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CORN ON THE SOUTHERN FARMS

Is one of the Essentials-- Should be Regarded as a Renovating Crop-- Select Good Seed from Specially Prepared Beds-- Grow More Corn

The great American grain food for men and stock upon the farm is corn. Corn, intelligently managed, will produce more food per acre than any other cereal, and it is generally one of the safe crops, which is an important item, because where men and animals must be fed certainty of production stands among the first requisites. More corn brings into use the pastures and idle lands of the farm. It is the basis of a cheaper food supply for the masses. Therefore, the production of an abundant supply of corn is one of the essentials of good farming.

The southern farmer should grow enough corn for every possible need of the farm, and he can. It has been demonstrated thoroughly that with proper preparation and cultivation he can grow as much per acre as the best farmers in the corn growing State. At prevailing prices it is cheaper to produce it than to buy it, even with 12 and 15 cent cotton. Furthermore, the best farming requires systematic rotation of crops on all lands. From this standpoint corn should be regarded as a renovating crop. It is a plant of wide adaptability and can be produced in nearly all portions of the United States. It is especially valuable from the fact that we not only get the corn, but can grow with it a heavy crop of cowpeas, which will give a supply of nitrogen and humus, two of the most valuable items in building up soils.

Corn is a tropical plant, and all other things being equal it should thrive better in the Southern than in the Northern States. This, however, is not the case. What is the reason? The main cause is the lack of suitable seed beds in the South.

Experiments have shown that, while it sends many of its roots 3 or 4 feet deep, the corn plant places the great body of its feeding roots from 3 to 12 inches below the surface where the soil is made loose enough by plowing or by frost to permit it. The roots send out in every direction an infinite number of hairlike growths, which absorb moisture and food. On soils properly prepared and in sections of fair rainfall the feeding ground for corn is usually from 2 to 12 inches below the surface. This is strictly true in the great corn belt of the Northwest. In the South there has been too much shallow plowing. Breaking 3 or 4 inches is not deep enough to make a suitable feeding place for corn roots; on average land it furnishes neither sufficient food nor sufficient moisture for the plant to do its best. The trouble with a shallow seed bed is that it is too wet under heavy rainfall and too dry in periods of drought. To make its largest yield, corn requires not only a deep seed bed but a large amount of humus in the soil. Consequently most land requires some previous preparation—the plowing under of a green crop or the use of stable manure. The use of these is better preparation than to depend entirely upon commercial fertilizers. The land should also be well drained, because standing water is totally unsuited to the deep, penetrating roots of corn. Observe the following rules:

- (1) Select a well-drained piece of land, filled with vegetable matter.
- (2) Break (plow) in the fall to a

Annual Meeting of Stockholders

The eleventh annual meeting of the stockholders of the Bank of Martin County was held at their banking house on Tuesday, February 7th, James G. Staton, Vice President, presided over the meeting. The roll call showed 145 shares out of the total of 150 represented, which was the largest representation of stock in the history of the bank. The enthusiastic interest of the stockholders was marked.

The President's report showed substantial gains both in deposits and new accounts opened. Statement submitted by the President show assets at about \$190,000. After paying all expenses incident to running the business, 23 per cent net was earned for the stockholders, out of which a dividend of 9 per cent was declared, leaving the remainder to the undivided profits account.

The stockholders learned with regret that Mr. Wheeler Martin, whose other duties call him out of the city much of his time, could not accept the Presidency longer. J. G. Godard, former Cashier, was elected President and will devote his entire time to the interest of the bank. J. G. Staton was re-elected 1st Vice-President, A. R. Dunning, 2nd Vice-President and Charles H. Godwin, Cashier.

The following strong and representative business men were named as the Board of Directors: J. G. Staton, W. J. Wintaker, W. C. Manning, W. H. Biggs, V. R. Taylor, S. A. Newell, C. H. Godwin and J. G. Godard.

depth of a foot or more, with some implement that will not bring too much of the subsoil to the surface, and thoroughly pulverize. If this is done early enough, put in a winter cover crop of rye, oats or barley, which should be turned under in the spring.

