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Laminitis or "Founder"

Laminitis, or "founder," as it is commonly called, is an inflammation of the sensitive or soft structures, the laminae, between the hoof and bones of the foot. The popular belief that founder is to an extent in the legs and chest is an error. The disease is in the feet, and those symptoms which make it appear as a stiffness in the legs and shoulders are but the natural results of soreness in the feet.

CAUSES OF FOUNDER

It is somewhat difficult to explain how those influences or causes which are known to produce founder bring about that condition, but observation shows clearly that an irritation of the digestive tract, or in fact, any extensive irritation of any mucous surface may produce an inflammation of the sensitive laminae of the feet; that is founder. Therefore founder may be produced by a change of feed or excessive feeding, a change of work or excessive work which results in exhaustion, large quantities of feed or water when warm or fatigued, sudden changes of temperature such as cooling too fast when sweating, and a long drive on hard roads, especially without shoes. Excessive purging or diarrhoea may also produce it. Founder also occasionally results from irritation of foaling, but this is not common.

There is no essential difference in the nature of the disease determined by the particular agent or condition which causes it. "Water founder," and that produced by over-feeding, concussion, or extreme fatigue are, in so far as the character of the disease is concerned, one and the same.

SYMPTOMS OF THE DISEASE

Founder may occur in the fore or hind feet or in both; but generally the fore feet are those affected. A stiffness and disinclination to move are perhaps the first symptoms noticed. The position in which the animal stands is characteristic. The fore feet will be placed well forward so that the weight will be borne by the heels, while the hind feet are brought well up under the body in order to take as much weight off the front feet as possible. This position gives a rather unsteady appearance to the animal and the hind feet are frequently shifted in order to maintain as steady a position as possible. From this fact founder is frequently mistaken by inexperienced persons for a disease of the kidneys. The body temperature is usually considerably increased; that is, there is fever—as it is generally expressed—due to the inflammation in the feet. As is usual in the first stages of inflammation, the pulse beat is increased in frequency and force. An increase of heat in the feet with a manifestation of pain when the hoofs are tapped with a hammer are, when taken with all the foregoing facts, sufficient evidence of founder.

When founder occurs in one foot, however, as it sometimes does, the diagnosis may be more difficult for the inexperienced. When it occurs only in the hind feet the position which the animal takes will not be different from that taken with founder in only both fore feet, but from different causes. The hind feet are brought well forward under the body, but for the purpose of throwing such little weight as is borne on them on the heels.

REMEDIAL MEASURES

Remove the shoes and apply moisture to the feet. The latter may be done by standing the animal in water five or six inches deep each day, several hours at a time, or by the application of a poultice of wheat bran or some such material, or by wrapping the feet with cloths and keeping them thoroughly saturated with water. The animal should always be encouraged to lie down and take the weight off his feet, which is beneficial. When this occurs a poultice of some sort must be used to apply moisture to the feet.

It may be applied by the use of a sack large enough to envelop the foot and hold sufficient of the poultice to retain the moisture for some time. This application of moisture to the feet should be continued until the severity of the inflammation and the lameness have subsided.

Unless the founder be due to excessive purgation, a quart of raw linseed oil should be given as a purgative. During the first 48 hours from 30 to 40 drops of tincture of aconite may be given every three or four hours. One ounce of nitrate of potash (saltpetre) should also be given three times a day in the feed or on the tongue. If the lameness continues after the acute symptoms have subsided, a rest of several weeks on a soft pasture and the application of a blister around the top of the hoof are recommended. The following mixture has been found useful as a blister: Red iodide of mercury, 1 part; lard, 4 parts; Creosote or cantharides, 4 parts. Apply around the top of the hoof except at the heels, and rub for 10 or 15 minutes. The animal should be tied so that it cannot get its mouth to the

