

# AGRICULTURAL NEWS



## OF INTEREST TO POLK COUNTY FARMERS Dope Gathered Here and There Which Has a Local Angle that Makes It Worth the Progressive Farmer's Attention

Edited By "A Dirt Farmer"

### DOES NOT PAY TO SUCKER CORN.

Raleigh, N. C., June 15.—Unless the boys on the farm need some kind of job to keep them busy, it might be better to let them go fishing than to put them to "suckering" corn. Demonstrations made by leading farmers prove that this practice does not pay. "At this season of the year, we get many inquiries as to whether it yaps to sucker corn," says E. C. Blair, extension agronomist at State College. "It does not. Last year H. Holleman of Hertford county found by a careful demonstration that the increased yield secured by pulling suckers was hardly enough to pay for the job. Mr. Holleman pulled suckers from two rows, 100 feet long, and let the plants on the two adjoining rows produce as many suckers as they could. He had a perfect stand on all four rows and both plots were treated exactly alike with the exception of removing the suckers on one plot. The two rows from which the suckers were removed produced 96 ears, including nubbins, weighing 53 pounds. The other two rows produced 117 ears weighing 55 1/2 pounds." This would indicate, states Mr. Blair, that pulling suckers tends to increase the average size of ears and to decrease the number. The total weight of the ears was increased. If these yields were calculated on an acre basis, the corn from which the suckers were removed yielded 46.6 bushels, while that left untouched yielded 46.2 bushels. The small difference of four-tenths of a bushel per acre would hardly pay for pulling the suckers, and the labor could better be used in some other timely job. Mr. Blair states that there is one timely job in the cornfield, however, and this is to add the side application should be used.

### MAKE PLANS NOW FOR FAMILY REUNIONS

Speaking of kinsfolk reminds me to say that in practically all the long-settled rural communities, kinsfolk are usually pretty well grouped together and we believe more of our country life activities should take knowledge of this fact. In such matters as co-operative buying of farm supplies, co-operative selling of farm products, co-operative purchase and use of improved machinery, etc., as well as in recreation and social activities, the best way to get started is usually through brothers, cousins, or other related groups. Of course, we know that not all kinsfolk can get along together, but plenty of them can; and we should not lose the successes the many might make because of the failures that others would report. In this connection we get back to a movement The Progressive Farmer is especially interested in promoting, and that is the holding of family reunions in all parts of the South. Unfortunately some of our fine old country social customs are not so common as they once were—the corn shuckings, quiltings, house-raising, etc., or former days—but the annual family reunion is one fine social institution which has been immeasurably helped by modern inventions. The automo-

### California Leads in Farm Tractors

Maybe California's lead in so many things agricultural can be found in the rapid adoption of the farm tractor, suggests the Research Department of the National Association of Farm Equipment Manufacturers, which has been checking over the United States Department of Commerce figures on the 1925 farm census. The Golden State reported that 25,891 farms owned 29,948 tractors; 19 per cent of her farms being "tractorized," compared to only 12,131 farms with tractors in 1920 when only 10 per cent of her farms owned "iron horses." The Dakotas and Illinois get some of the tractor honors, Illinois having more tractorized farms with 41,454, but only 18.3 per cent, or nearly 1 per cent less than the Coast state. The Dakotas both show over 20 per cent of their own tractors, North Dakota being 3 per cent higher, but only 15,852 and 16,374 of their farms have tractors. Nor has the numbers or percentages increased at such a rapid rate as in California where tractorized farms more than doubled in number and the percentage of farms nearly doubled. Iowa and Kansas are close together at over 17 per cent of their farms tractorized. Nebraska follows at 14 per cent, Wisconsin 15 per cent, Pennsylvania, Oregon and Colorado right close to 10 per cent, New York 13 per cent, Ohio and Indiana about 12 per cent, New Jersey 14 per cent, and on down the line.

### 100-Bushel Growers Use Soil Packers

Three out of four of the 84 gold medal Indiana corn growers of 1925, who farmed with tractors, use the soil or land packer in preparation of their corn fields and for weed killing. The packer does such good service as a weed killer, just when the weeds are getting started, that it saves a cultivation or two on the crop after it sets up. Few of the farmers in the western edge of the Corn Belt are well enough acquainted with this tool yet, according to these growers who find it fits nicely with horse or tractor farming.

