

Of Interest to Farmers

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palatable. To make a mash of this kind standard feedings is preferable to coarse bran and coarsely ground oats or alfalfa.

Many dealers do not carry the fine meat scraps in stock, but it can be obtained from them by special order at the same price as the coarse. When the feed dealer orders meat scraps the coarse product is sent unless the fine meat scraps is specified.

GIVE HARNESS PROPER CARE.

Neat's foot or castor oil or a mixture of these with wool grease is good for driving harness. For heavy harness use a mixture of any or all of those with wool grease to make a paste, having about the consistency of butter. Apply the grease lightly to working harness and liberally to work harness. Rub the oil or grease, warm to the hand, thoroughly into the leather while it is still damp from washing. After the harness has hung in a warm room overnight, remove with a clean dry cloth the excess of oil which the leather is unable to take up.

ROTTED VERSUS FRESH MANURE

There is no question but that rotted manure possesses advantages not held by fresh manure. It is a gain, however, that is achieved only at considerable loss. A ton of rotted manure may represent anywhere from a ton and a half to two tons of fresh manure, depending on how long the rotting has been going on. Since rotting cannot take place without a loss of fertility elements, it follows that the ton of rotted manure represents a waste of fertility equal to that held in from half a ton to a ton of fresh manure.

The place for manure to rot is not in the barnyard but under ground in the open field. In this way the loss which is always incidental to the handling of manure is reduced to the lowest point. The two sources of loss in manure which is exposed in the open yard are leaching and heating. Both of these are estimated when manure is taken directly to the fields either after every day or every few days—the oftener and more regularly the better. It is not necessary to plow it under at once, especially if a spreader is used in distributing it. Manure which is spread in a thin layer on the surface of the open field loses practically none of its fertility either by leaching or drought. It cannot heat, for the layer is too thin and direct sunlight kills the bacteria which cause heating. Fertility is not lost through leaching, for the soil absorbs all the plant-food that is washed out. If it dries out, it loses nothing but moisture.

SILAGE AS HORSE FEED.

It is good practice never to feed silage that is any way damaged or that shows a trace of mould and that includes silage fresh from the silo or exposed to the air.

Sound corn silage from the corn that was dented when cut, is an excellent adjunct feed for idle horses when fed along with good hay and bright corn stover. Stover silage irritates the bowels and kidneys and is especially injurious to pregnant mares and work horses. Silage may be considered unsuitable for stallions during the breeding season but may be allowed as a part of the ration during idleness. It is also excellent for growing colts, combined with legume hay, oats and wheat bran. Acid silage may injure the teeth. Sound, well-made silage has no such effect.

A most important matter in the feeding of silage to horses is gradually to accustom them to the feed. Too much of it fed suddenly causes scouring, or less severe forms of indigestion. Colic has followed sudden free feeding of silage. It is too bulky to make an ideal feed for a horse at hard work. He needs concentrated feed in small quantities frequently. Silage is therefore most suitable for idle, growing and fattening horses and a part ration along with legume hay and grain. — A.A.

WINTERING LIVESTOCK

Feed makes up the larger part of the cost in the production of livestock, therefore, it must be seen that the right amount of feed is being fed for the animal's requirements. It is not unusual in Canada for the winter and sometimes other stock bring more in the fall than in

the spring. The expense of wintering has not increased their market values, in such cases it is apparent that they have not been wintered properly, or at least not economically. It may prove unprofitable to winter certain animals for any one or more of certain reasons.

1—If sufficient feed of a suitable kind for the animal in question is not on the farm, it will seldom pay to winter other than the best breeding stock on purchased feeds.

2—If the animals are not properly cared for or have not the right kind of feeds, the wintering may prove unprofitable.

3—Feeds, if sold, may bring more money than when fed to livestock. This may result from high priced feeds, from improper feeding, unsuitable feeds, or from a treatment of the animals, even after deducting the cost of marketing the feeds and adding the value of the manure to that of the animals.

