

# Ask the VMD

Leon Riegel

Tim Trayer

Edgar Sheaffer

If you have a question you would like answered by the team from Valley Animal Hospital, send it to Ask the VMD, Box 366, Lititz, Pa. 17543. Questions will be kept anonymous on request.

**A reader asks:**

Are sweet corn stalks a safe feed for horses? In the past, we have fed the stalks to cattle and swine with no apparent ill-effects.

**Dr. Sheaffer comments:**

Sweet corn fodder is a dangerous feed for all of the equine family, horses, ponies, donkeys, and mules.

Each year, during the months of August and September, we receive telephone calls from people who have just fed sweet corn husks to their equine friends.

Most times within a few hours from the time the animal eats the husks, and sometimes within a few minutes, the animal will show signs of colic. Pain in the belly or abdomen, pawing, sweating in the flanks or on the shoulders, and turning its head to look at its sides are all indications that the animal is in distress.

What creates this problem?

While horses may chew the corn stalks and cob fairly well, they don't properly

chew the sweet corn husks and silk. They actually swallow most of it whole, without grinding it up or shredding it up.

When the husks get into the stomach of the horse, they tend to ball up and form a wad which may pack and block the pyloric valve. This valve is the mechanism that controls the emptying of food from the stomach into the intestines.

In a case where the horse has just eaten the husks and shows signs of colic within one to two hours, there usually is a blockage.

When this happens, the mass of husks and silks causes the stomach to stretch. Pain results from the stretching and the pooling of fluid and gas.

This condition brings on a tremendous thirst. And, if the horse is allowed to, it will drink larger quantities of water which further distends and stretches the stomach.

If not treated early enough, most animals will die of a ruptured stomach. Once the stomach ruptures, death occurs in a matter of minutes.

Treatment for cases caught in the early stage it to pass a stomach tube to siphon off as much of the

fluid and stomach contents as possible. Then up to a gallon of mineral oil should be gravitated into the stomach or pumped in slowly.

If the blockage is relieved and the wad is broken up and able to pass to the intestines, the horse should be treated with extreme care over the next several days. Even though the stomach impaction is corrected, there could be a reoccurrence further down the digestive tract, in the large or small intestines.

The horse needs to be kept on a laxative diet, feeding it bran mash or bran gruel —

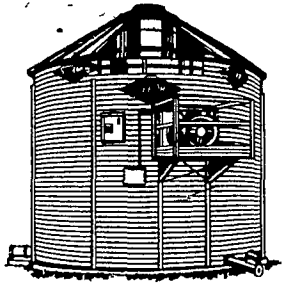
something that is soft and easily digested.

Bran mash can be made from crimped oats, whole grain bran, salt and warm water. Most horses find this mash quite palatable. When fed along with a mineral oil treatment, this diet should keep the animal from suffering from an impaction of the intestinal tract.

If, however, an intestinal blockage does occur, and the partially digested husk material becomes lodged and causes toxins to be released, the horse will founder in most cases. Signs of founder include tenderness of the feet, heat in the lower legs and feet, restlessness, lying down and getting up repeatedly. If these signs occur, call your veterinarian at once.

In conclusion, do not feed sweet corn fodder to horses, or other equines. If this has been a practice that has not resulted in a horse dying of colic, you can consider yourself and your animals lucky.

**Dry it.  
Cool it.  
Hold it.  
Profit.**



The Stormor EZEE-DRY does it all in one bin.

The Stormor EZEE DRY with its unique overhead drying floor dries up to keep your costs down. With 5 diameters and 6 eave heights to choose from there is a model to match your harvesting demands. Lower drying costs, quality grain, and ease of operation are just a few of the benefits you'll find with the EZEE DRY. See your Stormor dealer today for complete details and a free, on the farm estimate.



NEW & USED  
TRANSPORT AUGERS  
IN STOCK

**HENRY FORMAN**

Box 96, R.D. 1, Turbotville, Pa. 17772  
Ph: 717-649-5579

## Empty foods restricted in schools

**MEDIA** — If your child isn't eating much of his school lunch it may be because he is filling up on vending machine snacks instead says Greta Vairo, home economist.

That will soon change with the new USDA rule that restricts the sale of any food that has minimum nutritional value—soda pop, water ices, chewing gum and some candies—from the start of the school day until after the last lunch period. USDA is authorized to regulate the sale of foods where they compete with federally subsidized meal programs in the schools.

The action is being taken because of widespread

concern for the quality of school children's diets. Sales of "competitive foods"—especially soda pop—are growing in the schools. Soda provides calories, but no nutrients.

