

## INTERESTING AGRICULTURAL FEATURES FOR OUR COUNTRY READERS

STOCK  
BLIND STAGGERS  
OF HORSES

Facts from Bulletin issued by Kansas Experiment Station.

In a bulletin of the Kansas station, T. H. Haslam gives a brief summary of investigations of the disease of horses known as staggers, blind staggers, and staggers. This disease has occurred in outbreaks of great or less severity in many sections of the United States, Canada, Texas, Louisiana, North Carolina, Delaware, Arkansas, Kentucky, and Missouri.

The first symptoms of the disease, as described by Mayo, are usually a refusal of food and a desire for water, often accompanied by some difficulty in swallowing.

Following this there is dullness and drooping of the ears, partial or complete loss of consciousness, delirium, and death, or in a few cases, recovery. Some cases become violent, running over fences, through fences, and over the sides of the stalls. Animals suffering from this form of staggers are irritable and should not be approached with caution. If the animal does not die in the course of the disease, it usually recovers in a few days. The disease is usually quiet or "sleepy staggers," but in some cases it is violent. It is usually accompanied by a fever, and the animal is usually found in a circle, either to the right or left, depending on which side of the brain the disease is located. The disease is not contagious and attacks no animals except horses, mules, and asses.

A severe outbreak of the disease in Kansas was investigated by Mayo at the Kansas station in 1901 with a view of ascertaining the cause of the disease. The conclusion was reached that the disease was caused by a virus which had been introduced into the state by a horse from the West. The disease was found to be a new one, and it was found that it was not contagious and attacks no animals except horses, mules, and asses.

At the Royal Agricultural College, England, experiments have recently been made with beet molasses as a food for milch cows in comparison with mangels. A ration of chaff, hay, cakes, etc., was given to all the cows, lot A consisting of 35 pounds of mangels and lot B 4 1/2 pounds of sugar beet molasses. The results were as follows: Lot A gained 100 pounds, lot B 120 pounds. The cows in lot B were also found to be more healthy and more productive than those in lot A.

It is stated that there are few authentic records of cases occurring in Kansas with horses which had not been fed on corn, although in other states severe losses of horses have occurred when the grass in the pastures became moldy.

From a practical point of view the relation between corn and staggers has been quite thoroughly demonstrated. The question naturally arises, which of the micro-organisms present in the corn is the specific cause of the trouble, or whether a too exclusive corn diet or the immature corn possesses the injurious properties. These questions must still remain open, but the indications are that the cause of the trouble is contained in the moldy portions, as sound corn from the same bin was fed to more than a dozen horses and mules for months without producing any disorder.

Dr. Carlo Ceni, of Italy, and his pupils report that the molds are capable of producing staggers, but only at certain seasons of the year, and that in winter as well as in the middle of the summer they are entirely inactive. Another fact of interest is that the molds developed by M. Otto, of Germany, that while the extracts of two species (molds) obtained from Italy are very marked poisons, those from Germany possess little or no poisonous properties. The influence of the time of the year and the locality in which the disease occurs may perhaps explain why loss of stock does not always follow the use of moldy feed and why staggers has not been found in corn-growing districts.

"Veterinarians accustomed to treating this trouble usually cure a small majority of the cases treated, if the treatment is begun before the disease has progressed very far. (but) it is very evident that the best means of combating the disease is to prevent its occurrence. It is necessary to feed a poor grade of corn it should be shelled and thoroughly cleaned with a fanning mill. Very good results have been obtained by the so-called floating of corn before feeding, which consists in pouring it into water. The water, grain, being lighter, rises to the surface and may be skimmed off. Good results are reported by some who have ground the well-cleaned corn and mixed it with equal parts of hay and oats. As Mayo points out, no moldy, wormy, or decomposed corn or other food should be fed. "Corn that has been attacked by the green corn worm at the tip and that is moldy is especially dangerous."

## BEE FEEDING OF CATTLE

At the Royal Agricultural College, England, experiments have recently been made with beet molasses as a food for milch cows in comparison with mangels. A ration of chaff, hay, cakes, etc., was given to all the cows, lot A consisting of 35 pounds of mangels and lot B 4 1/2 pounds of sugar beet molasses. The results were as follows: Lot A gained 100 pounds, lot B 120 pounds. The cows in lot B were also found to be more healthy and more productive than those in lot A.

By substituting sugar beet molasses for manure food until the latter had been entirely eliminated. The result after two days' experiment was the emission by lot A of the same quantity of milk as formerly, and a gradual diminution in the quantity given out by lot B. The quality was retained, but apparently the cream from the cows taking beet molasses was not so easy to churn as that from lot A. The experimenters also noticed a gradual loss of flesh on the part of the cows in lot B, due probably to the animals' distaste of the beet molasses. Further experiments are to be conducted.

