

The Mohair Industry.

ANGORA GOATS.

Considering that millions of pounds of mohair are imported annually, there is a good home market, and for clean, well-cared-for hair, there



A THREE-YEAR-OLD ANGORA NANNY

is a good profit in its raising. To say nothing of the great value of the animals for breeding purposes. The Angora goat is a native of the province of Angora in Turkey in Asia about 300 miles inland from Constantinople, but it is about 20 yrs since any were imported into this country from there. The breeding of these animals has been for many years one of the leading industries in Cape Colony South Africa and it is fair to say that the interest and intelligence devoted to them in that part of the world almost parallels that given by our breeders to the leading breeds of cattle and sheep in this country.

Among those who have handled them for a series of years they are no longer regarded in the light of an experiment. Their excellent and valuable qualities are rapidly becoming better known in a more general way. One of these characteristics is their adaptability to lands which have been hitherto regarded with so much disfavor. On these, where there is an abundance of underbrush, the goats are in their element. The Angora is essentially a browser, and while it will thrive on grassy land, it feels much more at home among hills, and scrub brush, and on such a character of range will attain its highest development. It is of an active temperament, which prompts it to travel over a good deal of ground in search of its food, and for this reason, while it does not in any way interfere with other stock, it does not like to be herded in the same flock.

Where range of suitable character exists, a pasture of any given capacity can carry a flock of Angora goats without detriment to other stock, because the goat will eat brush and weeds which other stock refuse, and will also enrich the more open land with their droppings, derived from a class of food which would otherwise be wasted. Where confined to a limited area they will effectually destroy underbrush by keeping the leaves eaten off. They are sometimes kept with this object in view, though most breeders who realize their value give them access to ample brush, which they regard just as a sheep man does his grass, and for the same reason would not wish to graze it so closely as to destroy it. Angora goats will live largely on the twigs and bark of sappy underbrush and the leaves of evergreens in winter, and are rarely fed in the south at any time of year, but in more northern latitudes, where feeding and sheltering are necessary, such protection as is usually accorded to sheep will more than suffice to keep Angora goats in the same condition.

The meat of the Angora goat is excellent and is not distinguishable from mutton of the same age and condition. It is very largely sold as such in many of the larger markets, besides being regarded as a staple in the districts where it is raised. The methods employed in handling Angora goats are in the main very much the same as those followed with sheep. They can be herded in about the same sized flocks in mountainous ranges as sheep can in more level country.

The most marked difference in the system of management is through the kidding season when instead of allowing the newly born offspring to follow

the dam, as in the case with sheep, the kids are kept back in the pen when the flock goes out in the morning. It is not until they are about 2 mos old that it is safe to allow them to run freely with their mothers, as the latter cover too much ground for the strength of the kids. During the earlier weeks of the life of the youngsters they are often allowed to go out of the fold after the flock has gone off for the day. They will then content themselves with nibbling the young grass and leaves within easy access of the pen, never leaving it to go any distance until their dams return at night. Where handled by experienced breeders 100 per cent of kids are often raised to the number of breeding does, the few losses being made up by twins, of which about 7 to 10 per cent are generally dropped in a flock of well-bred Angoras. The percentage of twins in well-bred Angoras is not as high as in a flock of common or native goats.—[W. G. Hughes, Tex.

Helps for Farm and Home.

CHAT WITH THE EDITOR.

F. J. K. Write to the secretary of the board of railroad commissioners at the capitol of each state for list of railroads in the state.—**E. D.** Some good books on house plans are: Reed's House Plans for Everybody, price \$1. Homes for Home Builders, 1. How to Build a Home, 1. Builders' New Cottage Homes and Details, 4. Barn Plans and Outbuildings, 1. All are sold by the Orange Judd Co. of 32 Lafayette place, New York.—**G. C.** asks whether a ram's capacity to pump water may be doubled in point of distance, as well as in quantity, by increasing the supply of water per minute to the ram at the spring. Providing the delivery pipe is sufficiently large to prevent friction in the pipe line with a given delivery of water, the distance pumped makes almost no difference in the quantities delivered. If the delivery pipe is too small to carry the water delivered by the ram, frictional resistance is developed, which is equivalent to an increased head, and an additional supply of power water must be furnished to the ram to overcome this resistance whatever it may be.

