

AGRICULTURE

Producers' Information Service

(Conducted By Greenacre)

PRODUCERS who are puzzled by problems can get advice through "The Chronicle" Producers Information Service. Answers will appear in this column every week. Write to "Greenacre."

A MARE'S BRAND

Reader, Puntharic, writes:—I own an aged mare branded with a station brand the shape of which resembles the map of Australia. I have been told that it is a Crown Point brand (or a similar name). Is there at the present time such a or similar brand in existence? If so, would you give me further information through your column.

According to the brands directory the map of Australia brand belongs to Mr. A. L. Dunn of Ashbourne. The Crown Point Station brand is the well-known saddled.

PRESSED OATEN STRAW

"Straw," Koorings, asks:—(1) Is there any sale for pressed oat straw in S.A.? (2) Firms dealing in this commodity; (3) price a ton.

There is a limited demand for sheafed and baled oat straw worth about 22 7/8 a ton for truck lots at Mile-End. Write to the Farmers' Co-operative Union, Adelaide.

DUCK DISEASE

Mrs. S. Luhrmann, Gawler, writes:—I have a clutch of five ducks, seven weeks old. I do not know the breed, as I bought a setting of eggs from a shop; only five out of 12 came out. Three ducks are a light color and these, although healthy and good eaters, have something wrong with the points of their bills which seems dry and curling up at the point. They can eat mash, but cannot manage wheat. Would they be fit to eat?

Your ducks have a disease known as Soft Bill. It is seldom seen here. Feed on mash only. Do not give any wheat. Add plenty of chaffed greenfood to the mash. The birds will be fit to eat; they will never recover from the abnormality.

STRINGY BARK POSTS

"Stringybark," Ooonawarra, writes:—I am thinking of putting four stringy bark saplings, say 10 in. to 12 in. thick at bottom to support a water tank. Will you please tell me a means to preserve them. The soil is red loam on limestone. Would it be best to bolt them to four red gum posts? If preserved, how long about would they stand? (2) Is maize a good fodder for milking cows? I fancy it retards flow of milk.

Char the wood about an inch deep all round the timber to be sunk in the ground so that it is actually converted into charcoal. If you can get bigger saplings so much the better. Maize is an excellent green fodder for cows when cut at the succulent stage. It increases the milk flow.

MARE HAS LUMBAGO

"Worried," Mallala, writes:—I have a light mare which when taken out for a run, and let spell for about 10 minutes or a quarter of an hour, has a job to use her hindquarters until warmed up again. The lameness will last several days, and she can hardly walk about the stable. So far as I can detect it is in the rump.

Symptoms suggest that the mare is suffering from lumbago (azoturia), which is caused by overfeeding and insufficient exercise, in which case the main indications are coffee-colored urine and a hard condition of the muscles, especially on the rump and loins. For treatment give 1½ pints of raw linseed oil as a drench, and the following powder mixed with treacle and smeared on the tongue:—Powdered ammonium carbonate, two drams, potassium nitrate, two drams, powdered aloe vomica, two drams. If she is suffering much pain give 1 oz. of chloral hydrate in a pint of water and a little gum tragacanth. Feed on bran mash, green feed, steamed hay and carrots.

Mare's Swollen Leg

J.R.H., Hoveton, writes:—I have a nine-years-old mare which has an old scar on the off hind leg on the outside of the hock which every now and again, causes the leg to swell to an enormous size from the hock downwards. Although it goes down, it is always more than normal size. The mare is not lame, and is able to work, other than when the leg is exceptionally swollen. Could you advise me what treatment to apply, and if you think it possible to reduce the leg down to normal size.

From the description given the condition is a chronic one, probably due to an injury to the lymphatic vessels. When the swelling starts the animal should be rested and the leg fomented for 10 minutes at a time with hot water as often as possible, or the hose played on to it. You might try giving her ½ oz. of fused calcium chloride in a bottle of water as a drench twice a day for three days.

A Sick Heifer

Mrs. F. Field, Solomontown, writes:—What is wrong with my heifer? She calved about three months ago with twins, and has not been right since. She is always bent in the back and seems stiff in the forequarters a little, but lies down a lot; too much to suit me. I would like to know what to give her. She did not give her milk as she should do. I feed bran and chaff, hay, and lucern.

Your heifer may have been injured at the time of calving, but it is possible that she may be suffering from mineral deficiency, in which case try the following treatment:—At the outset give a drench of 1 lb. Glauber's salts, 1 oz. powdered ammonium carbonate, 2 oz. ginger, 1 lb. treacle, and two pints of water. Then in the feed twice daily give 2 oz. of a mixture of equal parts of superphosphate and common salt. The ration to be fed should be 4 lb. bran, ¼ lb. linseed meal, hay chaff (preferably oat), two kerosene tins; lucern, and as much grazing as she likes.

