

ANSWERS TO INQUIRIES.

IN order to ensure reply to questions, correspondents must give their name and address, not necessarily for publication, but as a guarantee of good faith. Letters should be addressed to the Editor.

FEEDING LAMBS ON BLUE LUPINS.

“CONSTANT READER,” Raetihi :—

Kindly advise me as to the proper time for feeding blue lupins to lambs—before or after the flowering stage; also whether it is advisable to provide a run-off or to feed the lupins continuously.

The Live-stock Division :—

Blue lupins are not considered a particularly suitable feed for lambs. Some care is necessary with this crop, as with rape and others. The crop, if fed to lambs should be used before the flowering stage; it is more succulent then. It is always advisable to provide a run-off on grass when feeding-off any forage crop, and this applies particularly in the case of lupins. Lambs should at first be allowed an hour's daily grazing on the lupin crop, and be removed to a grass paddock at the end of this time. It is perhaps not generally understood that lupins contain poisonous properties. The yellow lupin is considered to be the most toxic. All parts of the plant are poisonous, but the toxicity is increased at seeding-time; hence the advice to feed before flowering or seeding. If care is taken and the sheep are not put on to the crop when they are hungry, and thus eat only a small quantity to begin with, the crop may be fed off in the usual way, but a run-off on pasture is essential.

SEPARATED MILK FOR FOWLS.

D. M. W., Waitara :—

I live on a farm where I can get an abundant supply of separated milk for my fowls, but I have been afraid to use it, fearing it is of too forcing a nature for the breeding-hens. I am at present giving the birds one good feed a week of the milk. Will you please tell me if I could use it at present entirely instead of the morning meal of pollard, bran, meat-meal, &c., with wheat at night? If not advisable now, could I put hens on to it at the close of the breeding season? Also, how will it affect young chicks, either for pullets or cockerels? Is it best to give the curds to the fowls heated, or in the uncooked state?

The Chief Poultry Instructor :—

You did the correct thing by not giving your breeding birds an excessive amount of milk to drink; nevertheless a greater quantity could have been provided without bringing about undesirable results. Now that the close of the breeding season is at hand, and eggs will not be required for hatching purposes, you may give the birds as much milk as they can drink. Of course, in the event of ovarian troubles, or many double-yoked or shell-less eggs making their appearance, the milk ration should be reduced. It is a mistake, however, to compel the laying birds to drink a large quantity of milk merely for the purpose of quenching their thirst, particularly during hot weather. Water in addition to milk should always be available in a separate receptacle. If this course is adopted the risk of the above-mentioned troubles making their appearance will be greatly reduced. Skim-milk by itself is insufficient for the morning meal. In addition to it a mash of whole-grain wheat, maize, &c., should be provided. Seeing that you have an abundant supply of milk, there is no need to add meat meal to the ration. There is no need to cook the curds. After the whey has been poured off, it is a good plan to place the curd in an open-woven sack and allow it to drain well before being fed to the birds. There is nothing better for growing stock than milk or milk-curd, but with growing pullets too much is apt to promote egg-laying at too early an age. Hence, when it is found that the birds are showing evidence of prematurity the milk should be used sparingly, or, better still, be cut out of the ration.