LIVE STOCK AND DAIRY—Pa Subscriber: Milk tubes are sold by all dairy supply houses. Write to the Dairymen's Supply Co., 1367 Market street, Philadelphia, Pa.—**D. McI.** Poultry commission houses include F. W. Brockman, 809 N 3d St, St. Louis; Trescher & Miller, 922 N 3d St, St. Louis; A. W. Bear, 119 E 4th St, Kansas City; Papendick Produce Co., Kansas City.—**V. Y. D.** Write to the U. S. dept. of ag., division of animal industry, for reports on tuberculosis. They are free.

ABOUT POTATOES—Ground which has been planted continuously for years with potatoes becomes deficient in available potash and phosphoric acid and the resulting crop is small and unmerchantable unless sufficient fertilizer is restored each year, which should contain more of the mineral elements than is usually found in manure. The growth of vines and quality of the tubers show this to be the case. The volunteer crop of L. A. S. did not come from small potatoes left over winter on top of the ground, for the freezing would spoil them; they came from tubers which were so deep in the ground that they were not plowed up and had the frost drawn out of them by the earth. They will grow this way in our natural potato soil for years in the meadows as a weed. Potatoes which are kept buried during winter retain their solidity and are much longer in coming up. The reason they yielded better than the regularly planted crop was because of the deep planting and early, natural planting, combined with the more favorable condition of wintering. A lot of vigor is lost by the drying and sprouting of tubers in the house cellar. This is not a case of reversion, or of bad variation. Tubers are scions, not seeds. Seeds of potatoes would not bring large tubers or foliage of potatoes the first year. Small potatoes often give good results in yield. Maturity and care in wintering have more to do with good yields than size. A change of seed is often beneficial and I cannot see why the second crop should have greater adaptability, says C. E. Chapman of N. Y., a potato expert.

POISON OAK—E. R. wants a remedy for the cure of poison oak. Bathe the afflicted parts three times a day with a little of the following: Acetate of lead ½ oz, glycerin 2 oz and soft water 1 qt. Also take five drops of Fowler's solution of arsenic at a dose in a little water three times a day after meals. Continue this treatment for several months if necessary.

NOTE—I. D. N. Y. A. living in N. J. gave B. also living in N. J. his promissory note for \$20. Afterward A. moved to N. Y. and has not paid the note. What satisfaction can B. get. A. having no property? None. A. has done nothing criminal.

Our Veterinary Adviser.

(Questions for this department are answered in turn, but on account of the large number of queries received it is often some weeks before replies can be printed. In case an immediate answer by mail is desired, \$1 should be inclosed.)

SWELLING ON CHEST—H. H. has a pony which is fat and has a swelling on its chest. Give it regular exercise; also 2 dr nitrate of potassium at a dose three times a day in small mash. Hand-rub the swelling well several times a day.

THRUSH—E. W. L.'s horse has thrush in the feet. Wash out the cracks of the frog with warm water and dry well; then put dry calomel into all the affected parts and repeat this every second day until the feet are healthy. Keep the feet dry while under treatment.

INDIGESTION—S. R. E. has a cow that would walk around in a ring, always to the same side; she is better now but has a poor appetite. The trouble was indigestion, which affected the head. Give 1 oz each tincture ginger, gentian and chloride of iron at a dose in 1 qt oatmeal gruel three times a day.

STIFFNESS—B. F. W.'s cow is stiff and when she gets up makes a grunting sound. Her appetite is not good and she does not chew her cud. Give at one dose 1½ lbs epsom salts and 1 oz ginger dissolved in water. After the physic operates, give 1 oz each tincture of chloride of iron, ginger and gentian at a dose in 1 qt oatmeal gruel. Loss of cud is not a disease, but a result of any disease.

CACKED UDDER—C. F. S.'s cow's bag caked, also what is best to give horses and cattle when they are bitten by a rattlesnake. Mix 2 dr iodine with 2 oz vaseline and rub a little of this on the udder once every second day. The best remedy for rattlesnake bite is good whiskey and bathe the part with a lotion made by mixing 1 oz acetate of lead with 1 qt water.

