

# QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS. Miscellaneous.

## ALFALFA AS HOG PASTURE.

I would like to know, through your paper, if alfalfa is better than red clover for hogs as a pasture. I have a small field near the barn, and would be handy for hogs; it is nearly all middling high land. Would you advise sowing the alfalfa or red clover? Is it good for calves?

M. S.

Ans.—Alfalfa makes a much better hog pasture than red clover, producing richer and more appetizing feed, and usually lasting much longer, although if too close grazing is permitted this may not always prove to be the case. Properly cared for, on suitable soil, alfalfa should last for a number of years as a hog pasture. It is a perennial, whereas red clover is a biennial, with a slight tendency to perennial habit of growth. Sow the alfalfa, by all means. It makes better feed for calves than red clover, although there is a certain danger of bloating where cattle are grazed on alfalfa alone. In combination with grasses, it makes a safe pasture for ruminants. For hogs, it is better alone.

## HENS DYING.

Hens are taking a sore throat. The throat immediately below the ears swells up, and the feathers turn backward. The gullet seems filled. After considerable time they die. Would it be possible barley ends would be lodged in their throats? They have cement floor and all exercise they need.

N. S.

Ans.—The description of symptoms of an unusual and evidently fatal ailment is too vague and sparse to permit of correct determination. A lot of conjecture and guessing might certainly be indulged in. The most satisfactory way would have been to send a sick, but live, specimen to Dr. Higgins, Biological Laboratory, Experimental Farm, Ottawa, for examination, and report, and such can yet be done if there are any ailing birds. It may be said that death was evidently caused by suffocation, but whether suffocation was caused by canker, diphtheria, or roup, which may be classed as one and the same disease, or by the barley ends, examination, as suggested, would be a likely means of ascertaining. Again, it is noted that it was only after "considerable time" that the birds died. A fatal disease, such as diphtheria, would make great progress in a considerable time. Meanwhile, as a precautionary measure, disinfect the poultry house.

A. G. GILBERT.

## BARLEY AND FLAX—SEEDING FOR PASTURE.

1. I want to know if barley and flax would ripen together, as I want to sow a little flax with the barley.

2. How would orchard grass and red clover do for pasture, or how should they be mixed?

J. B.

Ans.—1. While the periods of growth of barley and flax are not dissimilar, an American authority stating that the latter commonly matures its seed in from two and a half to three months, yet this varies according to the types or varieties, and quite considerably according to the climate and region in which the crop is grown, also the depth at which the seed is planted, trials at the North Dakota Experiment Station having demonstrated that excessive depth of planting may cause delays of several weeks in ripening the seed crop. An objection to mixing flax with barley is that the proper date of seeding for flax is somewhat later than that of barley.

For this and other reasons it is recommended to grow the flax separately and mix the seed with the grain when grinding.

2. If it is permanent pasture that is wanted, we would strongly recommend the mixture suggested by Prof. C. A. Zavitz, of the O. A. C. If the pasture is desired for only a year or two, the orchard grass and red-clover combination might do fairly well, though we would add a little alsike clover, timothy and meadow fescue, and, if the land is high, some alfalfa. Try: red clover, 8 pounds; alsike, 2 pounds; orchard grass, 6 pounds; meadow fescue, 4 pounds, and timothy, 2 pounds. If the land is adjudged suitable for alfalfa, a few pounds of this seed might be added, and the clover seed proportionately reduced. It pays to introduce considerable variety when seeding down for pasture.

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QUIT worrying about how you're going to "give the boy a better chance in life than his father had." Let up wondering how you're going to manage to give him a start. Fix it so he can make his own start—and have fun doing it. He will stay on the farm if you go at it the right way.

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Any normal, healthy boy likes to "fool 'round" with live things—chickens for instance. Make him work at it, and he'll tire of it quick. But give him a little business of his own,—set him to raising chickens on his own hook,—and he won't let up till he makes a success of it.

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Nonpareil Archer, imp. Proud GR, imp.  
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Females. Imported and from imported stock in calf to these bulls.

An unsurpassed lot of yearling heifers.

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Young bulls from imported and home-bred Scotch cows, and got by such noted bulls as Derby (imp.), Spicy Broad-books (imp.) and Whitehall Ramsden. Priced for quick sale.

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