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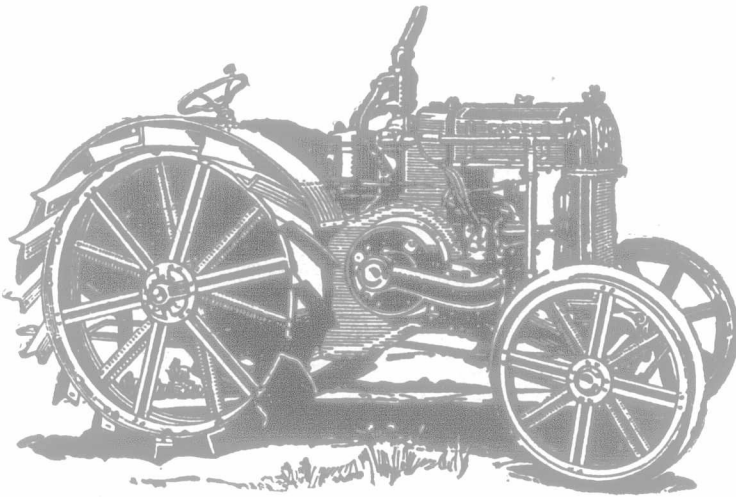
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Questions and Answers. Miscellaneous.

Gapes.

My hens started to breathe through their mouths and have a rattling noise in their throat. What is the cause and remedy?

G. S.

Ans.—The symptoms indicate gapes, which is caused by the presence of thin, thread-like, reddish-colored worms in the bronchial tubes. Sneezing and coughing usually accompany this trouble. Keep the troughs, drinking fountains and feeding ground clean; provide fresh runs, and use potassium permanganate in the drinking water. Dip a feather in turpentine and introduce into the trachea, or put a loop in a horse-hair and pass it down the windpipe, twist around and withdraw—the worms come with it.

Improving the Fowl.

What breeds of birds should I cross to produce Rose-combed Rhode Island Reds? I have a fine pen of Rose-combed pullets. How could I improve them and still keep the Rose-comb strain?

E. B.

Ans.—The Rhode Island Reds are natives of Rhode Island, in the United States, from which they derived their name. Native, European and Asiatic stock were used throughout the Eastern States, and the Reds were developed as the common fowls of the district. The red color was preserved and single-comb, rose-comb and pea-comb were common. Breeders have selected for single-comb and for rose-comb strains. By careful selection and mating the two strains have been perfected. An advertisement in our Poultry column would no doubt put you in touch with breeders who have rose-comb cockerels for sale.

Calf Meal.

What kind of meal, commercial or home-made, would you recommend for best results in feeding calves that are raised on separated milk? I notice many commercial calf meals mention feeding with water as a substitute for whole milk. I wish to use them with skim-milk. How would linseed meal, oil-cake meal, cornmeal or low-grade flour do as a substitute. Is it necessary to scald the meal when fed with warm, fresh separated milk?

G. A. W.

Ans.—Some of the commercial meals on the market give good results and while they may be fed with water, they will be considerably better if fed with skim-milk. It is well to scald them first, but they should first be stirred into cold water, and then the scalding water poured on so as to prevent the meal from going lumpy. A mixture of linseed meal, cornmeal and oats makes a very good concentrate ration for calves. The amount to use depends a good deal on the size of the calves, but at the rate of a half pint of meal to a young calf gives results. The amount might be increased as the calf gets older. The linseed meal, cornmeal and oats may be fed dry.

Spring Rye—Bees do not Store Honey.

Is it advisable to sow spring rye? When should it be sown? Is it advisable to seed down with such a crop?

2. For three years I have received no honey from several skips of bees, although conditions seem normal except scarcity of water in the vicinity during the summer. Would that be a serious detriment?

W. A. E.

Ans.—Spring rye will not give as heavy a yield as will some of the other spring grains. However, it is very often sown on light soil and gives a fair yield. Of course, the better the soil the larger the yield, as a rule. It may be sown as soon as the land is fit to get on. It is a very good crop to seed down with.

2. The following answer to a similar question was given by an authority on bees in the issue of November 21, 1918. Scarcity of running streams or watering-places is hardly likely to affect the bees. Assuming that the bees are receiving proper attention so that the colonies are strong and ready for the flow, there can be only two conditions which prevent the harvesting of the crop; the first is that the bloom may have been insufficient, and the second that the nectar secreting conditions in the soil may not have been present. There have been several instances where fields of alsike in full bloom were not yielding a drop of honey.

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