

Questions and Answers. Miscellaneous.

Poison in Feed.

If I buy feed from a local dealer, and it contains poisonous seeds or poison in any form ground up in it, so that it kills whatever I feed it to, have I any claim for damages, if so, who from, dealer or manufacturer?

Ontario.

R. L. B.

Ans.—Yes—from either or both.

Cows Chew Bones, Sticks and Rags.

My cows are apparently in good condition, but they chew sticks, papers, bones, rags and are decreasing in their milk flow, although the pasture is good. What causes them to do this? Please suggest a remedy.

J. S.

Ans.—In many cases cattle begin to chew bones, sticks, etc., on account of the craving in their system for mineral matter, such as salt, lime, phosphates, etc. Eventually this practice develops into a habit, which is hard to break off. In some districts where the soil is known to be deficient in lime and phosphates, cattle show marked evidences of this craving. The trouble can in many cases, however, be obviated by supplying liberal quantities of mineral matter, in the form of salt, hardwood ashes, lime and bone meal. If a supply of salt, lime and bone meal is made accessible to the cattle where they can eat from it at will, the trouble may be overcome. In winter feeding it is well to provide a balanced ration, containing a liberal supply of bran and clover hay.

Treating Oak Floors.

I would like to know, through your valuable paper, how to treat oak floors. Are oak floors likely to warp if the old floor is left below?

J. H.

Ans.—Well-seasoned oak flooring should not warp at all when laid on top of old flooring. The under floor should be well levelled before flooring with the oak. The new floor should first be thoroughly scraped, in order to make it smooth over every part. Small machines are available for this, but quite as good results can be obtained with the ordinary hand scraper, which one can procure at a hardware store. To do a good job, the floor should then be sand-papered, and gone over with steel wool. After this a filler is used which brings out the graining. This filler can be obtained at practically any hardware store or paint shop. It is put up in different colors, so one can have either a light or dark finishing. The purchaser would have to suit his own tastes in regard to this. Some floors are then varnished on top of the filler, while others are only waxed. Some are both varnished and waxed. We would advise you to consult your hardware dealer in regard to equipment for scraping and polishing the floor, and the materials to be applied.

Cows Have Cough.

My cows have had a cough for three months, but seem to be healthy. They drank water from a stagnant pool. Would this cause tuberculosis? Would milk from such cows be fit for use?

T. R. S.

Ans.—Under circumstances such as this, which point to tuberculosis, but do not give sufficient evidence upon which to base a definite diagnosis, it would be wise to either test the cattle for tuberculosis or have a veterinarian do so. Drinking from a stagnant pool, as a rule, would not cause tuberculosis, or engender the cough. The drinking from this pool may be merely incidental. For a good many years it has been believed that milk from tuberculous cows would carry the disease to infants and invalids, but the medical profession is now more suspicious of bovine tuberculosis and have greater fears of it being communicable to humans in general. If a tuberculin test shows the cows to be affected with tuberculosis, it would not be wise to use the milk without pasteurizing. If the cough is due to other causes, or to some slight disease which has not permeated the animal system, the milk ought to be safe to use. It is not a very difficult task to apply the tuberculin test, but we would advise, under these circumstances, that you engage the services of a veterinarian.



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