

Bloat Prevention and Treatment

Suggestions by Dr. M. H. Reynolds

There is no absolutely sure prevention for bloat, but it can usually be avoided by careful management. It is much less likely to occur when cattle or sheep are turned out to a new pasture or given new hay of any kind if they are turned out at once after a hearty meal of the dry feeds to which they are accustomed, and not when the green feed is wet with dew or rain. After the animals have become accustomed to a pasture or forage, they are much safer if they can be let there continuously instead of being taken off and put back after several hours.

Every farmer who has cattle or sheep should have a trocar and know how to use it. Tapping is a very simple and a reasonably safe operation. There is nothing to it except to thrust the trocar through the left flank and into the paunch high up and well forward. When an animal is bloated enough to call for this treatment, the paunch fills the entire cavity in this region and nothing else could be struck in the place indicated. The trocar, which is simply a large needle, is withdrawn and the tube left in place. Medicine may be given through the tube directly into the paunch.

If the case is urgent, tap at once and then call a competent veterinarian. Sheep must be treated very promptly, as they are likely to die quickly when bloated.

If veterinary help is not quickly available, give aromatic ammonia and turpentine, one ounce each, in a pint of skim-milk, every half hour if necessary to a total of six doses, then a pound of salts and three tablepoonsful of ginger in three pints of water. Keep the animal off feed for several hours after the acute trouble has disappeared.

A promising and comparatively new treatment is formaline solution, about a tablepoonful in a quart of skim-milk for a cow and in proportion to weight for a sheep, given either by the mouth as a drench or through the trocar tube by means of a funnel and rubber tube directly into the paunch.

High Prices for Farm Products

But Are the Prices Too High?

SOME urbanites who know little about the farm and the difficulties and hard work with which the farmer and his family have to contend in raising crops and live stock are complaining about the high cost of food. They are blaming the farmer and wanting a lower price fixed on the products which he sells. The question as to whether the farmer is getting too much for his wheat or other farm products is not a debatable one. He is not getting too much. He is only finally getting a fair return for his labor and investment. The prices of farm products are not higher on the average than the prices of manufactured products which the farmer has to buy. In fact, farm prices are exorbitant, it is due to our cumbersome and expensive methods of distribution and the result of manipulation and speculation on the part of dealers and middlemen and not because prices of farm products are too high.

The farmer has never received enough for his products. The general poverty of a large part of our farming country proves this. Farmers are more saving and economical in their living than any other class of people. They work harder and longer hours, as a rule, and yet, travel this whole country over and you will not see any great demonstration of wealth and luxury in the country, as may be found in any large city.

In so-called prosperous farming communities, the country homes are plain and unostentatious, and improvements though substantial are not extravagant, indicating only a careful, thrifty, hard working people. In the less favored sections, abandoned farms, decaying buildings, rotten fences and brush-covered fields speak louder than any words can as to whether there has been sufficient profit in raising wheat or other farm crops in comparison with the profit in other lines of industry.

We hope that conditions have changed permanently and that the farmer will henceforth receive a fair reward and profit; but even with the present high prices of farm products, it is not possible for

farmers to compete with other industries for labor, because the farmer has no assurance as to what his crop will be, and has no assurance of what price he will receive for his product after it is produced. Other industries can afford to pay the present high wages for labor because they know what they will produce and the price they will get for their products. The problem of securing sufficient competent farm labor to maintain and increase farm production, at a reasonable price which the farmer can stand, is a serious one, and no good solution has been offered for this difficulty other than to replace hand labor for the most part with machinery and mechanical power.—E. B. I. C.

His First Alfalfa Success

He Had a Flood To Thank For It

By L. Graber in "Country Gentleman."

HERE'S a case which proves the old adage that "It is all wind that blows no good." A damaging flood turned failing attempts at growing alfalfa on this man's farm into ultimate success. In Southwestern Wisconsin there are many little streams tributary to the great Mississippi River. Strange as it may seem, an overflow of one of these started a fire and at the same time started a farmer right with alfalfa. I'll tell it just as he explained it to me.

"Well, sir, I was pretty much discouraged with alfalfa until a year ago," he said. "In fact, it was the big dip that really got me started on the right road. See this fine field of fifteen acres? For two years I failed absolutely with alfalfa on this very piece of ground, and now it looks to me like two tons to the acre for the first cut. I probably threw away \$300 on my first two attempts just because I didn't know how and didn't make the trouble to find out.

"Our alfalfa always came up nicely, and in fall and early spring it would look very promising. But in May the blizzard stuff would turn yellow, stop growing, and weeds soon got the best of it. My third man said it had the jaundice, and I guess he was right! I never knew what was wrong till I read about this liming business.

"It finally dawned on me that perhaps my soil was too sour; yet I couldn't understand why a soil that would produce seventy-five bushels of corn to the acre would not grow good alfalfa. But when we had the big flood a year ago the water got so high that it broke into the warehouse where a carload of fresh lime was stored. In slaking it heated so hot the building burned to the ground. Well, I bought all



Should the Silo Be Roofed?