Cows Go Lame

P.P., Poonindie, writes:—I want a cure for cows that go lame. One's foot is swollen up to her second hind joint. She seems very stiff and has a job to walk about; seems very sore, and her nose is very dry some days. She mopes about and does not care to eat much.

Your description does not help me to decide what is the cause of the trouble, and it is impossible to recommend treatment without seeing her. The animal may have a wound between the claws, a sprained fetlock, or even a fracture.

Hard Lumps In Heifer's Teats

"Shorthorn," Bago's Well, writes:—I have a heifer that has been in about six weeks, and during the past fortnight several hard lumps about the size of a small pea have appeared in two of her teats. After milking for a few minutes there are signs of blood in the milk. Would be grateful of your advice, as the heifer is an excellent milker.

The hard lumps in the teats are due to inflammation of the lining membrane of the teat ducts. A metal milk tube should be obtained, thoroughly sterilised by placing in cold water and boiling for five minutes, and introduced into the affected teat. When milking, care should be taken to see that the hands, teats and udder are thoroughly cleaned. This should be done at every milking. Liquid perchloride of iron (one teaspoon) in a cup of water should be given three times a day for three days.

Bull Goes Blind

"Worried Cocky," Mercuria, writes:—We have a Jersey bull calf about three months old which has gone blind in both eyes for nearly three weeks. He is in fair condition, and is fed on separator milk and oatmeal chaff. The eyeballs look very big, and the star in the eyes is nearly as big as a marble, and with a very bluish color. We have tried its sight, but there is no sign of its being able to see. Can you tell us what is the cause of the blindness, and what treatment to give it? Similar cases have been reported to and investigated by the Government Veterinary Pathologist and other experts, but the reason for that condition is not known. No cattle affected have been known to recover their sight. Therefore it is suggested that the animal should be sold to the butchers.

Cow Goes Lame

"Anxious," Turner, writes:—I have a cow that has gone lame in the near-side hind leg, and seems to be getting worse. She gave two gallons of milk when she came in four months ago, and has since gone down to a gallon a day. Do you think her leg is causing it, as she has been on good feed since calving? I would be glad to know what to do for her. A painful lameness, such as a fracture, complicating the hip joint or pelvis, would cause a diminishing flow of milk. You do not give any symptoms, so that diagnosis cannot be made. If the lameness appears above the region of the knee joint rest is the only remedy.

BROKEN-WINDED GELDING

G. Cross writes:—I have a draught gelding which has had a severe cough for about two months. I have given it cough remedies, but it seems to be getting worse. If it is pulling it has to use its flanks as a bellows to get its breath. It is in good condition, and seems to be all right when not working. Would you advise isolating from other horses, as this is the second to get the same complaint within the last three months. Would you kindly advise what would be the best to do?

The animal is apparently suffering from broken wind, most probably induced by feeding on dusty fodder. There is no definite cure for the condition, but it can be alleviated by feeding small quantities of dampened and of moist feed, and, never before putting to work. One of the following powders could be given in the damped feed twice a day for six days:—White arsenic, 2½ grains, sulphate of iron, two drams, powdered gentian, two drams. This makes one powder. Obtain 24 of these from your chemist. Stop for three days, and then repeat.

PIGS WEAK ON LEGS

"O.F.," Koorings, writes:—I have some young pigs about six weeks old. They have lost the use of their hind quarters. They can stand on all their legs for a while, and then go down—I also have a milch cow, been in milk four months. When she starts to walk her hind leg will go out stiff for a while. When she is able to move her leg (about a minute) she walks along all right, but you never can tell when her leg will become stiff again. I would be obliged if you would advise me what to do.

The condition of the young pigs is what is known as paraplegia, which is often an indication of a diet deficiency. Try the following treatment. If possible feed on milk and a mixture of grains such as crushed barley (50 parts), crushed wheat (20 parts), pollard (20 parts), linseed meal (5 parts), and peas (5 parts), also give a teaspoon of cod liver oil. Keep in an open sty, and if possible feed with green lucern—a bundle a day.—The cow's symptoms suggest that she dislocates the patella or knee cap. For treatment, when the patella slips back into position tie the leg forward by means of a rope round the fetlock, over the back, and round under the neck. Then apply a blister (one part of biniodide of mercury and six parts of lard) to the affected joint.

Castor And Acacias

"Mallee," Tallim Bend, writes:—I have some castors which are gradually getting diseased. They have small green grubs on them. Would you kindly tell me what to do? I also have a row of acacia trees in front of the house; they are getting too big. Can they be clipped back as a hedge, and how?