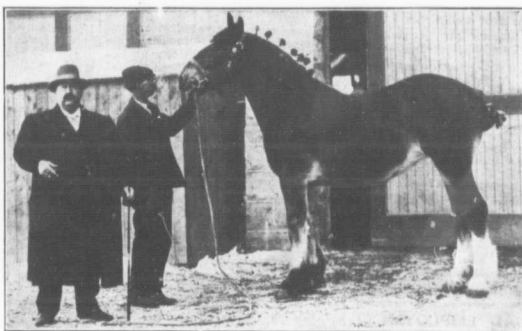
Instruction in Curing Pork

W. H. Tomhane, University Farm, Minn.

One's success in securing pork that is palatable, and that will be relished when it reaches the table, depends largely upon the method of curing it. All meat that is to go into the curing vessel must be thoroughly cooled before it is packed. It is also well to let it cool thoroughly before attempting to cut into convenient pieces, because it is firmer and can be cut into much smoother pieces than when it is warm.

Pork may be dry-salted, or cured in brine; the latter is the most desirable for average farm conditions, because it requires less attention and takes up less room. When pork is dry-cured it is necessary to re-handle the meat and rub it several times with the curing materials used. With the brine process, the meat is put in the vessel, the brine poured over it; and it will not be necessary to handle it again until it is ready to be taken out and smoked.

In cutting the pork, trim all parts smoothly,



A Prize Winning Clydesdale Mare in a County Special at Guelph

The Brant County special for the best horse of a draft breed, shown by an amateur exhibitor resident of the County of Brant, was awarded to Ira Baker, of Cainsville, who may be seen holding the prize winner. The well known auctioneer, Mr. Welby Almes, also appears in the picture. Photo taken for Farm and Dairy.

blistered part for several hours after the medicine has been applied.

In a majority of cases the above treatment will be followed by a good recovery, but an animal once foundered is probably more likely to suffer from a subsequent attack. If the lameness does not entirely disappear in a week or 10 days, it is seldom that a complete recovery takes place. In such cases the animal is likely to remain unfit for road work and to continue to show more or less soreness. These are the cases that are later said to have "chest founder," or "stove up in the shoulder," owing to the fact that the muscles of the chest waste from lack of exercise.

In some cases still more serious results follow an acute attack of founder. The inflammation may be so severe that there is separation between the hoof and structures, the formation of pus, and a descent of the central organs of the foot, which causes a bulging of the sole. In such cases, even though recovery takes place to such an extent that it is advisable to allow the animal to live, it is not fit for work and can only be used for breeding purposes.—"Yet."

Profit from Brood Mares.—The farmer who keeps two or three heavy brood mares, in addition to the horses usually required to work his farm, can by working them along with the others, put enough extra work on his land in July, August, and September (when land should be worked) to make it produce enough more to feed the mares and colts. He then has the proceeds of the sale of the colts as almost a net profit.—J. D. Truesdall, Leeds Co., Ont.

and remove all scraggy portions; as they can be used to advantage for sausage-meat while fresh, but are wasted if put through the curing process. In trimming the hams and shoulders, expose as little of the lean meat as is necessary, because the action of the salt while in process of curing will make the lean meat hard.

After all pieces of meat have been properly cooled and trimmed, take each piece separately and rub it all over with salt, and lay it aside for 24 hours. After the salt has been absorbed, pack it into a vessel—syrup barrel or any kind of a barrel that has been properly cleaned. Pack the meat in tightly, putting the hams and shoulders at the bottom. Weigh out, for each 100 pounds of meat, 10 pounds of salt, four pounds of brown sugar and two ounces of saltpetre. Dissolve this in four gallons of lolling water. Stir it well, so that all the salt and sugar will be dissolved. Let it stand until cool, and then pour over the meat. This amount of water should be sufficient to well cover the meat in the vessel. Put a round wooden cover over the top, and weight it down with a stone, so as to keep all the meat under the brine, but if not sufficient brine, add enough to cover the meat. Put the vessel away in some cool place, and let it stand for from six to eight weeks, when the meat will be ready to be taken out of the brine and smoked or used. It may be left in the brine for a longer time if desired.

The use of sugar in brine keeps the lean meat from getting hard, and also adds a sweet flavor to the meat. The small amount of saltpetre is used to retain the natural color of the meat.