(3) Go over the land with a section harrow two or three times before planting and repeat immediately after planting and again after the corn is up. Using the harrow at nearly right angles with the rows.

(4) Use the best seed, and especially such seed as has been tested in the climate of the field to be planted.

(5) Practice intensive, shallow cultivation. The disk plow, the adjustable section harrow, and the weeder are valuable aids in producing the corn crop.

In selecting the seed it is not advisable that it should be selected from the crib or even from the ordinary field, if the best results are to be obtained. There should be a special plot for seed purposes, which must receive the best preparation of the seed bed and the best seed obtainable, with excellent cultivation and fertilization. Then, before the pollen has matured, all barren stalks and all weak and diseased stalks should be removed, leaving nothing but strong, vigorous, well-eared stalks in the field, because corn is fertilized from all the surrounding plants. Therefore, it is better to select a medium ear from a field where the average corn is excellent than a model ear from a field where most of the corn is inferior. Much depends also upon the vitality of the seed. To insure high vitality, corn must be gathered before the fall rains, put in a dry, well-ventilated place, and kept free from weevils. Corn is especially responsive to good treatment and careful selection. It is a crop easily improved and deteriorates as the result of bad management with corresponding rapidity.

A friend who isn't in need is a surprise, indeed.

University Notes

Chapel Hill, N. C., Feb. 9, 1911.—At the 1911 Commencement degrees will be conferred on those surviving students of the University of North Carolina who left Chapel Hill to enter the Confederate Army before completing the course for the baccalaureate diploma. Of the 1331 men who matriculated at the University from 1851 to 1860, 759 are known to have been in the Confederate Army and it is probable that there was not a single one of the 1331 who was physically incapacitated who did not see service. The freshman class of 1860 numbered 80 men and every one went into the war, one man returning for his diploma after having been discharged because of physical inability. 30 per cent of the University men who went into the army were killed in service. Time has taken away many others in the years that have elapsed since 1865, but on the few remaining, their alma mater will honor them by conferring the degrees for which they were candidates when they abandoned the college campus for the tented field.

Dr. J. H. Pratt has been active before the present legislature in the interest of good road legislation.

Mr. Frank Hough of Birmingham, Ala., has been elected editor-in-chief of the Tar Heel to succeed Mr. W. H. Jones, resigned.

The report of the University Librarian, Dr. L. R. Wilson, shows the library to be in the most useful period of its existence.

Every member of last year's track team is back with the exception of Captain MacGregor Williams. Coach Cartmell will have the men hard at work in a few days in the effort to put out a victorious team.

Carolina won from Wake Forest Friday night 31 to 28 in a game of basket ball that was fierce from start to finish. Throughout the second half it was anybody's game. The score was in two points of a tie more than once. Wake Forest knew more basket ball but Carolina seemed to get the points when they had to have them.

Pastor Russell Refutes Charges

There has been a report going the rounds of the press that Pastor Russell of the Brooklyn Tabernacle, whose sermons appear in so many papers and in these columns, had proclaimed the second advent of Christ in 1915. A certain "Evangelist" attempted to denounce Pastor Russell at a meeting in Washington City. In a communication issued by Pastor Russell to the press, he states that the "Evangelist" misunderstood his remarks. What he did say was that in 1915 the Jewish reign would begin—it being the end of the 2520 years from the time the crown was taken from Judah's last King of the house of David.

Pastor Russell preaches that the world will never be burned up, for the Bible declares, "The earth abideth forever." He declares that the Bible is the most common-sense book in the world, and he is earnestly striving to bring to the minds of the people a proper understanding of it, and is not attempting to excite as Miller did years ago.

Card of Thanks

I desire to thank every one who rendered any assistance, when my country home was burned on Friday, Friday, February 3rd. But for the timely aid of neighbors, all my stock houses with feed and tools would have been lost. The loss of residence was heavy, but heroic effort saved all outbuildings. For this I am deeply grateful, and wish thus to publicly express my thanks.

John D. Simpson.