Lack of care and home grown feeds, or using unsuitable feeds are the most common causes of losses from wintering livestock.

Unless the manure and the livestock are worth more in the spring than the stock and the feeds are worth in the fall, there is loss from wintering.

There are exceptions: this rule, of course, in the case of breeding animals, and there may also be an exception with the man who has a large pasture area for which grazing stock are required in the spring. Even though the stock be not more valuable in the spring than in the fall the cost of loss from wintering may be so small as to make the stock cheap to put on the pastures in the spring. But one should consider carefully whether salable stock should be wintered. If suitable home grown feeds in abundance are not available it will seldom pay. The problem must be solved by each owner according to his individual conditions and the kind of stock and their future use.

TEETH TELL AGE OF SHEEP.

How can I determine the age of a sheep by the teeth?

R.K. Reply: A lamb has eight small first teeth, the age of which are replaced by two permanent teeth at the age of about two, the teeth on either side of these permanent teeth are also replaced by a permanent pair at the age of three, the next tooth on either side gives you the permanent tooth at about the age of four, the last or back teeth are replaced in like manner.

Briefly, then, a sheep with one pair of permanent teeth is a yearling; a sheep with two pairs is a two-year-old; with three pairs, a three-year-old; and with four pairs, a four-year-old. After a sheep is four years old, one cannot tell by the teeth about the age. However, one who is purchasing a sheep should see to it that it has lost any teeth, or that the teeth have not become long and shoe-peggy in appearance.

DRYING OFF COWS

It is advisable that every cow be dried off for a period of at least six weeks before calving. Just how to accomplish this is a puzzle to many beginners, and the following method has been advised:

Start eight weeks before the cow is to freshen. Milk her once a day for two or three days, then once in three milkings, then once in four. Some cows dry off more rapidly than others. If, for example, a cow is giving 15 pounds of milk a day and one milking is omitted, her yield will probably drop to 12 pounds at the next time of milking. Then milk once a day, until the yield drops to eleven lbs. a day, when but one milking may be done where three ordinarily would be the rule. This will cause in the average cow, if it is a cow persistent in milk secretion, without grain and meal, and if she is running on good grass pasture, she had better be fed dry roughage in the stable.

Camphor and belladonna have the effect of drying off milk secretion, if the usual plans fail, a mixture of one part fluid extract of belladonna leaves and three parts of camphorated oil should be rubbed upon the udder each night and morning. This should also be done in the most persistent cases.

fluid extract of belladonna leaves may also be given internally twice daily. One teaspoonful may be given at first, diluted with water, and the dose may then gradually be increased, if found necessary, until as much as two teaspoonfuls may be given in an emergency case. When a cow fails to shrink quickly in milk secretion despite dry feeding, long interval milking and external application of camphor and belladonna, or vinegar and water, it may be best to continue milking up to the time of calving. Better do that than run the risk of injuring the udder.

WORK FOR STANDARD WEIGHT

There is no greater stumbling block in the way of the breeder of high class standard poultry than the idea that the lack of a pound or two in weight is a matter of little consequence.

The bird that is underweight is deficient either in size or condition. If the deficiency is in size, breeding it with a specimen of standard weight offsets the multiplicity of underweight offspring, and breeding with an overweight specimen tends to multiply unsymmetrical offspring.

If the deficiency in weight is due to condition the bird is not in good breeding condition and breeding from it tends to poor offspring secured.

A bird may be of standard weight yet not of correct type; it cannot be correct type and be a pound under standard weight. Whoever thinks otherwise is mistaken, as he will find when he puts the smaller bird in direct comparison with one that has the type and is of standard weight.

A bird one pound underweight when in good condition may have surpassing color quality, but a bird underweight through lack of condition cannot. At the best it will lack "finish," and at the worst its plumage will be full of "holes."

