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QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS. Miscellaneous.

HOGPEN.

I would be pleased to have your opinion on the following: I purpose building a hogpen, 35 x 42, and implement-house over top. One side wall will be in bank, and I purpose making it stone or concrete; the other walls to be either studding, boarded, tar-papered and shingled, with about two or three feet of stone wall under, or else built of hollow cement blocks.

G. D.

Ans.—We cannot advise building a hogpen with even one side in the bank as proposed, although if the other three walls were built of studding, boarded, tar-papered and shingled, as proposed, and plenty of large windows were put in, and satisfactory ventilation provided, it would probably make a fairly-suitable pen. Use the frame walls rather than the cement blocks. Stone and cement are not suitable walls for a pigpen, except as foundation walls, extending not over three feet above the floor. Concrete is rather preferable to stone.

FEEDING QUERIES.

1. What is the feeding value of 90 pounds potatoes at 45c. a bag, compared with 45 pounds wheat bran at \$20 a ton?

2. Is there more advantages in feeding shorts rather than bran to milk cows, mixed half and half with ground oats?

3. What is the difference in feeding value between early-cut clover (July 1st) and timothy, fed to milk cows, calves, etc.?

E. P. L.

Ans.—1. This is a non-get-atable question. Potatoes and wheat bran represent opposite extremes in composition, potatoes being starchy, wheat bran rich in protein. The relative values will, therefore, depend largely upon what other feeds are being used. At 45c. a bag, potatoes would be much the dearer food, partly by reason of their watery composition, and partly because the starchy matter abounding in potatoes averages lower in price per unit than the nitrogenous matter which gives bran its high-feeding value. At the price quoted by our querist, potatoes cost 4c. a pound, and bran 1c. According to Henry, bran contains, per pound, about 14 times as much protein, and about three times as much of the carbohydrates and fat, as potatoes. In a ration where a food like bran was needed to balance the ration, potatoes would make an extremely poor substitute. In a ration not lacking in nitrogenous matter, potatoes might be worth about one-fourth or one-fifth as much per pound as wheat bran. For pig feeding, cooked potatoes, used as a part ration, have been found equivalent in certain experiments to about 3 1/4 pounds of mixed meal. Potatoes make a better substitute for corn meal and barley than for wheat bran.

2. Shorts are a little richer than bran in all the essential food elements, and are worth 10 or 15 per cent. more per pound for using with a feed like oats. Bran is, however, esteemed for its laxative and diluent properties, and for heavy meal rations, a small quantity might be considered worth almost as much as shorts. When much mill feed is used, it is well to use part bran and part shorts.

3. Much depends upon what is used with the roughage. Fed alone, good clover hay is very much better than timothy for calves and milking cows, having over twice as much protein (flesh, bone and muscle-builders), and over three-quarters as much carbohydrates and fat. For feeding young stock, therefore, the clover should be rated as worth at least 30 per cent. more per ton, from the mere standpoint of economy of gain. If the animals are being raised for breeders, the difference is greater, as clovered young animals will attain a greater size than those whose frames are stunted by a straight timothy diet. By using some bran and oil cake with the timothy, however, a great deal more value is derived from the hay, and such a ration answers fairly well. Good clover, alone, is worth as much as timothy with a fair bran allowance. It pays to make choice for the best of the available timothy.

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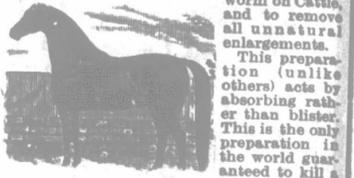
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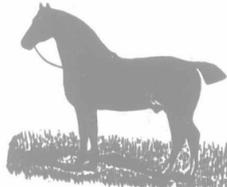
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