

THE CAROLINA FARMER

UNION



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One Dollar a Year

DIVERSIFICATION of CROPS

We have the best country on the face of the globe and can raise anything almost that grows in the ground at a profit, if we only get at it in the right way. Don't work your old worn-out land, bring it up to a better state of cultivation by a system of rotation. Sow more grain, peas, etc., thereby working more vegetable matter into your land. Don't get into too big a hurry. We are in too much of a hurry to get through and lay-by. The farmer likes to think that his job is done and nature must do the rest. We are largely founding our reform in agriculture on deep and thorough preparation of the soil, better seed, and shallow and intensive cultivation long continued. Of course it is necessary to have implements so that we can get over the ground rapidly and the man who has not these implements should get them in some way immediately for they will pay for themselves in one year. We must also have stronger teams but that takes time and we will attend to that later. One of the worst mistakes we have made in trying to farm our lands is limiting the product to one crop, and sometimes thinking that when the land lies exposed for a half year or more that we are letting it rest. The truth is that land frequently loses more fertility by exposure during the period when it is idle than during the crop producing period. The first progressive step to take is to keep the land doing something the year round, and we must commence in the corn and cotton field. In the corn field you should plant cow peas, while it detracts nothing from the corn it does give a crop of great value for feeding the stock in the fall, and then it leaves in the soil a large amount of vegetable matter to feed the crops of the next season. You can also sow between your rows crimson clover or rye and vetch using about 3-4 rye and 1-4 vetch. After the corn is harvested these crops will thrive mightily and in the spring furnish a large amount of material to turn under and enrich the soil or may be cut for hay. Numerous cases have been reported where crimson clover yielded over two tons of hay per acre and was cut in time to plow the land for the corn crop in the spring.

If we are ever to become great and prosperous farmers and have thrift everywhere through the country, we must adopt some system of rotation, at least we must have some plan about our farm so that we do not continue to raise the same crop on a field each year. Soil dislikes to be put at the same task

every year just as much as a boy gets weary doing one job the year round. "We should do more than just rotate for cotton and corn? For farms that are adapted to the production of these plants the fertility could be maintained by planting every third year in cotton then run two years to corn, planting between the rows each year some fertilizing plant like cow peas, crimson clover or rye and vetch. This would restore the fertility to such an extent that we would probably get as much cotton out of the one crop planted once in three years as we now get out of the crop in two years. Some farmers may be able to take a longer rotation. If so, they are wise farmers who do this. A four year rotation is an excellent plan where cotton is planted only once during the period, corn twice, cow peas and oats once. The successful planter must establish a rotation which includes some pasture or heavy shading leguminous crop that will kill out weeds. One of the most damaging things in corn and cotton production today is the presence of weeds and grass. They so foul the land, overawe and subjugate the young plants that I believe about four times as much damage is caused by foul lands as any other pests. However, we can never expect to reduce this condition very much or eliminate weeds and grass until our highways and fence corners are kept free from weeds which distribute seed on every hand. Sooner or later we shall be compelled to make war on weeds. Do not fail to have a plan.

Plan right now to raise your food supplies. We need cotton, it is our money crop. We need hay and corn to make this money crop, and by growing those food supplies ourselves we can make this money crop, a money crop in the full sense of the word. This being true which we must admit, is it not the part of wisdom and good management, to grow first the food supplies needed on the farm. Raise all the barn yard manure and cow peas you can and the wheat and corn you need and then what cotton you can and you are independent and have your land improving all the time. That to buy hay, meat to eat, is not the province of the farmer and no farmer is successful who does it. The South needs more farmers, farmers who live at home, who grow corn and live stock, eat home grown food and feed home grown feed. This would mean a glorious Southern independence. A good manager will have one or more good cows. A good manager will have one or more good

brood sows and will see to it that two litters are presented to the sow each year. He will have a nice flock of chickens and perhaps other kinds of poultry, and crops will be planted for these needful animals and fowls. He will grow oats for his horses and mules, likewise corn. He will grow potatoes, turnips and other forms of vegetables. He will grow fruits of various kinds, and when all this has been looked after close attention will be given to a production of a cotton crop, under such circumstances the farmer will buy sugar, tea, etc., and such products from the merchant, and his eggs and pigs will pay the bill. There will be no long time credit asked from the merchant, and when cotton prices are to the farmers liking, cotton may be sold and money put in the bank. No debts to pay and no fear of a mortgage foreclosure and none of those harrowing experiences which is the common lot of the man in debt. I am glad to notice an awakening of the farmers along business lines. I hope to live to see the day when we and our dear ones may enjoy some of the pleasures of life. May you also manage and plan with this end in view.

W. S. PHARR.

Lenoir County Farmers' Union Picnic and Rally.

The Lenoir County Farmers' Union will have its annual picnic and rally at New Hope local, four miles south of Kinston, Saturday, September 23rd. There will not be a formal meeting of the Union on this occasion. Mr. A. C. Shuford has been invited and expected to make a speech to the farmers' on that day. Everybody is invited to come and join us in having a good time. Dinner will be served on the ground.

E. C. CARRAWAY, Sec.
Kinston, N. C., Route No. 2.

One of our readers wants to buy a Guernsey Bull, any age. Can anyone supply him. The same writer wants a gasoline engine.

We desire to call the attention of our readers to the advertisement of the Kalamazoo Stove Company, in this issue. If any of our readers desire anything in this line it will pay them to investigate the special free trial offer of this company. Ask for their catalogue No. 659.

Seed Rye wanted by The Wakefield Farms, Charlotte. Please quote prices.