Spray the castor trees with Black Leaf 40.—The acacias can be cut back as you desire in July or August.

Colds In Pullet's Eyes

"Worried," Gilles Plains, writes:—My Black Orpington pullet, aged three months, are troubled with a sickness which seems contagious. The symptoms are:—At first a white skin appears over one eye, which turns to hard white pus; eventually the other eye becomes affected, causing them to be blind. Apparently after several days the birds die from starvation. What is the disease, and could you advise the best treatment? If kerosene is added to drinking-water does it act as a disinfectant in this case?

This trouble is quite common at this time of the year, and is caused by colds in the eyes, the Government Poultry Expert (Mr. C. F. Anderson) says. The birds die from starvation because, being blind, they are unable to see the food. Mix a weak solution of Condy's crystals and dip the bird's head in two or three times. This should be done daily. Give each bird a teaspoon of olive oil with three drops of eucalyptus and kerosene added. Kerosene in the drinking water will prevent the trouble spreading.

Pullet's Combs Go Blue

"Poultry" writes:—I have 60 pure White Leghorn pullets, 5½ months old, which are starting to lay. What is the cause of their combs going blue on the tips? I have given them chopped-up onion since they were three weeks old. I hardly think it could be worms, because the pullets are in good condition. Could it be the liver? I never gave my pullets Epsom salts until they were four months old.

The Government Poultry Expert (Mr. Anderson) says he does not think the blue on the tip of the comb is an indication of worms. It is probably more due

MID-NORTHERN CROP COMPETITION

NABAWA WINNING VARIETY



The above are illustrations of the winning crop of "Nabawa" wheat in the Mid-Northern crop competition, grown by Messrs. Higgins Brothers, Georgetown.

The top picture shows a portion of the field being cut for hay, and the bottom, harvesting operations in progress.

On December 2 a cloud burst over the field, and 112 points of rain fell in less than an hour. This, as will be seen by the picture, badly damaged the crop, but, in spite of this unfortunate happening, a yield of 38 bushels to the acre was obtained, and the wheat weighed 65 lb. to the bushel.

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Student Of Roseworthy Uses College-Bred Grain

TRIUMPH FOR GOOD FARMING

THE champion wheat crop of the State this season was grown by Mr. A. M. Dawkins, of Gawler River, a former Roseworthy College student, whose entry consisted of the "Ford" wheat, a variety that was bred at the College. Second and third places were also filled by the same wheat, so that the competition can be accounted a triumph for the institution.

Mr. Dawkins, whose crop secured first place in the central district competition, and carried off the championship, is one of a family whose name has been associated with primary production in South Australia for nearly a century. His grandparents were among the earliest settlers in the State, arriving here in 1838 and 1839. They took up land on the Gawler River early in the 'forties, at 20/ an acre. This land eventually came into the possession of his father, the late Mr. S. L. Dawkins, and today, within a radius of a mile or two, his three sons, A. M., W. J., and H. J., are successful farmers and stud stock breeders on some of the land originally selected by their grandparents.

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to liver trouble than anything else. Add Epsom salts at the rate of an ounce to 20 birds once a week, either in the mash or in the drinking water.

Re-boring Tractor

"Re-bore," Brinkworth.—Let me know the make of the tractor.

REFRACTORY MARE

S. J. Bevis, Wudinna:—The symptoms exhibited by the mare are indicative of "heat." You did not say whether they occur at regular intervals. If continuous the animal might be suffering from chronic irritation of the genital passages, or may even have an ovarian disease. An examination should be made for any abnormality in the passage. If there is any discharge, irrigations with a mild antiseptic solution such as Condy's crystals of a light violet color, should be injected; otherwise give service.

welfare of the district in which they have lived, and the State as a whole, than this public-spirited citizen of Gawler. His services have always been freely given in assisting primary producers, and his work in connection with the Advisory Board of Agriculture, of which body he was for a period chairman, and the Agricultural Bureau movement, has earned the commendation of many Ministers of Agriculture, the admiration and respect of those who have been associated with him, and the gratitude of the man on the land. He is possessed of the same indomitable courage, honesty of purpose, and determination that characterised the early pioneers, and his success in winning the wheat crop championship will be hailed with delight by farmers throughout the State who admire him for his sincerity, thoroughness, and unassuming demeanor.

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In his report on this season's entries Mr. Spafford states:—"Although the wheat-growing season of 1931-32 proved a fair one, and much better than the droughty years which preceded it, the very low price of wheat and the general depression at the time of making entries in the district competitions, naturally affected the number of crops put before the judges. Despite these handicaps 16 districts conducted competitions, and 352 crops were inspected, and of these, 14 districts had crops good enough for inclusion in the championship crop competition."

