best you can in the way of milking her during this lactation period, and to not breed her again, but fit her for the block.

V.

VICIOUS STALLION.

I have a grade stallion that will be two years old in May that is continually watching for an opportunity to bite.

1. How can I cure him of this habit?

2. How many mares can he be bred to without injury to himself?

3. I have hitched him a few times, and he is very quiet. Would you advise driving him two or three miles once weekly in a light rig?

T. W. W.

Ans.—1. When a colt of this age shows viciousness it is very probable the vice will increase with age, and there is a danger of him becoming unmanageable at any time, and probably killing somebody. The most effective method of curing the vice is castration, and especially do we recommend the operation in this case, as he is a cross-bred. We do not think it wise to use an impure horse in the stud, and we always advise breeders to patronize registered or pure-bred stallions only. However, if you elect to keep him entire and risk the consequences, you should at once proceed to teach him that you are master of the situation. Coaxing and petting do no good. You must carry some weapon whenever you approach him, and if he make any attempt to bite, you must hit him smartly (not tapping) on the head.

A piece of 1½-inch rubber hose, about 1½ feet long, is better than a club, as you can hit him hard and hurt as much as the stick would, and at the same time run little risk of injuring him permanently. When you hit him let him know that something struck him, and it is possible you may be able to break him of the habit. At the same time you should have within easy reach, a club with which you can knock him down if necessary, or a gun to shoot him if occasion demanded, for as stated he is liable at any time to become very vicious, in which case a man has no chance unless he is in a position to protect himself. A vicious male of any species of farm animals is very dangerous, and should not be allowed to remain entire, unless very valuable for breeding purposes, when all precautions against injury should be taken, and a special groom with qualities that especially recommend him for the purpose secured to attend him.

2. He may be bred to one mare per week, not more.

3. Drive him six to eight miles daily, Sundays excepted.

V.

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POSTPONED SALE.

On account of the storms of last week blocking the railways, the dispersion auction sale of Standard-bred horses and Shorthorn cattle of the Lorne Stock farm, estate of A. McKillop, was postponed to March 16th at the same place and hour, three miles from West Lorne, Ont.

In answering any advertisement on this page, kindly mention the FARMER'S ADVOCATE.