In an article below, Mr. W. C. Shearer, of Oxford Co., Ont., shows how new concrete silos is illustrated herewith. It will be possible to put a roof on his silo. That the roof on Mr. Shearer's silo adds to its appearance cannot be gainsaid.—Photo by an Editor of Farm and Dairy.

"When it comes to using lime," I ventured, "Trug's Soil Acidity Test is a little more scientific and less expensive than the flood method! It tells you how to make alfalfa a success."

"That's right," he said. "It took two failures and a flood to get me into the lime game. If I had had this soil tested at the outset I would have been growing big crops of alfalfa for the last three years. I'll know better next time."

"In this day and age we farmers cannot afford to learn by experience alone. It costs too much in time, labor and money. The tuition is too high, especially when all these newer ideas have already been worked out in scientific tests by our experiment stations.

"But let me say this: It takes more than dry beltings to get these facts into operation. Even a flood would not convince some."

A Cement Silo and Its Cost

A Talk With W. C. Shearer, Oxford, Co., Ont.

THROUGHOUT the more northerly sections of Oxford County and up in Waterloo the big whitewashed cement silos add a very distinctive touch to the landscape. This is one of the few sections in Ontario, visited by the editors of Farm and Dairy, where whitewash is used liberally on the silos. The silo on the farm of Mr. W. C. Shearer in the former county is typical of the silos of the district. It is five feet inside diameter and 49 feet high. The foundation walls are two feet thick. The walls of the silo proper are nine inches at the base, tapering to six inches at the top. It is plastered inside with a mortar of two parts builders' sand and one part cement. Outside it is whitewashed with a pure cement wash. The work was contracted for at \$2.75 a foot. Mr. Shearer paid for the cement, drew the gravel and he shared the rest. He says that every silo in this county. His total cash expenditures were \$225, with an additional \$75 for the roof.

The roof, as the illustration will show, adds decidedly to the appearance of this silo, and is of a type that adds considerably to the capacity of the silo, the steep pitch allowing of the silage to be tramped thoroughly right to the top of the cement walls, and then allowing of a considerable space to be blown full of silage to take up the settling. The roof covers the east of the lumber, shingles, lath and paint. "I believe that every silo in this county should have a roof on it," says Mr. Shearer. "It prevents freezing to a large extent. One of our neighbors, for instance, has a cement silo similar to ours but minus the roof. In the coldest winter the silage froze over the whole surface and they were feeding frozen silage for weeks at a time. There was not even any sign of freezing in our silo in the milder winter weather and even in the coldest weather the silage did not freeze anything like as much as in a neighboring unroofed silo."

A two and one-half foot tile carries the drainage from the bottom to Mr. Shearer's silo, connecting with a field tile.



Wanted, a Mechanical Hay Loader that will also Handle Sheaves.

that waste lime and ashes for five dollars, and hauled it out and spread it. Covered the whole field with about three tons to the acre, but we ran out of lime down in this corner.

"You can see just where I put the lime and just where I didn't. Where we ran out of lime the weeds have run out the sickly alfalfa. This yellow growth in the corner looks just like the whole field did with my first two failures."

It was one of the clearest demonstrations of the importance and necessity of lime for successful alfalfa growing on sour soils I had ever seen. In the corner where no lime had been applied the alfalfa was thin to appearance, yellow, sickly, woody and only six or eight inches high. The rich green alfalfa on the balance of the field receiving lime was over two feet high. The difference was visible for a distance of one-half mile. I tested the unlimed soil with the Trug Soil Acidity Tester and it gave a sour reaction, showing lime requirement of three tons to the acre. The limed portion tested neutral, as the acidity had been counteracted by the lime

EVERY breeder who is desirous to select feed for a separate class of cows, for instance, is neither ignorant of the principles of the rationing of rations, nor does he come more familiarly with his cows and his available feeds, nor does he guide to the feed and thus enable a good live stock farmer to master the art of experience. Who has learned by experience. The principles of selection are passed down from father to son, and the produce wonderful eye of the master development of mind. Let no one think feeding has been regarded by the preserve their implementing their it will be possible world has even kept a lifetime in the

These newer principles of the chemist, will determine the kind that each contains tion expert who gives these feed materials determine how much needed by the findings have all basis, and by rather to determine the and the amounts of feeds that ply these requirements

Food Nutrients a Function.

All feeds are composed of a large number of chemical compounds, or elements, and compounds of the elemental composition.

It is the supply of normal life, are termed nutrients. Protein hydrates and fat principal nutrients considered in connection, although matter, water and equally as important proper nourishment.

Protein—This is used to designate the nutrients considered in connection with nitrogen which may be either in the feeds or body of the animal milk produced. The protein is used to repair its muscles, its tissues, skin, hair, etc., and to carry out life processes. It is the most valuable nutrient. The portion can be digested is "digestible protein." Carbohydrates—"Carbohydrates" is designate a group of elements that includes partly the starches and sugars. They are most extensively found in such as corn, hominy and peas, and are used as animal as a source of energy and as fatty tissue.

Fats—Another group of nutrients, commonly called "fats," includes oils. These are made up of the same elements as the hydrates and perform the same function animal body. However,