

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

Miscellaneous.

BARN PAINT AND STAIN.

1. Kindly publish a cheap barn paint.
2. A good and cheap roof stain for barn where paint is not used.

W. J. M.

Ans.—1. Oxide of iron and raw linseed oil.
2. Consult your local hardware or paint merchant.

CONTINUOUS OESTRUM — RETENTION OF AFTERBIRTH.

1. I have a cow that came in about two months ago. She came in season about ten days ago, and has continued ever since. What could I give her? I would like to get her in calf, as I paid a big price for her.

2. I have another cow that aborted at eight months, and she did not clean, or the afterbirth did not come. I thought she was all right as there was nothing visible, but now she casts very often a sort of bloody matter, which has an offensive smell. It would be impossible to operate. We do not use the milk. What can I give her? She strains a good deal.

S. M.

Ans.—1. Animals which show continuous oestrus sometimes have disease of the ovaries, for which nothing can be done. In some cases, oestrus ceases after the animal has been bred. Medical treatment has no effect.

2. Retention of the placenta is far more common in cases of premature birth or contagious abortion. Under no circumstances should the afterbirth be left longer than 24 hours after calving. If it does not come away, it should be removed by the oiled hand. Left to decay away, it is poisonous to the animal's system and dangerous to the attendant who seeks to remove it. You say it is impossible to operate. Irrigate the genital passages with a solution of one of the coal-tar products. Give 25 drops of carbolic acid at a time three times a day in a pint or more of water, or in feed, and never allow a cow to go in this state again, as it is dangerous for animals and the attendants.

FORFEITURE OF LEASE.

Two years ago Miss D. made an agreement with Mr. R. to let her orchard and land contained in the field for a certain sum for five years. In the lease one clause reads: "The said lessee will, during the said term, cultivate, till, manure, and employ such parts of the premises as are now or shall be brought under cultivation in a good, husbandmanlike and proper manner, so as not to impoverish, depreciate or injure the soil, and will protect and preserve all orchard, fruit, shade, and ornamental trees on said premises from waste, injury or destruction, and will carefully prune and care for all such trees as often as they may require, and will not suffer or permit any horses, cattle, or sheep, to have access to the orchard or said premises." For two years the agreement has been adhered to, but owing to an illness which, in all probability, has unfitted him for any business during the rest of his life, the orchard has not received any care up to the present this year.

1. Can his sons take the apples this year?
2. Can Miss D. break the agreement? The rent falls due 30th November, when the crop is all shipped. The sons do not seem to be desirable tenants, consequently it seems wiser to break the lease if possible, as quietly as one may.

INQUIRER.

Ans.—1. Yes, on his behalf, and assuming that at the time for picking the apples the lease is still subsisting.

2. The indenture of lease probably contains, also, a proviso for re-entry by the lessor, Miss D., on non-performance of covenants—of which the clause you quote is one. The tenant's failure to care for the orchard trees so far this year, amounts to a breach of the covenant mentioned. But the landlady could hardly, under the circumstances stated, re-enter upon the premises and treat the lease as effectively broken without first giving the tenant, himself, a clear warning, in writing, that the trees must be attended to, and that his persisting in the neglect of them would be treated strictly as a breach of covenant and an annulment accordingly of the lease.

STABLE PLAN.

Would you kindly give, in your paper, if you do such things, a plan for horse stable. The building is 28 x 30, with 8-inch wall. I want a harness-room.

R. R.

Ans.—It is not possible to give a plan unless you give us some idea of the size of harness-room and the number of horses you wish to keep. As it is now late for laying plans for this year's building, would advise you to see other stables and consult your contractor.

COW CHEWS BONES.

I have a cow that is poor in flesh. She was fed the same as any other winter or spring, and has always been fat until about two months ago, when she began losing in flesh. Last week I noticed her chewing bones whenever she could find them. Can you tell me the cause, and what is good to give her?

J. H. H.

Ans.—Bone-chewing in cows is believed to be induced, in the first place, by a deficiency of some mineral element in the food, most probably phosphoric acid. It gradually becomes a habit. Give the cow a rich nitrogenous diet, clover, alfalfa and bran, all the salt she will eat, and one ounce of phosphate of lime in a pint of cold water as a drench once daily, or in a little bran. Wood ashes are believed to have a beneficial effect. An application of bone meal or Thomas' phosphate to the pasture has been known to check the craving.

THIN HORSES.

1. We have a horse that is running at the nose. He has no cough, but is failing in flesh. Would you give cause and treatment is some of your issues?

2. We also have an old horse that is very thin. Would you please tell us what would be a good ration for him?

W. W. S.

Ans.—1. This is likely due to a cold, or distemper, and as there is no cough, a tonic may serve to recuperate him; also allow him to have good pasture, and feed on grain. See that his teeth are all right. Give 6 ounces each of sulphate of iron, gentian, nux vomica, ginger, and bicarbonate of soda, mixed into 48 powders. Give a purgative of 8 drams aloes and 2 drams ginger. Feed bran only until purgation commences, and after the bowels have regained their normal condition, give a powder every night and morning.

2. Get his teeth attended to. He, too, may need a tonic. Pasture grass is good. Feed on bran and chopped oats, and, where necessary, cut hay.

GRAPE VINE.

Could you give, through your valuable paper, a few brief instructions regarding the culture of the grape vine? Does it require much water or little? Our vine for two years has supported the fruit up till about a month before ripening, when nearly all the grapes dry up, leaving only about one-tenth of crop to ripen properly. What is the cause and remedy?

P. W. J.

Ans.—Grape vines should be set about 10 feet apart, and trellised. A good trellis is made of wire nailed to cedar posts. Two systems of pruning or training are followed. One, known as the Fuller system, for cold climates, where the vines are laid down in the winter, and which consists of the following: The first year the cane is cut back to within a foot of the ground; the second year two of the upper buds are allowed to grow, which are trained along the lower wire. These are cut back and form the permanent arms from which new canes are produced and cut back each year. The other system, the Kniffen system, is as follows: At time of planting, only a couple of buds are left. At the end of the first year it is again cut back to two buds, and the next year the stronger one is left. This forms the permanent part of the vine. Four arms are trained from this the next year, and it is cut back yearly. Give clean, thorough cultivation from early spring until midsummer, after which the vines should mature their wood for winter. Fertilize well. It should not need more water than the rain, although in very dry seasons it might be benefited by additional moisture. Keep free from disease and insect. The cause of loss of crop is likely due to insects or disease, or perhaps to poor methods of cultivation, or poor soil.



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