FARM HOUSE PLANNING

A farmhouse is more difficult to plan than either a city or a suburban dwelling, because it must provide for so many needs. The city or suburban house is built by an outside place of business, and by the city or suburban market. The farmhouse on the other hand, must be not only a home, but also the business centre and to a limited extent the store and the market. This means that, planned as compactly as may be, a farmhouse is necessarily larger in floor area than a suburban house for the same family needs. Much years trying to dispel the imagination of the farmer, who imagines that a small house is a stomach disorder, as a help in serving meals, is a pastime between kitchen and dining room. Wherever there is direct communication between the two rooms, either through a slide door, through a single door, care should be taken to keep the vista slightly. A double slide would doubtless help to keep odors and noise away from the dining room.

STAMPING OUT TUBERCULOSIS AT ITS SOURCE

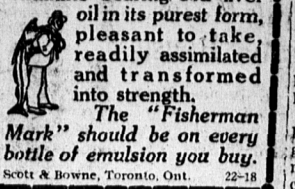
The Dominion Department of Agriculture has taken a further step towards the eradication of tuberculosis in cattle. By an Order in Council of December 11, 1921, it will be undertaken by the Department to restrict areas on the request of a provincial government, and to test cattle for the disease. The quarantine will be applied, insofar as bovine tuberculosis is concerned, under such conditions as will prevent contact with cattle from outside. Owners of cattle within the area will be required to assist the veterinary inspectors by collecting the cattle when required and by giving such help as may be reasonably demanded. Testing will be performed by accredited veterinarians and, as far as possible, compensation up to two-thirds the appraised value will be paid for such reactors as are destroyed. Provision is made for saving for breeding purpose valuable animals that react to the test. These, if the owner desires, may be segregated under what is known as the "Bang system," this being virtually a quarantine from which only the newly born calves are saved and returned to the healthy herd.

The Storrs Experiment Station reports on tests of varieties of corn for milk production as follows:

- 1—Late maturing varieties, under favorable conditions, yield decidedly outyield the early varieties both in total tonnage and dry matter.
- 2—The average daily milk yield per cow was 28, 23 and 29 lbs. respectively for the early medium and late varieties of corn, fed as corn silage.
- 3—The group of cows fed on an early variety of corn for silage, gained 17 pounds in live weight the medium group 2 pounds and the late group lost an average of 14 pounds live weight during the test.
- 4—The early group consumed 35.4 lbs. grain per 100 lbs. milk; the medium group 35.3 lbs., and the late group 39.8 lbs. The relatively high grain requirement per pound of production for all the groups is due to the small hay allowance.
- 5—The results show a saving of 100 lbs. of milk of 4.37 lbs. grain for the early group, as compared with the late group. Ton-

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SHRINKAGE IN STORED HAY. (Experimental Farms Note)

Almost every buyer of baled hay has felt either annoyed or elated at finding the actual weight of the bale that he has purchased either more or less than the tagged weight. Of course the popular opinion is that the actual weight of the bale is more often less than is more than the tagged weight.

There is some measure of truth in this contention but often no justice is being done which the person who buys a bale of hay which usually weighs a very few pounds less than the tagged weight that has been paid for.

Let us consider just what shrinkage consists of and when the greatest amount of it occurs. The making of hay from the freshly cut forage plants consists chiefly in the reduction of the moisture content from approximately 75 percent—75 percent, to from 12—12 percent.

When the newly cured hay is stored in the barn or stack it goes through a process that is generally termed "sweating" during which process still further moisture is lost. Of course we have other changes going on as well but the thing I wish to bring out is that shrinkage in weight during the whole process of curing hay consists almost entirely in the loss of water and not in food constituents. If only properly cured hay has been baled, no alarm or annoyance should be felt at a small variation from the original tagged weight. This variation in water and not food material and the bale has just as high feeding value as when first put up and weighed.

By properly cured hay is meant hay that has been properly handled previous to being put in the barn and has subsequently gone through the sweating process which is normally ended in about a month after storage.

WINTER MANAGEMENT OF BREEDING GEESSE.

