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## It's Fair

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## It's Fair

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## FARMER'S FORUM.

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### Home Demand.

The Asheville Gazette says: "The rapid growth of towns and industries in Western North Carolina is making an increasing demand for agricultural products—the demand is even now greater than the supply. There are excellent opportunities for the farmer who knows how to profit by them in this part of the country."

This may be applied to any section of our state. Go into the market places of any of our larger communities and it is surprising to find the quantity of vegetables and meats which are the products of other States but which dealers have to import to supply the home demand. Even butter, eggs and chickens are required from other States. We hazard nothing in saying that a goodly majority of the beaves, and sheep dairy and hen products, vegetables and kindred farm products which go to make the daily market, consumed in the towns and cities of this State are the products of other States. It ought not to be so. This is a subject as prolific of good results if talked about and acted upon by the farmers of our counties as any other that can enlist their attention, and, if properly and systematically attended to will be as profitable to themselves and therefore helpful to the State.—Morning Post.

### March Grain Report.

Until the publication of the census figures of acreage, based on a farm-to-farm canvass, admit of the making of any necessary adjustments in the acreage of figures of this Department, no quantitative estimate of the amount of grain remaining in the hands of farmers on March 1 will be made by the Statistician. Reports received from the department's correspondents, however, indicate that about 23 per cent of last year's wheat crop is still in farmers' hands, as compared with 24.5 per cent (128,000,000 bushels) of the crop of 1900 on hand March 1, 1901, and 29 per cent (158,700,000 bushels) of the crop of 1899 on hand March 1st, 1900.

The corn in farmer's hands is estimated at about 29 per cent of last year's crop, against 36.9 per cent (776,200,000 bushels) of the crop of 1900 on hand March 1, 1901, and 27.2 per cent (773,700,000 bushels) of the crop of 1899 on hand March 1, 1900.

Of oats, there is reported to be about 30 per cent of last year's crop still in farmers' hands, as compared with 36.2 per cent (292,800,000 bushels) of the crop of 1900 on hand March 1, 1901, and 36.5 per cent (290,900,000 bushels) of the crop of 1899 on hand March 1, 1900.

While as stated above and more fully explained in connection with other official reports, no definite quantitative estimates of grain production in 1901 will be made public at present, the reports received by the Department make it manifest that the wheat crop of that year was one of the largest ever grown, that the corn crop was the smallest, with one exception, in twenty years, and that the oat crop was also much below the average. This conspicuous departure from the ordinary relative production of the three principal grains appears to have been followed by a use of wheat as feed for animals more extensive geographically, if not in actual volume, than has ever before occurred.

**JOHN HYDE,**  
Statistician.

Approved:  
**JAMES WILSON,**  
Secretary.

### True Education.

In an address delivered by Professor Irby to the Agricultural Society of the North Carolina College of Agriculture and Mechanic Arts, he took the ground that the hope of

the Old North State was in educated farmers. The address was a very practical one, demonstrating clearly the relation between success in agriculture and proper preparation for it by education. One sentence of Professor Irby should be developed into a volume. It is: "Education is really something drawn out of a person, and not something stuffed into him."

"The great trouble for many of the rising generation is that what passes for education today is in reality nothing but something stuffed into them. They are trained to memorize a lot of stuff which will be absolutely useless to them in their life-work, to the neglect of the training of the powers of observation and reasoning. They are equipped with a lot of material entirely unsuited for the careers to which they are born. They are unconsciously weaned from a recognition of the dignity of physical labor by the will-o'-wisp glamor of overcrowded professions, and instead of being able to contribute to the healthy betterment of the masses of men and women, they become a nucleus for unreasoning discontent."

If Professor Irby can successfully warn the students of the college against the pitfalls of an ambition in inverse proportion to qualifications and circumstances, he will be doing a good work for his State and his country.

### Theory and Practice.

At the last meeting of the Farmers National Congress, President W. D. Hoard, of Wisconsin, made a strong plea for sympathy and union between scientific theory and every-day practice of the farm. He said:

"A moment's study of the situation will disclose a reason for this. The farmer knows from hard experience what he knows; he has worked it out with his hands. He may not have used his mind as he ought, may not have seen what science has to give him, but it is because he has had but little time to leave hand for brain work.

