

The Feeders' Corner

The Feeders' Corner is for the use of our subscribers. Any interested are invited to ask questions or send items of interest. All questions will receive prompt attention.

Fodder for B.C. Horses and Cattle

I have a homestead on the foothills: one part is well watered, the other is gravelly, and I am desirous of growing fodder for horses and cattle. Would you kindly tell me what you think the most profitable to grow?—H. W. T., Canoe P.O., Ont.

As forage crops available for conditions as described, I would suggest alfalfa, red clover, timothy and western rye grass. If it is desired to get crops the first year then a mixture of peas and oats would be advisable. Sow at the rate of four bushels per acre of a mixture of equal parts by weight. To seed down to any of the grasses mentioned through preparation of the soil is necessary. If at present in pasture or sod it would not be advisable to attempt seeding this year unless the soil can be done very early in the spring. If plowing can be done early and it is not absolutely necessary to utilize every bit of land for forage growth this year, then it would be well to cultivate thoroughly a small area of the land till some time in July, then sow alfalfa seed 20 lbs. to the acre. Harrow and roll and leave till the alfalfa begins to blossom when it should be cut and left on the field.

The best plan would be to grow mixed crops in 1910. Sow timothy, western rye and red clover along with grain on part of land which could or would cut first. On part intended to be left till ripe or nearly so, do not sow any grass seed, but work the land after harvest, keep it clean and sow alfalfa alone the next spring.—J.H.G.

Linseed in Calf Feeding

In the feeding of calves it is found that linseed meal or crushed linseed added to skim or separated milk is one of the safest and most economical substitutes for the abstracted milk fat. Linseed approaches more nearly in composition to the solids of milk than any other food, and the oil which it contains, to the extent of 34 to 38 per cent, is easily digestible. There is, however, a risk in buying any grain or seed in the form of a meal, as it is difficult to detect impurities when the material is sold in this condition.

One of the commonest adulterants of linseed meal is ground linseed cake. The latter does not contain more than one-sixth to one-third of the oil in pure linseed, and the relatively larger amount of fibre in it renders it unsuitable for giving to young calves as a substitute for milk fat. Again the meal of almost any cereal grain can be mixed with linseed meal in fairly large proportions. Before the substitution is likely to be detected. The object of such admixture is at once apparent, in that linseed cake and cereal meals cost, roughly, about one-third the price of genuine linseed. The risk would be obviated by purchasing whole linseed and having it ground at home, but the objection to this is the necessity of grinding, and the time and space involved in the usual method will used on the farm.

Whole linseed would be fed for at least one year. During the next week the chances will be that the skim milk should be gradually brought about. Substitute each day a regular proportion of skim milk for the same amount of whole milk withdrawn. The skim milk should be fed warm, from 90 to 100 degrees F. To replace the fat removed from the skim milk as well as to furnish additional protein, is now the duty of the linseed, mixed with the milk in the form of a jelly. This jelly should be added in small quantities at first,

and slowly increased. Begin with a dessert spoonful in each portion, and gradually increase until about a cupful is being fed night and morning to the three months old calf.

To prepare the jelly, boil or steep one pound of linseed in water almost boiling until a thick paste results.

Another method of preparation is to take a half-cup of ground linseed in a quart of water, and allow it to simmer just below the boiling point until a thick jelly is formed. It should be kept cool and sweet until fed.—The Dairy.

FARM MANAGEMENT

Queries About Alfalfa

I have read a lot about alfalfa in the dairy papers, and have decided to ask you a few questions about it.

1. What kind of soil is the best for it?
2. How many pounds to sow to the acre?
3. Do they ever timothy or red clover with it?
4. What time to sow it? How is the best way to sow it? I was going to sow it with oats.—W. C., Leeds Co., Ont.

1. Alfalfa will do well on any kind of soil rich in plant food and in good tilth provided there is good drainage and water does not stand on the surface for more than four or five hours at a stretch at any time of the year.
2. Sow from 20 to 25 lbs. seed an acre. The heavier seeding should be followed when soil is not very rich or when seed is not very good.

3. Where it is intended to leave in alfalfa hay for any length of time, that is for more than a couple of years, it is better to sow no other clover or grass seed along with the alfalfa.

4. Where soil is rich, not too porous or dry, in perfect tilth it may be sown with a nurse crop, oats, barley or wheat. If soil is very dry, the land is dirty or weedy or not in very good tilth better cultivate till July, then sow alfalfa seed alone. Sow broadcast after harrowing grain, divide seed into two parts. Sow lengthwise and then crosswise, half each way. Harrow lightly and roll after seeding.—J. H. Grisdale.

Farm Manure

By far the large percentage of the plant food contained in manure is found in the liquid portion. It is especially rich in readily available nitrogen, containing a high percentage of potash, but is deficient in phosphoric acid. The nitrogen rapidly escapes into the air if special precautions are not taken to prevent its loss. When the liquid and solid portions of manure are mixed together, the one supplies the deficiencies of the other and a more nearly balanced ration for plants is secured.

Manure should be hauled out and spread upon the field at short intervals whenever practicable. When thus handled, the losses of valuable constituents need not be very great, but when the manure is stored for a considerable time the difficulties of preservation are greatly increased and losses are much more likely to occur.

Losses in manure result from two chief causes, fermentation, whereby nitrogen, either as ammonia or in the gaseous state, is set free and escapes into the air. Second, by leaching or leaching, which involves a loss of the fertilizing constituents. The loss from destructive fermentation may be largely prevented by the use of proper absorbents and by keeping the manure moist and compact. Losses from leaching may be prevented by storage under cover or in water-tight pits.

When the urine is allowed to run to waste more than one-half of the manure value of the food, or 63 per cent, of the manure value of the solid and liquid manure is lost.—U. S. Bulletin.

To Handle Manure

Which is the best way to handle manure in winter, providing you have a manure spreader? Is it better to plow down or spread on top on a rather light soil?—C.W. Glen Elks, Ont.

On a light soil top work is best, if manure on top and working in with disc harrow. If horse power is scarce or likely to be scarce in the spring, better apply manure in winter. The loss of course not be true for every billy land. Under such conditions it would be better to haul out in spring.—J.H.G.

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