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Timely Farm Suggestions

By TAIT BUTLER

THE latest record made on Mississippi beef cattle at the National Stock Yards, Ill., is \$11.35 a hundred pounds or 10 cents a hundred above the previous record. This high record was reached by Joe J. King, of Tallahatchie County. The shipment numbered 20 head, weighing 1,091 pounds each.

WHEREVER there is alfalfa it should be used for the hogs this summer and where no alfalfa or clover is available crops should be grown as soon as possible to help out the pastures. Sorghum is not the best hog crop, but it grows rapidly and is much better than no green feed or a bare pasture.

THE turning under of green vegetable matter will not "sour" the soil. Weeds, legumes, or other plants may be turned under without fear of such injurious action. Crop failures follow the turning under of green crops, sometimes, but they also follow many other practices. When the crops fail, after a green crop has been turned under, the failure may be due to lack of moisture or a failure to cut up the green material and mix it with the soil, but it is not due to "souring" of the land. The acids formed by the decay of the green manures unite too quickly with materials in the soil to cause a sour soil to result from the comparatively slow decay of organic matter which takes place. An error of this sort, which has been so generally accepted by farmers for so long a time, is hard to correct; but we may as well shake off this time-honored fallacy about the turning under of green crops souring the land. It has done enough harm already and now that we know that it is very seldom or never true it should be dismissed and forgotten.

Horse "Off His Feed"

AHORSE is "off his feed" and his owner wants to know how he can "increase his appetite."

When a horse refuses to eat the usual allowance of feed he may do so because he is sick or because of disease, or he may not like the feed offered him. If he is sick the remedy must be fitted to the disease from which he is suffering. The loss of appetite in that case is not the trouble, but merely a symptom or sign of the real trouble. If, however, the refusal of feed is due to his dislike of the particular feed offered, two courses are open. The feed may be changed, or the animal may be starved until he will eat what is offered. If the latter course is followed, hard work should be discontinued until the animal has learned to eat a full ration of the feed given. It is a poor policy to try to force a horse that is doing hard work to eat feed he does not like.

But when a horse is said to be "off his feed" it is generally understood that he simply refuses to eat the usual amount of feeds which he formerly relished. To get such a horse back to his former condition of eating a full ration the best plan is to reduce the quantity to less than he would consume, no matter how small that quantity may be. If it becomes necessary, all feed may be withheld until he shows a return of his desire for feed. In any case, he should be fed less than he would be glad to consume. If such a horse refuses to eat his regular feed of say 10 ears of corn, but would eat four or five ears, then he should be fed only two or three

for a day or two and when he shows that his appetite has improved the quantity should only be increased a little, and a week or ten days, or longer if necessary, taken to get back to the full feed. It may be necessary to reduce the work if he regains his appetite slowly, but some work is a good appetizer and as much should be given as the feed consumed will justify. A little care along this line will usually get a horse back on his feed rather promptly. This plan is more effective and less troublesome than the giving of medicine; but if medicine must be given we have found one part of fluid extract of nuxvomica and two parts of fluid extract of gentian a good bitter tonic and stimulant to the appetite. Of this mixture from one (1) to two (2) teaspoonfuls may be given two or three times a day. It should be placed on the tongue with a spoon. If given an hour before he is fed the effect is probably better on the appetite, but if this is not convenient give after he has eaten. If given just before feeding it may interfere with his desire for feed, because it is very bitter. But the best method of sharpening the appetite of a horse is to give some exercise, withhold feed for a time and then give less than is wanted.

Reasonable Feeding of Cottonseed Meal Will Not Injure Horses

AREADER writes: "I have been told that cottonseed meal will injure the eyes of horses and even make them go blind. Is this so? If this is true, how much will it take to poison a horse? What do you think of the following ration for a horse doing medium work:

12 pounds corn
1.5 pounds cottonseed meal
12 pounds soy bean hay?"

Although we have been constantly looking for such a case for 20 years or more, we have never been able to find a single case where a reasonable allowance of cottonseed meal—say two pounds a day—has ever injured a horse in any way. If the horse received legume hay and a grain ration high in protein, the addition of cottonseed meal to the ration would not be of any advantage, and if given in large quantities it might be injurious, but with reasonable or common sense feeding cottonseed meal does not injure the eyes or any other part of a horse, and when the ration is largely corn or corn and grass hay it is a most excellent addition to the ration and will be extremely beneficial to the horse or mule fortunate enough to get it.

We do not know how much cottonseed meal it will take to poison a

horse, nor so far as we can find does any one else know this. We do know that some other animals, particularly the pig, is sometimes poisoned when cottonseed meal is fed for considerable periods, and, presumably, the horse might also be injured by feeding a large quantity, just as cattle are also sometimes injured by the over-feeding of this feeding stuff. But sufficient experimentation has not occurred to enable anyone, so far as we know, to state just how much cottonseed meal must be fed to poison a horse. Moreover, we are not particularly interested from a practical standpoint in this question. We are not interested to any great extent in knowing how much cottonseed meal can be fed a horse or mule without injury, for to balance a ration, or for economy in good common sense feeding, it is not necessary to feed over 1.5 to 2.5 pounds a day, and we have ample and conclusive evidence that such a quantity may be fed continuously for years without any injury to the horse or mule. Furthermore, we know that the feeding of such a quantity, to balance a ration, is not only good for the horse or mule, but also economical for the owner.

