

MARCH 16, 1911

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QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS. Miscellaneous.

PIGS DYING.

Sow has ten pigs which seemed weak, and are dying off one after the other. Sow has been wintered on turnips and mangels. Would the feeding of these roots cause the above? E. T. M.

Ans.—From such meagre information, it is impossible to diagnose positively, but it may be stated with assurance that your sows were not well fed during the winter. Roots are suitable as part, but not all of a sow's rations.

RETENTION OF PLACENTA.

Two cows have trouble in cleaning after-birth, and seem to have no appetite. They are both good cows, and never were like this before. J. K.

Ans.—It is a practice with some to give cows, for a few days before calving, a pound of oil cake, night and morning. Many stock-owners place dependence on this as an aid to easy parturition and natural removal of the afterbirth. Some claim that flaxseed is better, and it looks reasonable, though we have never tried it for this purpose ourselves. Only a limited quantity should be fed to cattle not used to it. The experience of readers on this point is requested.

LAND PLASTER FOR ALFALFA.

1. I have six acres of alfalfa on light, gravelly soil. Would it be advisable to sow land plaster on it in the spring?

2. Is plaster used as much now as it was some years ago? A. L. McK.

Ans.—1. We are not in a position to advise this, except as an experiment. It might prove beneficial, and we should like to see it tried. If you do so, kindly report results, whether negative or positive.

2. We believe not, though as a stable absorbent it might conceivably prove very profitable. For some reason, land plaster has been known to produce remarkable results with clover, when applied on virgin soils. Subsequently, the effect of repeated applications seems greatly diminished.

MOTOR CYCLE DEALERS—COLT DOES NOT THRIVE.

1. Would you please publish the addresses of the different motor cycle companies, as I am in need of a vehicle to get over the road?

2. Have a suckling colt that does not thrive well, and is in very poor condition ever since being weaned. I had him running with a sick beast after he was weaned that was bothered with old age. Would he get the same disease from the older beast? J. S.

Ans.—1. For obvious reasons of business policy, we are unable to publish business addresses of firms in our editorial columns.

2. If the old horse has an infectious disease, the colt might get the same trouble, but such is not likely to be the case. It will, of course, contract old age in time. Try feeding the colt a little bran and oats mixed, in addition to hay, if you are not already doing so.

DISK VS. SPRING-TOOTH CUL- TIVATOR—WHEN PLOW SOD FOR CORN.

1. For general tillage, which is the more valuable implement, the disk harrow or the spring-tooth cultivator?

2. Should sod, which is being manured this winter in preparation for corn, be plowed early in spring, or left until a couple of weeks before time to plant corn? What depth should it be plowed? Give general tillage to follow before planting. W. S. McI.

Ans.—1. That question can scarcely be answered. The disk is much the better for sod, and for finely pulverizing other land, but for spring cultivation in preparation for spring grain on land other than that plowed out of sod, the spring-tooth is not only better, but a great deal more speedy.

2. The plowing of sod manured for corn had better be deferred until a short time before planting. The rank growth of grass which will have sprung up will act as green manure, and have a good mechanical action on the soil. Agriculturist Gridale, of Ottawa, advises plowing not more than four inches deep. We confess that we would go an inch or two deeper. Tillage before planting should be thorough. Use disk or cultivator, harrow and roller until surface is fine and vacant spaces in under layer are filled.

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