### CULTIVATION TO KILL WEEDS IMPORTANT

Weeds take tremendous tolls from the American farmer, says the Research Department of the National Association of Farm Equipment Manufacturers. Row crops should be cultivated frequently to kill the weeds while young, all small grain and grass seeds should be put through the fanning mill to eliminate dirt, weed seeds, foreign matter like chaff and broken weed stems, etc. The disk, the peg-tooth or spring-tooth harrows, the rotary hoe, walking, riding, one-row or two-row cultivators of surface or shovel types, are all great weed fighters. Even the mowing machine does its part by mowing weed patches, abandoned hog lots, road sides, etc., just before the seed forms on the plants.

A boom wouldn't be so bad if it didn't make bums out of the ones that it don't make prosperous.

### ICE CREAM FOR SUNDAY DINNER.

Sue Bridges lives on a large dairy farm, only a few miles away from a good-sized town. One Saturday, while shopping, she heard a stranger say to the woman with her, "I wish we could have ice cream for dinner tomorrow, but my cook can't make it and I don't care for the bought kind."

Sue, who had been longing for a means to make money, hesitated only a moment before she went up to the lady and offered to supply her with the frozen dessert.

The next day she delivered the very best ice cream she could make of pure cream, fresh eggs and fruit, straight from the home orchard. The customer was delighted, and when Sue called on Monday for the bucket and mold, she ordered more for the following week. She told her friends about it and soon Sue, with the help of her younger brother, was making from 50 to 60 quarts every Sunday, besides taking special orders for parties or other occasions.

Now she is thinking of installing an electric freezer so as to make the work easier, but she says that she expects always to serve her customers with the same homemade ice cream that brought her success in the beginning. She uses only the finest home-grown ingredients, and measures and mixes with the care and exactness of a chemist. Thus she has built up a reputation for an especially fine product for which people are willing to pay a good price.—The Progressive Farmer.

Every acre of corn should have soybeans planted in the rows along the corn. The feed will be needed next fall and winter. The hogs will gather the soybeans after the corn is harvested, or they will gather both the corn and beans, or if rough feed for wintering the dry cattle is needed, the corn stover and beans may be saved together for that purpose; and, something that may be still more important, the soybeans will improve the fertility of the soil.—The Progressive Farmer.

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### TRUCK TO GROW FOR LOCAL MARKET

"I am doing general farming, but wish to grow some truck to sell in the nearby town, which has 8,000 population. I want to have principally fall and winter vegetables in order that I may give most of my time in the spring and summer to field crops. How should I proceed to have onions, cabbage, spinach and other vegetables ready for winter and spring markets? What else would you suggest that I plant?"

To have green onions for next winter's use, put out the sets in October, using some of the early varieties like the Extra Early White Pearl. To the extra early winter, set the plants in late August or early September. Sow spinach in September. Set some collards in August or early September. Plant some snap-beans about 70 or 75 days before the first frost usually appears. This will probably be late in August. Sow some rutabaga turnips in late July. Sow the regular varieties of turnips at several different times, beginning in August and sowing once every two or three weeks until the middle of October. Sow mustard, kale and rape for greens in September.—L. A. Niven in the Progressive Farmer.

### PAYS TO PICK UP SQUARES.

The more up to date practice of dusting cotton to combat the boll weevil has rather caused us to neglect the earlier practice of picking up squares. During 1925 one of my tenants, who runs a two-horse farm, pinned his faith entirely to picking up squares with very good success.

He planted about 18 acres to cotton during the last week in April. He has a large family, and they got over the crop on an average twice a week picking up squares until August 10. The crop was fertilized with 300 pounds of 8-3-3 fertilizer per acre, and on July 1 it had an application of sulphate of ammonia at the rate of 75 pounds per acre.

This tenant gathered 11 heavy bales of cotton from his 18 acres. At no time did the boll weevil have the mastery of the situation. The crop in this country was about one-third that produced in 1920. His yield per acre was about two-thirds his yield.—T. E. Keitt in The Progressive Farmer.

### COWPEAS DID IT.

The Alabama Experiment Station wanted to know the real value of planting cowpeas in corn middles at the last cultivation. To determine this value, an experiment was started on the experiment station at Auburn. It consisted of two plots, each of which received ample acid phosphate and kaint each year for corn, but cowpeas were planted in the corn middles of one and nothing was planted in the middles of the other.

During the first ten years the average annual corn yield, where cowpeas were planted, was 19.2 bushels per acre; where no peas were planted, it was 17.1 bushels.

During the next ten years the cowpea plot produced 16.2 bushels per acre, while that receiving no cowpeas made 10.2 bushels.

During the last three years, the plot receiving cowpeas made 17.4 bushels per acre, while the other made 15.2 bushels.

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