The flock of breeding geese may be allowed to remain together and if managed properly may be carried all winter very economically. In the fall of the year they should be given some range and as long as grass and other vegetation is obtainable the breeders require very little grain. It is desirable by all means to give breeding geese as much range as possible. The best range is grass land or pasture, and low wet land along a creek running through it is almost ideal, although geese may be raised in the same pasture with horses and other stock, but per acre provides plenty of range.

Ordinary water for swimming purposes is not necessary although it is advisable during the breeding season. A natural water supply, such as a stream or pond, solves this idea. If the dairymen will keep the water problem except during the winter months, when fresh water should be supplied regularly, the winter water and withstanding do not need much very well and houses or shelter except in severe storms or when the snow or barn is quite sufficient. Providing there is plenty of fresh air, the house should be kept as clean and dry as possible, and this can be done by keeping the house bedded with straw, adding more as the old straw becomes soiled.

While most of the winter is obtained from the range during the summer and fall, it is necessary to feed the breeders during the winter months. The quantity of feed necessary depends upon the condition in which you wish to keep the geese when the breeding season approaches. They should be fed a little more liberally, if they are to make some form of roughage. On a mixture of the best feeds, as they are not too fattening, although a little corn, wheat or barley may be added to the ration to give variety. Feed the grain rather sparingly twice a day, and for the roughage part of the ration give vegetables or clover or alfalfa hay. Beets, mangels, or other crops are all good feeds.

About a month before you want the geese to commence laying, start feeding the breeders a little mash. This may be made up of parts of 2 shorts, 2 cornmeal and 2 beefscrap or good grade tankage. If skim-milk or buttermilk is available, this may be used for moistening the mash and the feed and feed it in the morning and keep it in the morning and evening during the winter season. Be sure that they have a liberal supply of clean water.

Geese, as a rule, are usually monogamous, although frequently one gander will mate with two or even three females. When once mated they usually stay mated permanently, so that matings are not usually changed from year to year, providing satisfactory results are obtained. Whenever new matings are necessary, however, it is

advisable to break up the matings in the fall and mate the new ones then so that the birds will be thoroughly accustomed to each other before the breeding season approaches.

Keeping in mind these general principles it will be seen that the management of breeding geese is not a difficult matter. They should be brought into good laying condition, so that the first goslings may be hatched when good pasture is available.—M. A. J.

WHAT THE COW NEEDS.

The statement is made that a hard milking cow is the hardest worked animal on the farm. Mastitis, eating, digesting, and assimilating the large quantities of both concentrate and roughage that she receives, entails a huge amount of work, so that the first goslings may be hatched when good pasture is available.—M. A. J.

WINTER FEEDING OF FLOCK OF SHEEP AND LAMHS.

If you have no roots to feed your breeding flock in winter you have no alternative but to feed ensilage in order to keep their cows in good condition. A sheep, however, must bear in mind that he cannot feed to pregnant ewes all at once. The quantity of ensilage that they would eat of cattle are not greatly affected either way by using ensilage made from green immature corn, or from ensilage made from ripe corn. It is different with sheep. For sheep feed, corn should be cut when it is fairly ripe, in order to prevent the formation of acid, which is a lot of trouble to sheep as it brings on colic, commonly called "stretches" and also causes scours.

For feeding ewes that weigh about 125 lbs. each, two pounds of ensilage is sufficient for each ewe daily during pregnancy. Large ewes, such as are found among the Oxford, Lincoln or Cotswolds, can stand a larger amount per head daily, but three pounds daily is the limit for any class of sheep. But a week or two after ewes have dropped their lambs, they may receive all the ensilage they will feed and the greater quantity of the ensilage given will be utilized in producing milk, the necessary feed for the lambs. Every precaution should be taken in frosty weather that no frozen silage be fed to sheep, and also no moldy feed, as either of these will cause abortion and death.