A. & M. Notes

Honors for the month of January have just been announced. Out of 497 students 134 can find their names posted on the bulletin board. This signifies that each man has made 90 on three or more subjects. Beyond a doubt, one-fifth of the total student body will be able to escape some of the final examinations at the close of the session.

Among the agricultural students, Monday night was looked upon as an example of rural pleasure. The new Agricultural Building was tastefully decorated with evergreens and white fabrics. The guests were welcomed to different parts of the building by members of the Club. All parts of the building were thrown open to the welcome guests. Every member expressed delight in the explanation of any of the work carried on in the various parts of the technical training. The time was spent in meeting and greetings of professors and students of other colleges. From nine until ten o'clock refreshments were served in various styles. At intervals the A. & M. Band furnished music to aid in the enjoyment of the occasion. Notwithstanding the threatening clouds overhanging the night of pleasure, a majority of the invited guests were present. Promptly at ten o'clock, the Peace and Merit societies were preparing to take their departure. A unanimous report of an enjoyable occasion was made, and the Biological Club was wished much success in its future undertakings.

Notice to Members

The Embroidery Club of 1910, Mrs. A. S. Coffield, Dix-Express, met at the home of Mrs. Wheeler Martin, January 30th, 1911. They decided to reorganize for the new year. They ask all the members to meet at the residence of Mrs. John D. Biggs, February 13th, 1911, to elect new officers and to start away for the year.

Mrs. Wheeler Martin,
Miss Lottie Griffin.

Class Organized

The graduating class of 1911 for the Williamston High School met in organization Tuesday at 2:45 p. m. Prof. A. M. Jordan presided at the meeting and stated object of same. The class then proceeded to elect officers and chose class colors. The following were chosen: Hilda Crawford, President; Thomas Smith, Vice President; Emma Robertson, Secretary and Treasurer; Julian Anderson, Historian; Ida Jenkins, Salutatorian; Lalla Wynn, Will and Testament.

Then a vote was taken on colors. Orange and navy blue were selected. The meeting then closed. All future meetings to be called by the President.

Emma Robertson, Sec'y.

Burglar Caught

Deputy Sheriff J. H. Page arrested Banks Bass, a white man wanted by the officers of Alamance County, Tuesday near Hassell. Information had come here that such a man was wanted and it was learned that he belonged to the bridge force who are erecting an iron structure under contract by the Burlington Bridge Company. Bass had entered the store of Virginia Cotton Mill Company, Alamance county and carried away a lot of jewelry. The post office being located in the same building, Bass decided to give that a pull, and so took therefrom \$15 in cash. Officer James Zachary, of Burlington, arrived, Tuesday night and left with the prisoner on the afternoon train Wednesday.

Farmers' Institute

The attendance at the meeting of the Farmers' Institute on Tuesday was small owing to the very disagreeable weather. The lectures on all the subjects announced were highly instructive. The question of soil fertility and improvement was presented in a strong manner, and a new emphasis given the value of crop rotation and winter cover crops.

The advantages of this section for fruit-growing was shown. It is easy for the people to eat of their own fruit instead of the stored up stock from the North.

Seed selection was a most interesting topic and the attention of the farmers has been called to it more strongly than ever. Without good seed a profitable crop cannot be raised. The farmers of this section are paying earnest heed to the advice of expert agriculturists.

Mrs. Hutt and Mrs. Tolman held a meeting in the rooms of the Lotus Club, which was very instructive to the women in attendance.

A part of the day was given to J. O. W. Gravelly, of Rocky Mount, who made a splendid speech on tobacco. Mr. Gravelly is, perhaps, the best known tobacco man in the State, and has worked in season and out of season with the tobacco farmers. He showed many good reasons why the price of tobacco should be paid this year, the 1910 crop of the bright weed being about 40,000,000 pounds short and the prospect of the smallest crop in many years. In the course of his speech, Mr. Gravelly said: "Strenuous efforts of our manufacturers have caused great increase in the consumption of bright tobacco in foreign quarters. The large part of our bright is exported and made into cigars and smoking tobacco. Competition has been strong here for a number of years. Consumers are generally more satisfactory with bright prospect. Good prices for the crop of 1911."

