

# Farming

# Stock Raising

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## Horse Owners Need Guard Well Against Cold Weather Disease Now Christened As "Azoturia"

With the approach of cold weather horse owners should guard against azoturia, which occurs almost invariably in well-conditioned animals and claims many victims, especially during the winter season.

Various local names have been given to this disease, among which may be mentioned "umbago," "spinal meningitis," and "black water." The two former terms have been applied owing to the hard and swollen condition of the muscles of the loins and croup and the loss of control of the hind parts commonly observed in these cases, and the latter name is descriptive of the urine, which is usually of a dark coffee color.

While azoturia may occur at any season of the year it is but seldom observed during the warm weather of summer. It usually appears in highly red, well-nourished animals which, though accustomed to regular work, have remained idle for one or more days without a corresponding reduction in the rations.

As a rule the animal is attacked suddenly soon after leaving the stable in apparently perfect condition. The hind parts may occur after 5 or 10 minutes' driving or, in some cases, several hours after the horse has left the stable.

Among the first symptoms are a staggering of the hind parts, knuckling at the pasterns, and profuse perspiration. In spite of such spasms in muscles of the hind parts the horse attempts to go on until he soon falls helplessly. Usually there are efforts to rise, but as a rule the animal is unable to stand even should he regain his feet, and it becomes necessary to remove him to the stable on a wagon, sled or drag.

Horses attacked with azoturia should be immediately freed from the wagon

and harness and be provided with ample straw or other bedding to protect them from injury incidental to the struggle to regain their feet. Especial care must be taken to prevent heating of the head upon the ground, and if the patient is very restless a strong man should place his knees upon the animal's neck and hold the head firmly upon the ground. Throw a warm blanket over the prostrate horse and arrange immediately for his removal to a stable, where a commodious and well-bedded box stall should be provided, or, if such is not available, the barn floor or a comfortable shed can be utilized.

In the meantime a qualified veterinarian should be summoned, azoturia being a disease which requires skillful treatment and careful nursing. Until the horse is able to stand it will be necessary to pass a catheter and draw the urine at least twice a day, and also, as an item of nursing, to turn the animal from side to side a frequent interval, in order to avoid development of bed sores. Both treatment and nursing are best carried out under direction of a skilled veterinarian who is equipped with required instruments and can apply treatment as indicated in each individual case.

Various theories have been advanced in explanation of the true cause and nature of azoturia. A majority of investigators, however, are inclined to the belief that it is an auto-intoxication. The fact that development of the disease is favored by rich feeding and a period of idleness tends to lend weight to such hypothesis. For practical purposes, however, it is sufficient for the owner of good horses to know that the disease may be prevented with the greatest certainty by reducing the ration of grain when the horses are not working and by exercising his horses daily.

## Indoor Window Box Important in Care of the Winter Garden

WASHINGTON, Nov. 20.—The indoor window box, properly planned and tended, will afford much pleasure and satisfaction to the housewife who misses her out-of-door garden during the winter months. It is a mistaken notion that plants when kept in living rooms use up certain elements of the air in such quantities as to make it unhealthy for individuals using the room. It is much harder on plants to be in a room with people than for people to be in a room with growing plants. Plants, indeed, use air, but use such a small proportion that the effect of the plant in the room is negligible if the room is ventilated at all. This also holds good for cut flowers or plants in a sick room, although the odor of some flowers may be depressing to the patient, and bad for that reason.

A good depth for an indoor window box is about 12 inches. The bottom of the box should be covered with stones and broken pottery to give drainage and this should be covered by a layer of moss to prevent the soil above from working down through the stones. The drainage and moss should take up about three inches. The greater the body of soil above the moss the more uniform it may be kept as to moisture. The soil should come to within an inch and a half or two inches of the top of the box.

The indoor window box should be made to fit into the window. To get as much light as possible it should be level with the window. It may be fastened with brackets or placed on a table, or have legs made for it. There should be a drip pan beneath to keep water from soiling the floor. The box may rest directly above the drip pan on legs half an inch to an inch high or the box may be water-tight with the exception of a hole at one end to let out the water.

