

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS.
Miscellaneous.

ENGINE MANUFACTURERS.

Could you tell me some different places where threshing engines are built?

SUBSCRIBER.

Ans.—Write Geo. White & Son, London; Sawyer & Massey Co., Hamilton; Waterloo Engine Works, Brantford.

SELF-STERILE GRAPEVINE.

Have grapevine seven years old, set in clay loam, in sunny place, few feet from fence. It has good, thrifty growth and plenty of blossoms every year, which shrivel up. This year and one other, it grew two or three grapes. Have fertilized with liquid manure and carcasses. Leeds Co. CONSTANT READER.

Ans.—Many varieties of grapes are more or less self-sterile, that is, they do not produce pollen which is potent to fertilize their own blossoms, hence produce little or no fruit. You do not mention the variety of your vine, but it is quite probable that it is one of the self-sterile varieties. The remedy would, of course, be to plant somewhere near it one or two other varieties, which are likely to furnish pollen for fertilization.

H. L. HUTT.

Ontario Agricultural College.

BUILDING SOCIETIES.

I have been told there are building societies in Canada through which farmers can put up their buildings; kindly let me know of some of the names of those societies through your valuable paper.

Peterboro Co., Ont. SUBSCRIBER.

Ans.—In the Province of Ontario what were formerly known as building societies under the act of 1877, are now classed with others under the title of Loan Corporations. They are loan companies, and willing to loan on good security, such as real-estate mortgage. The old building societies loaned with the privilege of repayment in monthly or other instalments, but this privilege, we believe, can be secured from many regular loan companies, the current rate of interest amounting to about 5½ per cent. per annum. Many old building societies got into bad odor through overcharging borrowers who had signed papers agreeing to make payments the nature of which they did not comprehend.

THICKNESS OF STRAWBERRY MULCH.

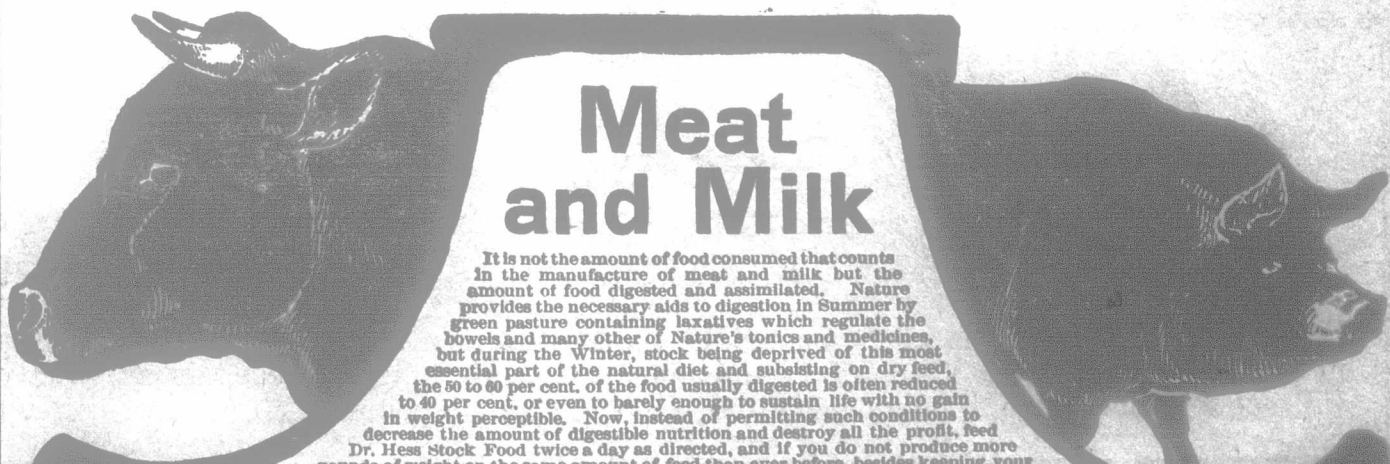
I have a quarter acre of strawberries, and covered them about three or four inches deep with pea straw. Some claim that I have them covered too thick. How thick should I cover them, and what is the benefit to the berry plants from covering them? A. M.