Ever learn of a pearl being found in a church parsonage?

Murder at Palmyra

Patrolman on the farm of James E. Robertson, Palmyra, two negroes named Henry Dawson and one Williams were engaged in the usual practice of pistol shooting. Dawson had just shot several birds from a tree which fell on the ground near Williams, who was paid to pick them up. Dawson ordered Williams not to touch the birds, but Williams paid no heed to the warning, so while in a stooping position, Dawson shot the bird falling effect in the top of Williams' head from which the brains oozed. Williams died Sunday night. The murderer was arrested and taken to Scotland Neck for safe keeping until the arrival of Sheriff Crawford who lodged him in jail here Sunday night. It is said that both negroes had been imbibing freely on mean liquor. Dr. J. H. Saunders held an inquest on Monday and Dawson is held for trial at the March Term of the Superior Court.

Commissioners Meet

The Board of County Commissioners met on Monday with Chairman Burras presiding. The usual orders were passed for the maintenance of the poor and public bridges. The jury for the March Term of the Superior Court was drawn. An important ruling as to the collection of back taxes was made and the matter is to be placed in the hands of the County Attorney. These taxes will mean an additional \$5,000 in the County treasury. The present Board is making an effort to equalize the burden of tax-bearing.

ROBERSONVILLE

NEWS ITEMS

Local Happenings and People who are Coming and Going, Here, There and Yonder as Gathered by our Regular Correspondent.

J. C. Keel spent Sunday in town. Miss Roland Moore was in town last week.

Miss Anna Beth Purvis was in town Friday.

Johnnie Gardner, of Bethel, was in town Sunday.

J. A. Whitley, of Everetts, was here Wednesday.

Zeb Whitehurst, of Oakley, was in town Tuesday.

W. H. Holliday, of Everetts, was in town Wednesday.

John Hassell, of Williamston, was in town Friday.

Miss Maggie Salisbury is visiting at Tillery this week.

C. B. Riddick, of Williamston, was in town Sunday.

Mrs. A. D. Barnhill, of Everetts, was in town last week.

Dr. Major Manning, of Bethel, is in town on business.

J. H. Taylor spent several days in Behaven last week.

Miss Ella Burroughs visited Mrs. R. A. Bailey last week.

Stetson Everett, of Behaven, is at home for several days.

Raleigh Roebuck, of Arkansas, is in town for a few days.

Miss Lizzie Harrison spent Sunday with Miss Bettie Robertson.

Joseph Holliday was here from Beaufort County on Wednesday.

Miss Lene Ormond, of Goldboro, visited her cousin, Miss Lula Sauls, last week.

Miss Emma Robertson is very ill, but many friends hope to see her out again soon.

W. Z. Miron went to Washington Monday, where he will remain several days.

Mrs. A. B. G. Little, of Christ the Queen, of Bethel, attended the dance Friday night.

V. R. Taylor and J. H. Purvis attended the Farmers' Institute here Wednesday.

Edward Cowell and Mrs. Fannie Matthews, of Hamilton attended the dance here Friday night.

One number of young people were at Sunday afternoon with Mrs. M. Bryant at Goldboro.

Some women just can't make up their minds to make up beds.

Lost Residence

Friday, February 3rd, the residence of John D. Simpson near Everetts was burned with much that it contained. Joseph Jenkins and family were occupying same, and discovered the cook room to be on fire. A strong wind was blowing and the house was consumed before any organized aid could be secured. The family lost all their clothing and other household articles. Neighbors came as hurriedly as possible and with united efforts protected the stables and feed houses from being burned. The meat house was torn down to protect it from the flames. This is quite a loss on Mr. Simpson, as the house was large and comfortable, having been built for the use of his own family some years ago. The loss is estimated to be about \$2,000 with \$500 insurance in the Farmers Mutual Fire Association of North Carolina. If the outhouses had been burned, the loss would have been tremendous as the feed and farming implements would have been consumed.