POULTRY  
SUCCESS WITH POULTRY

The essentials to success are good stock, good food, good houses, good care and good common sense. Good stock, pure bred, with strong constitutional vigor and with proper selection in breeding. Good houses, properly located, sensibly designed, well ventilated and conveniently arranged. Good feeds, skillfully fed and properly balanced. To make it plain to the school children, it was stated that a good feed was composed of five G's:

Grain, which is the food of the fowl. Greens—ground alfalfa, clover, cow peas, beets or cabbage.

Grubs—dry beet scrap, skim or butter-milk or meat food.

Gumption—the use of common sense in all your operations.

Good care was the fourth essential, a willingness to work and the ability to hatch and rear chickens. If any one fact was made plain than another it was that you must keep your house and premises absolutely clean, provide for sufficient ventilation, pure water and feed and an abundance of exercise. The fact was pointed out that the hen is healthiest and happiest and does best when she is at work. She is one of the few things in this life that loves to work, and is so modest that she never boasts of her accomplishments. She does what she can and she does it well.

While most farmers don't keep sufficient hens to make it profitable, keeping a few for their own family use, yet it is better to keep 100 hens and make a profit on them all than to attempt to keep 1,000 and lose the profit on all of them.

## BREAKING UP BROODINESS

Referring to a question regarding broodiness, I have never found anything that will prevent hens becoming broody. Doctoring their food or drinking water has no effect. I have, however, 3 methods of treating or handling them after they become broody which have been satisfactory results, and I will describe it as well as I can.

First, I make a swinging crate, the ends of which are solid and about 30 inches square. Plan to have the crate about four feet long making the bottom of lath

placed two inches apart, the sides of poultry netting and the top of a frame, or lid, covered with burlap, letting the burlap extend over front and back like a curtain. The hens are admitted to the crate by means of this top or lid. Then bore a good sized hole in each end piece a little above the centre and pass a stout pole through these holes, letting it extend a foot or two beyond the crate at each end. The crate is now ready to hang up, which I do by dropping the ends of the pole into two crooked supports of sufficient height to let the crate swing clear of the ground. Sometimes trees, or a tree and a fence post, are found to be located that they can conveniently be used for supports. Provision must be made for feeding and watering the hens, so I fasten an old can in one corner to hold water and a box for feed in another corner.

It is impossible for a hen to get into a nestling position upon the slats which form the bottom of the crate, and she soon becomes discouraged. After a tempestuous time she seeks the pole which passes through the crate, and she is able to pass it only when a hen has perched on the pole two nights I turn her out as cured and she is able to go to roost. She is nervous and very active, leaving herself up to the greatest possible pitch.

The pelvic bone test is a test which some have claimed as final and conclusive. Immediately below the tail at the end of side pieces of the back are two somewhat protuberances. These are called the pelvic or "egg" bones, and are just above the vent through which the eggs must pass. When an egg is laid, these bones must be forced apart to allow its free passage. When these bones are soft and pliable, and spread sufficient to allow three fingers to be placed between them, it is an indication that the hen is laying. If they are hard and bony, and close together, the hen would not be considered as laying at that time. Experience has shown that this method will usually tell whether or not a hen is laying at the time the examination was made.

TELLING WHICH HENS ARE LAYERS

The great question for the average poultry-keeper is how to weed out his non-layers. A little advice, gleaned from the Kansas State Agricultural College, may be useful along this line:

The first thing to notice concerning the shape is as to whether or not the hen is ready to lay. The body of the hen indicates a meat-producer, while the more rangy one indicates the production of eggs. Since the development of the egg, to a large extent, takes place in the region of the body below the broad part of the back, the body of the hen is a good indicator of the body of the hen. This gives to the body a V-shaped appearance as viewed from the top, and small part of the body is in heavy laying condition her abdomen is lower than the breastline. This gives the body the appearance of being V-shaped. When the hen is laying, the top and bottom lines, with the small part of the V towards the front. The enlargement of the body in the abdominal region makes the back appear more rounded, giving the body a V-shaped appearance from the back downward on the side as viewed from the rear. Thus, a hen in heavy laying condition has a large egg-shaped body.

A large hen usually lays the larger eggs. This rule may not hold true if she happens to be a heavy producer, for then

the tendency is to produce smaller eggs. With such fowls as the Leghorns, whose tendency is to lay smaller eggs, the selection should be for large size of body rather than small.

A good layer is longer in body, neck and a meat-producing hen. She stands up well and has a well-proportioned tail. Observation has shown that a pinched tail or a tail that is not generally as good a layer as a fan-tailed one.