Ans.—Four inches of pea straw is a rather heavy covering for a locality where the snow lies long and deep, as pea straw packs closely. Three inches should be safe enough. The advantages of covering are the protection from severe winter freezing, and more particularly from the heaving of the soil, resulting from alternate freezing and thawing in early spring. Another benefit is that when the mulch is raked off the plants in spring and left in the intervening spaces, it prevents the soil from forming a crust, keeps down weeds, and assists more or less at picking time in keeping the berries clean.

AGE LIMIT OF COLTS.

Can a grade colt, foaled in October, 1902, show as a two-year-old in September, 1905, for a prize at a fair?

Ans.—It depends on the rules, or established custom, of the fair association. A rule of the Ottawa Exhibition reads: "The ages of horses and foals will be reckoned to first of January. All foals will be considered one year old on the first of January after birth." The Toronto Exhibition Association has no definite rule in its last prize list touching this, but their prizes for foals in their 1905 list are for foals of 1905, and while their prizes for older colts are for animals one, two and three years old, we presume they reckon from January first as in the case of foals. This is evident from the official catalogue of entries, which gives the year of birth of horses and colts, but not the month. Fair colts are so uncommon in this country that no provision seems to have been made for them in the prize lists of fairs, and in the absence of a rule to cover the case, we should say that when a colt is three years old it cannot properly be called a two-year-old.



Meat and Milk

It is not the amount of food consumed that counts in the manufacture of meat and milk but the amount of food digested and assimilated. Nature provides the necessary aids to digestion in Summer by green pasture containing laxatives which regulate the bowels and many other of Nature's tonics and medicines, but during the Winter, stock being deprived of this most essential part of the natural diet and subsisting on dry feed, the 50 to 60 per cent. of the food usually digested is often reduced to 40 per cent. or even to barely enough to sustain life with no gain in weight perceptible. Now, instead of permitting such conditions to decrease the amount of digestible nutrition and destroy all the profit, feed Dr. Hess Stock Food twice a day as directed, and if you do not produce more pounds of weight on the same amount of feed than ever before, besides keeping your animals free from disease, return the empty sack and your money will be refunded.

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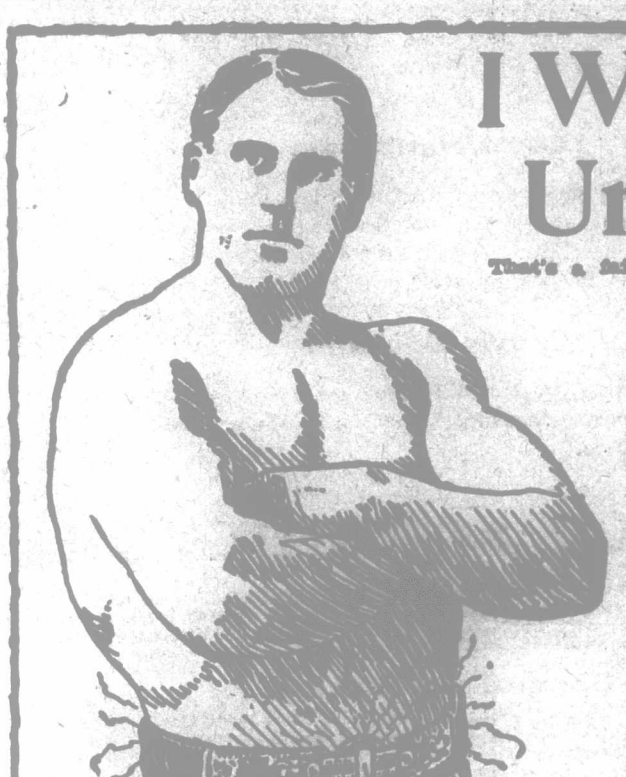
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