Now let us compare the digestible nutrients in the ration suggested with those in the generally accepted standard for a 1,000-pound horse doing moderately hard work:

	DIGESTIBLE NUTRIENTS			
	Dry Matter	Protein	Carbo- hydrates	Fat
12 lbs. corn...	10.84 lbs.	.90 lbs.	8.14 lbs.	.55 lbs.
1.5 lbs. cottonseed meal...	1.88 lbs.	.50 lbs.	.38 lbs.	.12 lbs.
12 lbs. soy bean hay...	10.97 lbs.	1.40 lbs.	4.80 lbs.	.14 lbs.
Total	23.69 lbs.	2.80 lbs.	13.32 lbs.	.81 lbs.
Standard for 1,000-pound horse doing moderately hard work.....	26.00 lbs.	2.50 lbs.	13.30 lbs.	.80 lbs.

It will be seen that the ration proposed by our inquirer is a pretty good one as compared with the standard. It has a little more protein than required and it is quite probable that 1 pound of cottonseed meal instead of 1.5 pounds would do about as well and possibly better; for if the horse does not need the extra half pound of cottonseed meal it is wasted and should not be given. One of the purposes in feeding a balanced ration is to avoid waste.

From these facts we may form the following rule for feeding cottonseed meal to horses and mules doing hard work and weighing 1,000 pounds:

When the balance of the grain ration is corn feed 1 pound of cottonseed meal a day, if the roughage is from legumes, and 2 pounds of cottonseed meal a day if the roughage is corn fodder or grass hay.

CURE OF LOVE

"I remember once," said Professor Grange, "hearing two very ordinary men, a bricklayer and a plumber, discuss love in a smoking car."
"I held," said the bricklayer, "that if you are terribly in love the way to cure yourself is to run away."
"The plumber shook his head and sneered. "That will cure you," he said, "provided you run away with the girl."—Butler.

PASTURE PROBLEMS

A Discussion of the Essential Factors in Getting and Keeping Good Pastures

AREADER in Madison County, Ala., says he has six acres of rich well drained land which he wishes to seed to pasture to remain for three or four years. He contemplates sowing orchard grass, herds grass, (red top) and a "sprinkling" of white clover, and wants to know if these will do well and how much seed will be required for the six acres?

On rich well drained land the orchard grass should do well. Redtop or herds grass requires considerable moisture, and if this six-acre plot is upland it may not afford much grazing after the spring months. The white clover is a very valuable pasture plant and a moderately heavy seeding is advisable. In addition to these, we would sow some lespedeza. This may be sowed next March without covering or disturbing the other plants sowed this fall.

For a good seeding of six acres something like the following amounts of seed will be required:

Orchard grass 6x15 = 90 pounds
Herdsgrass (Redtop)..... 6x6 = 36 pounds
White clover..... 6x4 = 24 pounds
Lespedeza 6x12 = 72 pounds

Few Southern dairymen have pastures good enough to allow them to cease feeding grain when the cows go on grass. Most of them reduce the quantity of concentrates, but find it profitable to continue some concentrates throughout the summer. It is generally accepted, however, that only extra good cows can make a profitable use of much grain or concentrates when the pasture is good and abundant. Moreover, there is no question but the cheapest milk and the most profitable is produced from cows on good pasture. So certain is this that the dairymen of the South ought to give more attention to their pastures. Even our best lands are comparatively cheap, and if milk and butter are to be produced economically some of our good lands should go into pastures for the dairy cows. When cows are on dry feed, or silage and dry feed, a common practice is to give one pound of grain for every three to four pounds of milk daily. If cottonseed meal forms a considerable part of the ration, one pound of grain to four pounds of milk should be more nearly correct, owing to the high feeding value of the meal.

For cows on good pasture, Eckles suggests the following rule:

For Jerseys and Guernseys

20 pounds milk daily... 3 pounds grain.
25 pounds milk daily... 4 pounds grain.
30 pounds milk daily... 5 pounds grain.
35 pounds milk daily... 6 pounds grain.
40 pounds milk daily... 7 pounds grain.

For Holsteins, Shorthorns and Ayrshires

25 pounds milk daily... 3 pounds grain.
30 pounds milk daily... 4 pounds grain.
35 pounds milk daily... 5 pounds grain.
40 pounds milk daily... 6 pounds grain.
50 pounds milk daily... 8 pounds grain.

As a general rule it is doubtful if a cow giving less than 20 pounds of milk daily should receive more than a pound or two of grain a day when on good pasture. This grain should be cottonseed meal in the case of the Southern dairymen.

There is, however, one other important point which should receive some consideration. Experiments seem to indicate clearly that cows fed grain during the summer do better or hold their flow better when put on the usual winter rations of dry feed, or silage and dry feed.

Southern dairymen must give more attention to good pastures as a means of reducing grain feeding and lowering the cost of milk production.

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