The character of the head furnishings is an indication of the hen's laying condition. When a hen is in full laying her comb is full and bright red. Some Plymouth Rocks when laying have very long combs which indicate that the pinched tail or a tail that is not generally as good a layer as a fan-tailed one.

When hens are moulting they lose all their color in face and comb, and their combs become very small. When they are laying commences the comb enlarges and the color returns. Many instances have been noted with Leghorns and Minorcas which indicate that the birds with the largest and reddest combs are in heavy-laying condition. Exceptions to this rule sometimes occur, but they are rare.

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most economical engine for you is used. The machining and skilled workmen. Therefore, it is proved that it runs right and strong reputation because they are and powerful—giving satisfaction.

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ANCH ROUSES  
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WITH BROODING NEAR HORTON

Mr. Hendricks Perished Yesterday While Swimming in Kennebecasis

HIS BROTHER SAW IT

Seventeen-Year-Old Boy Started to Cross River to Bring Back a Boat Left on the Opposite Shore and Nearly Reached His Goal When He Went Down.

Hampton, N. B., Aug. 4.—A drowning occurred this morning by which Mr. Hendricks, seventeen years of age, son of Mr. and Mrs. Charles Hendricks, of the parish of Norton, lost his life in the Kennebecasis River, opposite his home.

Mr. Hendricks, accompanied by his younger brother, Reginald, went to the river to back a boat which had been taken yesterday by some farm hands and was on the northern bank. The river is about 100 feet wide at this point. Mr. Hendricks, who is a strong swimmer, stripped off his clothes and started to swim to the further bank. He had nearly reached the opposite shore when he was overtaken by a strong current and was carried down stream. He was seen by his brother, who was on the opposite shore, and he was seen to go under water. His brother saw him go down and he was seen to go under water. His brother saw him go down and he was seen to go under water.

Mr. Hendricks is an invalid with rheumatism, so the boy was dispatched to the west neighbor, William Ryder, and he was seen to go under water. His brother saw him go down and he was seen to go under water. His brother saw him go down and he was seen to go under water.

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THOSE HARBORS  
EXCURSIONS  
OF MIDDLEMEN

(Chatham Commercial.)

It is only within a few days that the papers, great and small, of this province were filled with "Back to New Brunswick" articles, setting forth how much better it was in the old country than the much-vaunted west, or under the friendly stars and stripes. But now these same papers are overflowing with glowing accounts of the great benefits to be derived from the west and pleading that many thousands of eastern young men will be needed to assist in carrying out that harvest; with the usual accompaniment of "where every prospect pleases" which the railway press agents are so adept at writing. EVERY AUTHENTIC REPORT WE HEAR OF THE GREAT BENEFITS TO BE DERIVED FROM THE WEST IS THAT A YOUNG MAN WITHOUT CAPITAL HAD BETTER BY FAR REMAIN IN THESE MARITIME PROVINCES. WHERE LIFE IS MUCH EASIER AND THE PROSPECTS OF THE FUTURE ARE MUCH MORE BRIGHT. THE NEWSPAPERS SHOULD HAVE EVIDENCE BACKED BY FACTS TO REFUTE THE CLAIMS OF THE WEST. THE MARITIME PROVINCES ARE FULL OF OPPORTUNITIES FOR TRANSPORTATION COMPANIES.

Native Sons Needed at Home.

(St. Andrew's Beacon.)

The railroads are advertising their westward rail road excursions to the west. We are as eager as anybody to encourage the development of our western lands, but we feel that the maritime provinces have already contributed their share to that object, and that instead of encouraging our young men to leave us, we should offer them every inducement to stay at home and help in the development of the home field. One native-born New Brunswicker is worth more to us than a dozen imported laborers.

Harvest Excursions and The Remedy.

(Moncton Transcript.)

Within a very few days the annual and organized crusade of the railway companies to transport the young men of the maritime provinces to the Canadian Northwest will commence. Our esteemed contemporary, The St. John Telegraph, leads off in an agitation against this movement. The problem is not quite so easy of solution as appears upon its face. As a people we take pride in the influx of immigration to our country but when the movement of population assumes the form of migration from the provinces by the sea to the west we object. Some twenty odd years ago the C. P. R. and the Manitoba government established a Central Agency in the city of Moncton and organized local committees in every part of the year round. Those who opposed the existence of such an organization in our midst and upon somewhat similar grounds to those taken by The Telegraph, were criticized as being unpatriotic.

Some people claim that newspapers should ignore the growth of the Northwest territories, and that the refusal of the province to act sensibly in preventing counteracting influences. If the newspapers were not able to present fairly attractive inducements for migration to the Northwest the people would not