But beyond this is a lack of sureness in his mind of the truth of what the agricultural teacher is saying. He is not sure that the facts which environ him are the same as those which surround the teacher. His isolation on the farm compels him to be independent and self-reliant. He can depend on no one but himself for the soundness of his judgment or a hand to execute it. He thinks very much of what is done at experiment stations, taught at agricultural colleges, or related in dairy and farm papers, for instance, is nothing but theory. He cannot see how it is going to help him, and because he does not see he does accept. Who can blame him? His business is to make a profit out of farm work, be it ever so small. He must earn more than he spends, for very likely there is the interest on the mortgage to satisfy. If he cannot make a margin in any other way, he must do it by hard self-denial of many comforts, and still harder work. It is hard on the wife, on the children and on himself, but there is no help for it—he must pay his debts. No wonder, then, that he cannot always see that he can follow the advice outsiders give him. Most men will not act any further than they can see."

Mr. Hoard showed what Germany and Canada had done in bringing about a new order of things, and asserted that as hard, unthinking, unprofitable farming drives the boy from the farm, the farmer must give his boy a chance to know a little more than he can teach him of farming in these days if he will keep him at home; and that the difference between unsuccessful and successful men in all callings, including farming, is not luck, but rather judgment and energy, and that one must have a mind well stored with sound knowledge

and well trained to use it in order to exercise the best judgment, and that we must commence with the child if we are going to make good farmers.

Mr. Hoard speaks from the standpoint of practical knowledge. His words should sink deeply into the minds of those who expect to be active in developing American agriculture, upon which the prosperity of this country ultimately rests.

### Washing Fowls.

The following is an English method for washing birds:

We are frequently asked at this season how best to prepare birds for the show. The adults are usually so dirty and shabby after the season's work that they are quite unfit to show without considerable preparation. They should be kept apart, and in the shade so far as possible. All minor broken feathers should be removed sufficiently long before the show to give them time to grow again, but care must be taken that no leading feathers are removed in such a way as to give reasonable ground for suspicion that the bird has been trimmed. In the white or light colored varieties, and, indeed, in all varieties in which there is any light color capable of showing dirt, a good washing is essential. It must not be attempted, however, if the bird has begun to cast its feathers as the almost certain result will be a sudden moult, which will spoil all chances of success.

The great secret of washing successfully is to do it boldly; a half-wash is worse than none at all. The bird should be placed in a clean tub of good size in about ten or twelve inches of water, and should in the first place be soaked to the skin with the water, which, by the way, should be fairly warm, though not warm enough to cause the bird to faint. Should this contingency occur, as it sometimes will with heavy birds, a dash of cold water over the head, or the holding the head under the water spout for a minute or two, will bring the bird round. When once it has been thoroughly soaked with water it should be as thoroughly soaked with some soap or soft soap, a good lather being raised, and all parts being well soaped.

The use of a sponge and brush is decidedly advantageous, and there need be no fear as to breaking the feathers, provided they are not rubbed directly against the grain. To rub them across the grain, and to scrub the really soiled parts well with a brush, is necessary. If the bird be very dirty it may be desirable to use a second supply of warm water for the wash, but in any case three or four fresh supplies of warm water should be at hand to thoroughly rinse out the soap from all parts. The soap should be well washed out with hand and sponge in the first water used, and the subsequent rinsing waters may be thrown over the bird partly; the rinsing process should be continued in any case until there is no sign of soap on any of the feathers.

When this stage has been reached the bird should be placed on a table and thoroughly dried with a soft clean cloth, rubbing well into the feathers. If these should become matted at all in the process they should be combed out with a clean comb, and the bird should then be put to dry in a clean basket, the lining of which has been turned back from one side, placed in front of the fire. It must not be near enough, however, to blister the bird's skin or to curl the feathers. Attention is necessary during the drying process to see that the bird turns itself to the fire, so that all parts get a fair share of the heat, and dry simultaneously, or nearly so. If the birds are tame, the bottom bar of a kitchen table, round three sides of which a curtain has been hung, makes a good roost, on which they can be placed near the fire, and can dry without risk of getting soiled, as they may do if placed on straw, unless carefully watched. We recommend all beginners to try their hands in the first instance on a bird not intended for show, and to practice two or three times if necessary, on such a bird.—Poultry, England.



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