**CHECK THE  
CLASSIFIEDS  
For All  
Your Needs**

## FISHER'S SPRAY PAINTING

- SAND BLASTING ■ SPRAY & BRUSH PAINTING
- ROOF COATING ■ CEMENT COATING
- RESTORING

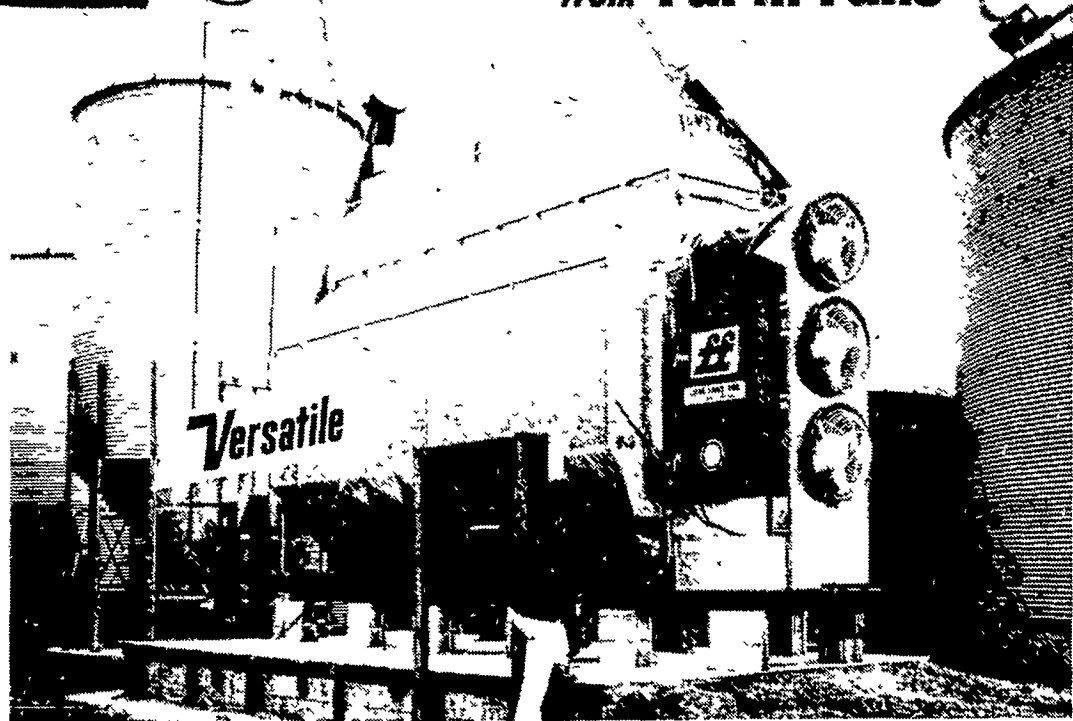


AERIAL LADDER EQUIPMENT  
SPECIALIZE IN FARM BUILDINGS.

667 Hartman Station Rd.  
Lancaster, PA 17601  
717-393-6530

# THE SYSTEMS PEOPLE

## J-SERIES DRYERS from Farm Fans



Select Continuous Multi-Stage or  
Continuous Flow Grain Drying . . . With The Flip of a Switch

- Two models — CMS-320J, CMS-420J
- Choice of Continuous Multi-Stage or Continuous Flow drying
- Exclusive Automatic System Control is weatherproof and tamperproof
- "Temper Dries" automatically for premium quality grain
- The J Series is specially designed to meet today's need to save energy
- Big capacity drying for high volume grain operations
- Backed by almost 30 years experience in grain conditioning

**NEW GT DRYERS  
IN STOCK: MODEL 380  
MODEL 580**

**NEW FARM FAN DRYERS IN STOCK**  
AB-8 Temper dries to 210 bushels per hour at 5 points. Staged automatic.  
AB-120 Temper dries to 210 bushels per hour at 5 points. Staged automatic.

**USED DRYERS**  
1-Morigde Grain Dryer  
Model 400 PTO Drive

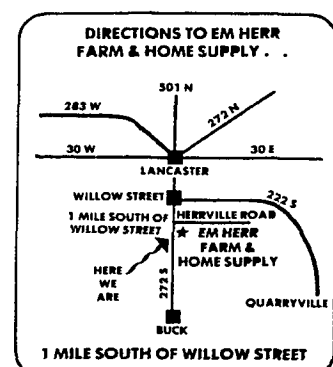
1-Farm Fan  
Model AB-12B, 3 phase  
Automatic Batch Dryer

1-Behlen 325,  
3 phase  
Automatic Batch Dryer



FULL LINE  
PARTS  
DEPARTMENT

★  
WE SELL,  
SERVICE AND  
INSTALL



Serving The Industry Over 20 Years