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PARTURIENT PARESIS

Disease More Commonly Known as Milk Fever.

Symptoms Described and Treatment Suggested—Nothing Should Be Administered by the Mouth—How to Treat the Udder and Teats.

(Contributed by Ontario Department of Agriculture, Toronto.)

PARTURIENT PARESIS, commonly, but improperly, called "milk fever" is a disease peculiar to breeding cows, and, as the name implies, appears at or near the time of parturition. In rare cases the symptoms have been noticed shortly before the appearance of labor pains, in some cases during the act of parturition, but in most cases not for a few hours or days after the young has been born. The exact cause and nature of the trouble, and the manner in which treatment acts, are still in comparative obscurity.

We know that it appears only in milk cows, and at or about the period of parturition, that it has never been noticed at or following the birth of the first calf, and very rarely the second; that cows that are heavy milkers or in gross condition, or both, are particularly susceptible, but it is occasionally met with in a poor milker or an animal in low condition.

Symptoms.—Shortly before, at, or in a variable time (say a few hours to three days) after parturition, the cows becomes uneasy, neglects her calf, stamps her feet, whisks her tail, and the eyes have a glassy appearance. She sways, has not proper control of her limbs, lies or falls down, may or may not be able to rise, goes down again. This may occur a few times, until she becomes unable to rise. She usually assumes one of two positions: her side to the ground, with limbs and head outstretched, or on her sternum, with the head thrown backwards and the muzzle resting on the flank. There are few cases in which either one or the other of these positions are not observed. The temperature is subnormal in all completed cases, hence the term "milk fever" is not correct. More or less well marked coma is noted. In many cases she is apparently dead, except that breathing can be noticed, in many cases a sonorous breathing. She is insensible to surroundings and insensitive to pain. In some cases the development of the symptoms is very quick, while in others slow, and in some cases the extreme symptoms are not noticed. She may retain a degree of power of action and sensation.

Treatment.—It has been demonstrated that a full udder tends to prevent the disease. Hence it is good practice to allow the calf to remain with the dam for at least three days, as it will nurse frequently and a little at a time, never leaving the udder without considerable milk. When, for any reason this cannot be done, the milk should simulate nature as near as possible, by milking frequently, but very little at a time for three days. It is also good practice to reduce the animal's milk producing food for a few days before parturition is expected.

Curative Treatment.—We wish to particularly emphasize the fact that on no account, and under no circumstances, should any attempt be made to administer anything whatever by the mouth. Even in the very early stages of the disease, the patient loses the power to swallow; hence, if fluids be introduced into the mouth some of it will almost surely pass down the windpipe and cause death by suffocation in a few minutes, or set up mechanical bronchitis, which will probably cause death in a few days.

We have stated that "a full udder tends to prevent," "now we say that "a distended udder tends to cure." Inflation with oxygen gas or sterilized air is easier and less liable to cause complications than distension with fluids. The use of gas demands the possession of a tank of compressed pure oxygen gas, and special apparatus. Outfits for inflating with sterilized air can be purchased from dealers in veterinary instruments for from \$2 to \$3, and where neither can be obtained an ordinary bicycle pump with a teat syphon attached may be used, but complications from the introduction of septic material are more liable than when gas or sterilized air is used.

The udder and teats must be thoroughly washed with an antiseptic such as a 5 per cent. solution of one of the coal tar antiseptics, the hands of the operator and the instruments also sterilized. All milk is drawn off, as its presence interferes more or less with inflation. The syphon is introduced into a teat, and all the gas or air that the quarter will hold is forced in, and the teat then tied tightly with tape to prevent escape of it. Each quarter is inflated and the teat tied. The udder is then well massaged every hour until the cow rises to her feet, which is usually in from one half to two hours. The tapes should be removed in at most two hours. If not on her feet in at most six hours the udder should

be re-inflated, and should be given some easily digested food, or a reasonable amount of her usual food, and all the water she will take. If the weather be cold, the chill should be removed from the water and the cow kept as comfortable as possible. She should not be milked at all for 24 hours after inflation, and for the second twenty-four hours she should be milked frequently, but very little drawn at a time. Forty-eight hours after inflation she should be milked and attended to in the ordinary manner.—Dr. J. H. Reed, O. H. A. College, Guelph.

Shade is important for all classes of stock.

SWEET POTATOES.

Carefully Handled Crop Will Pay Well.

Sweet potatoes deserve as careful handling as apples. In fact, they will not stand the rough handling that apples are often subjected to in grading and packing. This statement may surprise many sweet potato growers who are not in the habit of taking pains to avoid bruising this product.

One of the chief barriers to the extension of sweet potato growing in this country is the inability of farmers to keep sweet potatoes in storage so that they can be placed on the market in winter when prices are good. Consequently most of the crop grown is consumed locally or sold at digging time when prices are low.

Specialists of the Department of Agriculture believe that if storage methods and principles were better understood far more sweet potatoes would be available for winter use. However, the success of the industry does not depend on careful handling alone. There are several serious field diseases, as this bulletin points out, the best known of which are black rot, stem rot and foot rot. The storage of sweet potatoes affected with black rot must necessarily result in heavy loss, since the disease spreads rapidly throughout the bins. Stem rot, on the other hand, does not produce any marked decay in storage, but it may open the way for storage rot organisms to enter the potato.

