

# THE PROGRESSIVE FARMER.

THE INDUSTRIAL AND EDUCATIONAL INTERESTS OF OUR PEOPLE PARAMOUNT TO ALL OTHER CONSIDERATIONS OF STATE POLICY.

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## AGRICULTURE

### Do Cows Have "Hollow Horn," "Hollow Tail," or Lose Their Cuds?

Editor of The Progressive Farmer:

The following inquiry sent to The Progressive Farmer has been referred to me with the request for a general article on the subject:

"Is there anything in cows having 'hollow horns' and 'hollow tails'? Do they lose their cuds? If so, please give remedy for same; also give all the information you can concerning above-named diseases through The Progressive Farmer."

In reply to these questions of J. H. S., it may be briefly stated that "hollow tail," "hollow horn" and "loss of cud" are purely imaginary diseases, existing only in the minds of those not familiar with the normal and diseased conditions of cattle. A cow becomes sick. The cause and nature of the disease is naturally a mystery to those not educated in veterinary medicine. Being unfamiliar with natural, as well as diseased conditions, it is not strange that they often mistake the former for the latter, while the true seat and nature of the disease is entirely overlooked. The human mind is prone to seek an explanation for every condition, but a fiction satisfies as well as fact where thorough knowledge of the question is lacking.

For the last fifty years, at least, some of the brightest men of this and all other countries have spent their entire energies and abilities investigating and studying the diseases of cattle, but not one of them has yet announced the discovery of the existence of "hollow horn" and "hollow tail" as diseased conditions.

It is not denied that the frontal sinus, a cavity of the head with which the natural cavity of the horn communicates, may become diseased and the effects extend to the horn, but this is rare and is not "hollow horn." Likewise, the tail may receive a direct injury and show signs or disease, but this is also rare and is not "hollow tail" or "grub in the tail," as the imaginary disease is sometimes called.

Ninety per cent of those cases called "hollow horn" or "hollow tail," which the writer has seen, have been plain cases of indigestion or Texas fever (distemper); while the remaining ten per cent have usually been some one or another of many other

diseases equally well known to the veterinarian.

I am well aware that some reader will be ready with the reply that those who have had practical (?) experience with cattle know that these diseases do exist and that such is proved by the fact that when the animals are treated for these diseases they get well. I have merely this question to ask: Who is the more competent to judge of this matter, the stock-owner who sees possibly eight or ten sick cattle a year and does not possess that technical education necessary to enable him to understand the problems involved, or the trained veterinarian who sees several hundred cases during the same period? Whose experience is the most "practical?" Even a large stock-owner would not usually see as many cases in fifty years as many veterinarians see in one. This being the case, is it not strange that if these diseases really exist, outside of the minds of the laity, some veterinarian has not seen and recognized them?

But why do the cattle get well when treated for these diseases, and die if not? This is not entirely so. Many treated for these diseases die, while others not so treated get well. The explanation of the fact that cattle frequently get well when treated only for "hollow horn" or "hollow tail" is simple. They get well in spite of the treatment. In every animal organism there is a tendency to return to normal conditions, repair an injury, or get well if sick. Whether treated or not, many cases get well, and I regret to state, that as medicines are used to-day, in the treatment of live stock in this State, those not treated generally have the best chance of recovery. Moreover, it may be stated, in explanation of conditions which many people believe to indicate disease, that all horns are more or less hollow. Old animals, thin in flesh and with large horns, are apt to show the largest cavities, but young animals, in similar condition, and with horns of equal size, will show variations in the size of the cavities.

That the horns, as well as other extremities, become colder than usual when the animal is weak from disease of any sort is also admitted and the conditions which are usually termed "hollow horn" are, therefore, either normal ones or symptoms of a variety of real diseases. Again, the last four to six inches of a

cow's tail is naturally and always boneless. Just where the bones cease, or at the upper end of this soft, boneless portion, the tail is smaller and softer to give greater freedom of movement of the switch in fighting flies, etc. This natural condition is the one that is usually thought to indicate "hollow tail," except in those rare cases where the tail may be really injured or diseased.

In conclusion, it may be stated that when any portion of the body can be cut off and thrown away, without causing any appreciable disturbance of health, it is safe to conclude that no invisible disease of this part will cause serious consequences.

The other question, "Do cattle lose their cuds?" is almost too ridiculous to merit attention in these days. It is now generally known by all, that the cow rechews her food and that in "chewing her cud" she is simply preparing the food she has previously gathered for more easy digestion. To perform this act of rumination, she usually seeks some quiet place, and the slightest disturbance will generally cause her to temporarily cease chewing her cud. Likewise any disturbance of health, and especially diseases of the digestive organs, cause her to stop chewing her cud, or to "lose her cud." When recovery takes place the lost cud is found, since she resumes her habit of rechewing the food previously swallowed without sufficient mastication.

TAIT BUTLER,

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### Notes from the Trucking Belt of Eastern North Carolina.

Editor of The Progressive Farmer:

The chief burden of the farmer has about passed for this crop of 1903. The toils have generally been faithfully met, and now that we can rest from our labors and look around at their results, we see much to encourage and nothing to depress the farmer.

Our crops are generally doing well, and corn especially is earing finely in many parts of the county; many pieces are already out of the "roasting ear" stages and getting hard. We have field peas in all stages from ripe ones to some just sown. Some cotton is as good as last year, and the crop generally is improving in most places. We are having enough

local showers to keep most plants moist enough for immediate use. The fruit crop is fair, especially where cared for with proper pruning and spraying. The farmer who expects to get a crop of good fruit from an orchard untrained, unpruned, unfertilized, is awakening to the fact that his expectations are more mythical than real.

The season is upon us now for much "nooning"—from four to six hours, with watermelons, canteloupes, etc., at pleasure. Only the tobacco farmer is seriously busy now, and some of us, with true sympathy, are really sorry for him. Some of us have been too busy to visit a neighbor's farm or stop to talk long, but now we can rest, plan and visit, and some of us would like to organize our noble fraternity into a body so compact that one farmer would feel cheap and look cheaper who would attempt to secure labor by offering higher wages to his neighbor's hands, knowing at the same time he could not secure the hand, but simply make him dissatisfied.

But we turn with pleasure from the above picture and think of the wonderful transition that is taking place in our truck section. As we go to market with products from the farm, we go through a fine trucking section six miles, and we have an opportunity three times a week to note the changes. An old cabbage patch springs up with corn and peas as if by magic; a potato patch is covered with grass a foot high, or corn, that a few days since could hardly be seen, now three or four feet high, and pretty to behold.

A larger per cent of the truck than usual has been followed by cotton in our county, and from present prospects, some of that cotton money will have to go for grass or hay next spring. Grass tried very hard to come, but the farmers have beaten most of it back. Next spring some will have to hire it to come at the rate of twenty dollars a ton. Cotton may pay best this year, but we want enough grass and forage first.

Craven Co., N. C.

D. L.

Mr. A. W. McLamb, of Bass, Sampson County, N. C., wishes some Progressive Farmer reader to report a remedy for cabbage rot. He says: "It is a new disease in this section. The first signs of a cabbage having it is its turning yellow and some leaves dropping off. Then half of it may rot, or all fall down. It is so bad that cabbage farming is made disagreeable by it."