The top of the soil should be allowed to become quite dry once in a while. The results of watering will teach the owner to regulate the supply. Boxes may need watering in sunny weather (especially toward spring) every day, or at least every other day; in cloudy mid-winter weather not more than once a week. As a rule it is better to water lightly and frequently than heavily and infrequently. The specialist of the United States department of agriculture advises this, although just the reverse is considered best when watering is done out of doors in the summer.

Geraniums may also be used as foliage plants, though they must not be expected to blossom in the window box.

Kenilworth ivy may be planted along the edge. It will grow nicely from seed.

Smilax may be grown from the back of the box, and trained up about the window to give the effect of an attractive bower.

The inexperienced grower of plants indoors cannot expect to do well with roses. These plants are most exacting, and not only will they probably fail to flower, but also their foliage may be affected by mildew, blight, etc.

The ordinary individual who desires other varieties of growing flowers, may supplement his window box with flowering potted plants brought in from outside, including bulbs raised as described in a previous article of this series. These will probably keep their bloom for a brief period only. People who are fond of plants will, of course, obtain better results with blooming varieties after many trials. Some have dealt with very difficult problems, which they have solved successfully, but the present suggestions are meant for the novice as well as the more experienced grower.

## GROWING WINTER OATS IN SOUTH

Every southern farmer should grow enough oats to feed his work stock during at least a portion of the year. In addition to furnishing feed grain at less cost than it can be purchased, fall-sown oats prevent the washing of the soil, by which much fertility is frequently lost. There is still time to sow winter oats in the Gulf states, though this work should be done at once if good results are to be obtained. According to specialists of the department, oats sown in the southern states during October or the first half of November may be expected to produce at least twice the yield of grain obtained from spring seedings.

Winter grain may be sown on land which produced a crop of cotton, corn, or cowpeas the past summer. If this land has not already been plowed, it will be better to make the surface soil fine and loose with the disk or egg harrow than to delay seeding by plowing now. Better results are obtained from sowing with the drill than from broadcast seeding, though if a drill is not available sowing the seed broadcast on well-prepared land usually results in a good stand. If the preceding crop was well fertilized, 75 to 200 pounds of acid phosphate will be all that the oats require this year, though a little nitrate of soda will help the fall growth, especially if the soil is not already well supplied with nitrogen from the growing of cowpeas or some other legume. A top dressing of 50 to 100 pounds of nitrate of soda applied when growth starts in the spring will greatly increase the yield.

The variety of winter oats most commonly grown in the south is Red Rustproof. Apple, Lawson, Hundred Bushel, Bancroft and Cook are selections or strains of Red Rustproof which are said to be particularly val-

uable in some localities. The Ploughman is a promising new variety which matures a week or 10 days earlier than the Red Rustproof, and usually produces as much or more grain. As the kernels of all these varieties are large, from two and a half to three and a half bushels should be sown to the acre. The smaller quantity is sufficient if the seed is drilled early on well-prepared land, while three bushels or more are needed when the seed is broadcast late in the season. The Winter Turf or Virginia Gray is a very hardy variety, which is valuable for pasture or hay production, but which does not yield as much grain in the southern states as the Red Rustproof, only one and a half bushels of seed of this variety are required.

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**\* DISEASE ATTACKS MOUNTAIN SHEEP AND GOATS. \***

The department of agriculture has undertaken the investigation of a serious disease which is affecting the Rocky Mountain bighorn sheep and the mountain goats, and is reported as existing on the Lemhi national forest in Idaho.

The forest officers think that it is the same disease that caused the mountain sheep to die in great numbers during 1882-3. The nature of the disease is not known, though it results fatally and sheep affected with it seem to have rough and mangy coats and are very much emaciated. Three bureaus of the department are engaged in the study—the biological survey, bureau of animal industry and the forest service. A competent veterinarian has already gone to Idaho to start the work.

## NEW LAW OF CONGRESS TO AID SETTLEMENTS

Recent Act Allows Agricultural Entry on Large Areas Withdrawn on Account of Mineral Deposits.