After sweet potatoes are dried off the surface moisture has dried off they should be carefully laid in containers holding about a bushel and hauled to a storage house. If the potatoes are to be stored in bins they should be poured carefully from the containers into the bins. There are some advantages in storing in crates rather than in bins. Crates permit



A Field of Sweet Potatoes, the Raising of Which Can Be Made Highly Profitable.

the free circulation of air among the potatoes, a condition which cannot be so readily obtained if they are piled in a bin. The crate has an added advantage in that by its use as many potatoes can be taken out for the market at any one time during the winter as are desired without disturbing the remainder. Sweet potatoes will not stand frequent handling, and for that reason it is unwise to disturb a pile or bin unless they are all marketed at the same time.

Potatoes intended for storage should be dug as late in the fall as is consistent with weather conditions. This is usually just preceding frost or after the first light frost. Frozen potatoes will not keep, and it is likely that a heavy frost will injure them to some extent. It is advisable after a heavy frost to cut the vines at once and dig. To wait too long may mean that in order to avoid freezes the potatoes must be dug during bad weather. After the potatoes are dug they should be left exposed long enough to dry on the surface moisture. On a bright day this would require but an hour or two. On a very hot day, however, it would be desirable to hurry the potatoes to the shade after their surfaces have been dried in the sun.

Children Cry FOR FLETCHER'S CASTORIA

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CONSTRUCTION OF A HOTBED.

Work should be Carried Out Early for Best Results.

Seeds of cabbage, cauliflower, tomatoes, egg plants, peppers, celery and lettuce, if sown in a hotbed early will produce good thrifty plants for setting out in the garden by the last of May or first of June.

A standard frame 9 feet by 6 feet, with three 3 x 6 feet sash, will produce enough plants for the average garden. A small bed covered by a single standard sash 3 x 6 feet will do if some extra cold frames are available, the frame being made to suit the sash. The frame should be one foot high at the south side or end, and slope upward so that the north side is six inches higher. This is to shed the rain and to catch more rays of sunlight. See that the sash fits snugly.

Protect the bed from cold winds. The south side of a shed or building, or even a board fence, is an ideal position. Place conveniently to permit of daily watering and attention.

Fresh horse manure is the best material for heating the bed. The manure should be well mixed by forking over at least twice, leaving it to stand in a heap until well heated. After two or three days place it in position for the bed. A pit may be made to hold the manure, but the usual practice is to build on top of the ground. In any case, a depth of one and one-half feet of manure should be used. This is best if put on in layers and well tramped down, making the bed at least two feet wider and longer than the frame. The frame is then placed in the centre and more manure heaped around the outside until even with the top of the frame. The sash may be put on now and left until the manure has become thoroughly heated, then four or six inches of some good, rich garden soil, with well-rotted manure in it, should be put on. The soil should be well worked down and raked fine before sowing the seed. The temperature of the soil should be below 80 degrees F. before the seeds are sown. Give careful attention to watering and ventilation. Watering when necessary should be done during the morning on bright days. The sash may be raised during warm, bright days.

HANDLING OF MALE LAMBS.

Docking and Castrating Will Pay Later On.

The importance of castrating all male lambs not intended for breeding purposes is being appreciated more and more each year. However, a visit to any of the larger market centres in the autumn will reveal the fact that there is still considerable neglect in this regard. Very few farmers would consider marketing their hogs and beef animals entire, and yet on these same farms no thought is given to castrating the lambs. Not only are buck lambs discounted in price, but they will not settle down and feed as contentedly as wethers.

When the lambs are from ten days to two weeks old is the best time to perform this operation. They are then strong enough to withstand the slight shock, and there will be less danger and suffering than if left later. Collect the lambs to be castrated in a pen by themselves, which is well bedded and clean.

The operator should make sure that his hands and the castrating knife are clean. The use of a few drops of carbolic acid or other disinfectant in the water is a safe precaution. The lower end of the scrotum should be cut off which will expose the testicles. These should be drawn out one at a time with the entire cord attached. The cord should not be cut off, but drawn out. The testicle of the young lamb is soft and pulpy and some difficulty may be experienced in pulling the testicle and cord with the fingers. Pinchers may be had which will perform the operation in a satisfactory manner. Another common method is for the operator to grasp the testicle with his teeth; in this way the cord can be drawn out without any danger of breaking. Those who have followed this method for some time are agreed that it is the safest and most satisfactory of any. It is well to apply some disinfectant after the operation. It will hasten healing and prevent any bad effects from dirt getting into the cut.—Bulletin 274, Ontario Department of Agriculture.

NEW STYLES

It is hinted that the hour glass figure is returning.

The newest silhouette in Paris is known as beetle.

Patik decoration for negligee is growing in favor.

Velour is one of the best materials for the one-piece suit.

A novelty is the lace petticoat, made in one with the pajamas.

Some of the earliest Palm Beach models will be in cottons.

Novelty weaves in tricolettes are being used for spring blouses.

For the spring trotteur the wool stripes and plaids will be pleasing.

Millinery flowers and fancies are used in draped effects on overblouses.

Knitted wool robes belong in the trunk being packed for a house party.

Stationery and Office Forms of all kinds at The Guide-Advocate.