The progress made in the Wheat Crop Competitions since 1924 is shown in the following figures:—1924, districts conducting competitions, 12; number of crops exhibited, 290; 1925, 13, 248; 1926, 17, 444; 1927, 19, 525; 1928, 22, 634; 1929, 21, 520; 1930, 19, 473; and 1931 18, 352.

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Referring to the champion crop, Mr. Spafford said:—"Although not the heaviest yielding crop submitted in the competition, this crop of Ford wheat was an exceptionally attractive 'competition' crop, in that it was a beautifully clean, heavy-yielding crop, almost free from weeds and diseases, nice and true to type, and even and regular. Of weeds a few wild oats and isolated plants of mustard, poppy, and sheep-weed were all that could be seen, and, except for odd plants affected with Flag Smut, no diseased plants were noticeable. There was to be seen a light sprinkling of Hugenot and two other varieties of wheat, but there was so little of these that the crop was still reasonably true-to-type. It was a well drilled crop, and although a few small patches were inclined to lodge, it was still even and regular."

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"Mr. Dawkins is to be congratulated on winning this coveted trophy," said Mr. Spafford, "and particularly so because his entry was obviously the result of good farming practices, and his success was attained against very strong competition."

Other Placed Crops

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FLINT'S MEDICATED OIL. 3/6

Cure Cuts on Horses, Cattle, Poultry. without leaving a mark. Most popular remedy for 55 years.

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"I always plough my land to a depth of five inches when fallowing," he said, "and then work it down with heavy chisel harrows. I put the cultivator over the land during October, and from then until seeding time run a light set of chisel harrows over it after every fall of rain. I sow 60 lb. of graded seed to the acre, and one cwt. of 48 per cent. superphosphate."

The area under crop last season was 230 acres, which included 20 acres of peas, 75 of Huguenot wheat, 15 of Sultan, 10 of Sword, 60 of Ford, and 50 of Nabawa. The crop of Ford that won the championship yielded 40 bushels to the acre, and the grain went 67 lb. to the bushel.

A great lover of the horse, Mr. Dawkins was indignant at the suggestion that he might use any other form of traction on the farm.

"No tractors for me!" he said. "I could never see how the use of mechanical traction on the farm could be profitable. Nearly all the money spent in the purchase and running of these machines goes out of the country."

The crop of Nabawa returned 30 bushels to the acre Sword yielded 42 bushels, and the Tuscan and Huguenot which are hay wheats and only a small portion of which was reaped for seed, showed 18 bushels. The last two mentioned wheats, which provided the hay crop, gave a return of more than three tons to the acre.

Picturesque Homestead

Situated on the banks of the Gawler River, in a picturesque setting of stately gums and drooping willows, and surrounded for many years by a beautiful orangery, the homestead was until recently, one of the show places of the lower north. Unfortunately during latter years disease has attacked the orange trees, and a number of these are now dead or dying, but the scene on the riverside is as beautiful as ever.

"It breaks my heart to walk down here now" said Mr. Dawkins, as he led a party of visitors through the orchard to the swimming pool on Tuesday. "I have taken thousands of cases of oranges from these trees in years gone by, and I always took such pride in showing the garden to my friends, but now everything is changed, and I am afraid that all the trees will be dead before long."

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true-to-type, and it had so much admixture that the loss of marks could not be made up by other features.

The field which carried this crop was in pasture in 1926, was fallowed the next year, then grew wheat, which was followed by oats, and was again fallowed in 1930. The fallow was ploughed in September, and cultivated in October, November and May. On May 28 the seeding was done with a combine, and the land was then immediately harrowed. At seeding, 70 lb of graded and "dry"-pickled seed was put in with 120 lb. superphosphate per acre.

Third Position

Third position went to Mr. G. F. Pearce, Maitland, and again Ford was the variety grown.

"This entry," said the judge, "won the Mid-Yorke Peninsula Crop Competition, and was a very attractive, heavy-yielding crop, which would have done well in any competition. There were some weeds in evidence, particularly a few patches of King Island Mellilot, a little mustard, a light sprinkling of wild oats, and odd plants of some other kinds. The crop was almost disease-free, only showing a few spots of red rust and an isolated plant or two affected with flag smut. There was just a light sprinkling of strangers in the crop, and, other than a lighter-yielding strip along one end, it was nice and even."

For the five years preceding this crop the block of land was under barley, fallow, wheat, pasture, and fallow. The land was ploughed at the end of July, skim-ploughed and harrowed in the first week in September, cultivated and harrowed in the middle of March, again skim-ploughed at the end of April, and cultivated and harrowed at the end of May. The seed was graded and "dry" pickled, and 90 lb. of seed and 150 lb. of 45 per cent. superphosphate was put in to the acre with a combine between June 2 and 7.