If ewes are coming into their winter quarters in good condition, 1/2 of a pound of a mixture of bran and oats—about 2 pounds of oats and 1 pound of bran—and 1/4 part of corn should keep the ewes in excellent condition before lambing. If, however, the ewes are thin, 1/2 of a pound of corn can be mixed with the bran and oats. If the ewes are all young and have sound teeth, shelled corn may be mixed with the bran and oats. If, however, some of them are old and have lost some of their teeth, it will be necessary to crack the corn. Good clover hay or alfalfa is essential, with some fine well-harvested oat straw for an occasional change.

From 12 to 13 square feet should be sufficient for the smaller breeds of sheep, and 14 to 16 square feet for floor space in the shed will be required for the largest types. Thus for 20 ewes of the largest breeds a shed 35 feet long and 12 feet wide will be required. Feeding troughs should be so constructed that no hay or chaff will have a chance to enter the necks, as this lowers the sale price of the wool. A trough made of boards, with a box at the bottom, serves very well



FOR THE PRINCE OF WALES' RANCH.

HERE'S the grand champion Shropshire ram bought for \$500 by the Prince of Wales at the recent International Live Stock Exposition, Chicago, for the "E. P. Ranch," covering about 3000 acres in Alberta, Canada, 60 miles south of Calgary, owned by the Prince of Wales, and which will be the future home of the great Shropshire sire. The Prince signs himself

"E. P." meaning "Edward Prince" and when he bought the ranch during his tour of Canada, he rode the range of his prairie "domain" beyond the seas, with the Alberta cowboys, decided that its proper moniker was "E. P. Ranch." Since then the Prince has sent a large flock of Shropshire sheep, Dartmoor ponies, thoroughbred fillies descended from Ormonde, St. Simon and Royal Oak and sheep-bull

and cows from his Cornwall, England, stock farm to the Alberta ranch, purchase of the Shropshire grand champion was made by the Prince's representative, Prof. W. L. Carlyle, of Calgary, who attended the Chicago Exposition in quest of the best Shropshire ram exhibited. This ram, which weighs 250 pounds, was exhibited by C. Andrews, West Point, Ind., a director of the International

cannot be separated from the rest, the next best thing is to cull it severely and then buy as many really good males as are needed. Next year use the same males, with such of the same hens as seem good enough to keep over, together with the best earliest pullets, and other year send back to the same breeder for new stock and follow out a similar programme calling up to the desired standard. If this way a high-producing flock can be maintained with the least work, and at a cost for breeding stock that is negligible compared with the increased productivity.

COW MAKES NEW RECORD

The Bridgford Holstein Company of California goes the honor of bringing out the first Holstein cow to produce 1,000 lbs. fat in each of two successive lactation periods.

The cow, a youngling named Daisy, recently finished a yearly record of 34,019 lbs. milk, containing 1,136.15 lbs. butter fat (142.8 lbs. butter), a record which ranks fourth among all Holstein records. Her previous record was 1,036 lbs. fat (129.5 lbs. butter) from 31,899 lbs. milk, making her two years' production, 66,207 lbs. milk and 2,172.24 lbs. butter fat (271.5 lbs. butter). The two records were made within a period of 26 months 21 days.

WASHING DAIRY UTENSILS

Mr. H. S. Avers of the United States Dairy Division says: "Utensils are often rinsed in lukewarm water with a little washing powder which will remove all of the more or less acid film of milk. Utensils cannot be satisfactorily washed in this way and should be thoroughly scrubbed with hot water and washing powder. When handling aluminum utensils, it is desirable that the washing powder contain no free alkali since this is likely to attack the aluminum.

TIME TO SELECT HENS FOR BREEDERS

The easiest and usually the best way to improve the average of an unselected farm stock is to first go over and select a few of the best hens and mate them with one or two good male birds bought from a breeder of whose reliability there is no question. If the breeding flock

is not separated from the rest, the next best thing is to cull it severely and then buy as many really good males as are needed. Next year use the same males, with such of the same hens as seem good enough to keep over, together with the best earliest pullets, and other year send back to the same breeder for new stock and follow out a similar programme calling up to the desired standard. If this way a high-producing flock can be maintained with the least work, and at a cost for breeding stock that is negligible compared with the increased productivity.

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