MEGRIMS—Mrs G. U. P.'s mare has a nervous twitching of the head and neck and sometimes all over the body nearly every time she is hitched up and driven a short distance. This is a derangement of the nervous system and is usually incurable. Give 1 oz bromide of potassium twice a day in bran for one week, then skip a week and give again if necessary.

BUNCH ON TEAT—H. B. W.'s cow has a bunch on one of her teats. Take a knife and scrape off the skin or crust, then apply a little terechloride of antimony to it. In three days remove the scab and apply a little more of the antimony until the lump is removed. Mix 2 dr oxide of zinc with 6 dr lard. Apply a little of this once a day to heal it. If the cow is giving milk, use a milk tube to draw off the milk while under treatment.

FOUNDER—M. L.'s mare ate too much corn, got sick, then became very stiff, got a little better and then got worse again. This is a case of founder and it is likely that she will be always more or less stiff. Give ½ oz nitrate of potassium at a dose twice a day in a bran mash. Mix 2 dr cantharides with 1 oz lard, rub this around the coronets, let it remain on 24 hours, then wash off and turn out to pasture for the summer.

SCOURS—A. S. M.'s cows have the scours. Change the food and give each 1 dr of sulphuric acid and ½ dr sulphate of iron in a small mash or a quart of starch gruel at a dose three times a day until cured.

FUNERAL EXPENSES—J. L. C., N. Y.: A debt for funeral expenses is a preferred claim against an estate. If a man knowingly makes a false statement to a commercial agency and afterward buys goods from one relying on such statement, he may thereby lay himself open to criminal prosecution.

EXEMPTIONS FOR DEBT—D. A. E., Me.: A single woman has the same exemptions as to attachment for debt as has anybody else. The list of exemptions in Me is too long to publish here, but includes wearing apparel, necessary household furniture, \$150 worth of books, fuel, food supplies, tools of trade, one pair of working cattle, or one pair horses or mules, two swine, one cow, 10 sheep, \$50 worth of domestic fowls and \$500 worth of land, if the required certificate is filed in the registry of deeds, making it a homestead.

PREFERRED DEBT—X. Y., N. Y.: If an administrator squanders an estate and doesn't pay the preferred debts and a relative pays for the cemetery lot, does that relative thereby make himself liable for the preferred debts? Of course not. A married woman of full age and sound mind may devise her separate real or personal property by will without the husband's consent in the following states: Vt. Ct. Ohio. Ind. Wis. Minn. Neb. Va. Cal. Nev. N. D. S. D. Mont. Wyo. Utah, Ala. Miss, Fla. La, Ariz and D. C.

Talks with Our Lawyer.

Questions for Our Legal Adviser are answered in turn, but on account of the large number of queries received it is often some weeks before replies can be printed. In case an immediate answer by mail is desired, \$1 should be inclosed. Subscribers to eastern edition should address the Springfield Office, western edition readers, Marquette Building, Chicago. Gardner & Burns, 916-918 Marquette building, Chicago, have charge of western edition legal inquiries; for the eastern edition Charles H. Beckwith, Esq., of Springfield, Mass.

Caution: Subscribers in asking questions regarding the distribution of estates should state all the facts and circumstances. If real estate is involved, where it is situated, etc. A question like this: "How much of her husband's property does a wife hold?" cannot be fully answered in this column, as the law varies according to the facts, and the whole law is too long to be printed in full, and hence our answer may be misleading.

THE WAR REVENUE ACT OF 1898 provides that no telegraph company shall transmit a message without affixing a stamp. E. D. S. of N. Y. says a telegraph school has a line four miles long for the practice of its students, but serves the public at 2c a message. He wants to know if they must stamp their messages. Probably the courts would hold that they must.

BARN HAY TRACK—Mich Reader: A track for horse fork in a barn would probably be considered a portion of the barn, and as such is a fixture. If G has sold the farm to A, he would have no right to remove the track.

WATER RIGHTS—A. S., N. Y.: A land owner cannot close a water course running over his land, to the damage of other riparian owners. If he does, such persons may break down the obstruction or sue him for damages.

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