Large areas of public lands heretofore withheld from all forms of entry because of the possible presence of mineral deposits are now open to agricultural settlement under a law which went into effect July 17, 1914. Entry under the new act involves the retention by the government of title to certain specified minerals believed to underlie the lands. This sort of agricultural entry of coal lands has been allowed since June 22, 1910, and of oil land in Utah since Aug. 24, 1912. The present law extends this right of nonmineral entry to all public lands withdrawn, classified, or valuable for phosphate, nitrate, potash, oil, gas, or asphaltic minerals. Any form of nonmineral mining may be made—homestead, desert land, timber and stone, state selection, or any other—the government reserving the mineral deposits for which the lands are believed to be valuable and the right to prospect for and mine them. If, for example, a man should make entry in one of the great phosphate fields of Florida, Idaho, Utah, Wyoming or Montana, his patent would give him the right to the surface and to all minerals which might thereafter be found except phosphate. Or if his homestead should be in one of the oil fields of California, Wyoming, Utah, Colorado or Louisiana, he would receive patent to everything but oil and gas. Before the government or its assignee comes on his land to prospect for phosphate or for oil, the entryman is secured against any damages which he may sustain in the course of the prospecting or mining.

Will Open Up Dry-Farming Areas. Inasmuch as large withdrawals of mineral lands have been made in the arid and semiarid western states, where entries may be made under the enlarged-homestead act, the recent law will considerably extend the area open to dry-farming homesteads. Many applications for the designation

of lands as subject to enlarged-homestead entry have in the past been refused because the lands were withdrawn, but these applications may now be granted, and those whose applications have been refused on this ground should resubmit them to the director of the geological survey. In this connection the director reiterates a former statement to the effect that no definite form of petition is required, and that there is no necessity for employing the services of an attorney to draw up petitions. He suggests, however, that the following rules be observed:

Each application should be limited as far as possible to the specific tract desired for entry and should contain the applicant's postoffice address and a description by section, township and range of the applicant's original homestead entry and the date of this entry, as well as a description, also by legal subdivisions, of the land desired for additional entry. Information as to the possibility of irrigating the land should also be furnished and should include the distance and direction of the nearest stream or existing or proposed irrigation canal, the elevation of the lowest point of the land above such source of water supply, the depth at which water can be reached by wells sunk on the land, and all available information concerning attempts to obtain water by this method. The general character of the land, both of the homesteader's original entry (if he has made one) and of the land desired for additional entry, should also be described, to aid the geological survey in reaching a decision as to its nonirrigability. It should be noted that at present only entrymen who have not made final proof are entitled to make additional entry.

This information should be embodied in a letter sent to the Director, U. S. Geological Survey, Washington, D. C. A formal petition drawn up by a notary will not result in any earlier consideration of the matter than will be given if the applicant writes personally. Action will be taken on each request as promptly as is consistent with a proper regard to other requests that are pending, and the applicant will be immediately notified when a final decision has been reached.

**\* ARE PRESENT PRICES HIGH ENOUGH FOR FARMERS? \***

Farm and Fireside gives the following advice to farmers who have crops for sale but who hesitate to sell them, fearing that in the meantime prices may rise even higher:

"During the Civil war an Iowa miller received a contract for a lot of flour from the government. He offered higher and higher prices for wheat, going as high as \$2.50 a bushel. Very little grain came in. The farmers were waiting for the top of the market.

"It was a small mill on the frontier, and telegraph and telephone communication was not then developed. The miller began lowering his price for wheat—and the farmers began hauling it in. He filled his contract at an average of 50 cents a bushel less than he would have been glad to pay. The wheat growers would not sell until they were perfectly certain that wheat was going no higher.

"There is a good deal of value in this story for us all. We have advised our readers not to give their crops and live stock away in the slump which took place when the ships ceased to sail. That slump is over now. Commerce is moving.

"As this is written, May wheat has reached \$1.19. It seems to be still rising.

"Giving advice is a risky thing. Trying to guess the top of the market is riskier.

"It is safer to sell on a rising market than a falling one."

Outside of its use for fence posts, black locust finds its principal utilization in insulator pins and brackets for telegraph and telephone lines.

## Progress of Century in United States One of Great Interest

WASHINGTON, Nov. 20.—An epitomized record of the nation's growth in area, population, and resources is contained in a pamphlet just issued by the department of commerce through its bureau of foreign and domestic commerce, entitled "Statistical Record of the Progress of the United States, 1850-1914." In all cases where the statistical data permit, the tables cover more than a century; the later inauguration of certain lines of statistics necessarily restricts, in those cases, the period covered.

A half-century retrospect, readily available by reference to tables appearing in the pamphlet, affords a clear perspective of the nation's growth. Since 1850 the population of the United States has more than quadrupled, being approximately 490 million at the present time. In the same period, however, foreign commerce has grown from \$18 million to \$2,250 million dollars and the per capita value of exports from \$16.96 to \$23.27. National wealth has increased from seven billion dollars in 1870 to approximately 140 billion; money in circulation, from 279 million to 3,419 million; and New York bank clearings from approximately five million to over 98 billion dollars, while for the entire country bank clearings have grown from 52 billion in 1887, the earliest year for which figures are available, to 174 billion in 1913.

Evidences of improved social conditions among the people are also found in the "Statistical Record." For example, 19 million children are now enrolled in public schools and about 200,000 students in colleges and other higher institutions of learning, and the total expenditures on behalf of education now approximate \$500,000,000 a year, the result being a rapid increase in general intelligence and a marked decrease in illiteracy. Over 22,000 newspapers and periodicals are disseminating information among the people, and the report shows a steady growth in the number of libraries in the country. In 1850 depositors in savings banks were 251,000 in number; today the number is 11 million

with deposits, exclusive of those in other savings institutions, aggregating \$ 3-4 billion dollars, or more than 100 times as much as at the middle of the last century.

Increased activity on the farms, in the factories, and in the great transportation industries has also developed during the last half century. The value of farms and farm property increased from four billion dollars in 1850 to 41 billion in 1910; the value of manufactures, from one billion to over 20 billion; and the number of miles of railway in operation, from 6,021 in 1850 to 25,033 in 1912. In the last quarter century the number of passengers carried has increased from 492 million to 1,004 million and the volume of freight handled from 652 million to 1,845 million short tons. Nearly 20 billion pieces of outgoing mail matter are handled annually by the postoffice department, which disburses in this important public service last year 262 million dollars, or \$2.70 per capita.

The range of subjects included in the "Statistical Record" extends to many other factors of national life, such as farm production, production of minerals, the consumption of liquors, prices of staple commodities, and financial conditions; while broad outlines are shown with respect to the world's development in population, production, commerce, carrying power, etc. The book is sold by the superintendent of documents, Washington, D. C. for 10 cents a copy.

**MINES IN NEW MEXICO.**

The value of the mineral products of New Mexico, according to the United States geological survey, increased from \$14,391,355 in 1912 to \$17,862,369 in 1913. The figures for 1913 are more than double those of two years ago, the increase being due principally to activity in the production of copper.

The town forest of Baden-Baden, Germany, yields an annual profit of \$5.25 per acre, or a total net profit of nearly \$67,500.

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Fresh Spare	12c	Lamb Chops	14c
Ribs	12c	Rib or Loin	14c
Neck	8c	Lamb for Stewing	10c
Bones	8c	Choice Leg of Lamb	14c
Pure Lard	13c	Prepared Mince Meat	8c
Compound Lard	10c	Sour Krowt per qt.	6c
Fresh Pork	12c	Very Choice Smoked Ham	16c
Shoulders	12c	Best Choice Smoked Ham	12 1/2c
Side	16c	Finest Sugar Cured Bacon Lean	21c
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Morris Margold ..... 23c



German shells spared little during the rush of the Kaiser's troops through Lorraine. Here is shown the shelled summer chateau of Pres't Poincare in Santigny.

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