

FARM NOTES OF INTEREST

THE LOVE YOU SHOULD FEEL FOR YOUR FARM

We would have every farmer love his work even as the artist loves his work, and in this spirit, too, every farmer should love his farm itself as he would love a favorite horse or dog. He should know every rod of the ground, should know just what each acre is best adapted to, should feel a joy and pride in having every hill and valley look its best, and should be as much ashamed to have a field scarred with gullies as he would be to have a beautiful colt marked with shes; as much ashamed to have a piece of ground worn out from ill treatment as to have a horse gaunt and bony from neglect; as much hurt at seeing his acres sick from wretched management as he would be at seeing his cows half starving from the same cause.

Love your ground—that piece of God's creation which you hold in fee simple. Fatten its poorer parts as carefully as you would nurture an ailing Collie. Heal the washed, torn places in the hill side as you would the bar-scars on your pony. Feed with legumes and soiling crops and fertilizers the galled and barren patches that needs special attention; nurse it back to life and beauty and fruitfulness. Make a meadow of the bottom that is inclined to wash; see it and care for it until the kindly root-masses heal every wound, and in one unbroken surface the tides of grass break into foam of flowers upon the outer edges. Do not forget even the forest lands. See that every acre of woodland has trees enough on it to make it profitable, a good stand of the timber crop as well as of every other crop. Have an eye to the beautiful in laying off the cleared fields—tree here and there, but no wretched beggar-scoat mingling of little patches and little rens, rather broad fields fully ended and of as nearly uniform fertility as possible making of your growing crops, as it were, each a beautiful garment, whole and unbroken, to clothe the fruitful acres which God has given you to keep and tend as He gave the first Garden into the keeping of our first parents.—Raleigh Progressive Farmer and Gazette.

The South Can Compete With the World Growing Corn.

We contend that corn, meats, fruits, legumes and many other crops which we might mention can be grown by the Southern farmer cheaper than any other people on earth can grow them for him, and that, therefore he should grow these crops for his own use and for sale.

Even under present conditions it has been demonstrated time and again, that the Southern farmer can produce hogs at 3 to 4 cents a pound, live weight, and make money on them. If this be so, and it is, then why should he not rejoice at the fact that live hogs are selling at 8 cents a pound, and by growing the hogs as a money crop reap a rich harvest?

We need diversification because it is necessary, or at least conducive to increasing soil fertility, and because we can produce many of these things cheaper than we can buy them. We do not need to grow everything we use, but we need to grow those things of which we use large quantities and which we can produce cheaper than other people can produce for us. Of these crops we stand pat on

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corn, meats and fruits. We can compete with the world in the growing of these crops, and as long as we buy them at from two to three times the cost at which we can produce them, we are not using good farming or business sense.

TWELVE THINGS TO DO THIS MONTH

Break all the land possible, so as to have it ready when spring comes. Plow deeply all clay soils.

Keep the fire out of the fields; do a little more work if necessary to get the trash worked into the soil.

Open up ditches, or make new ones—the broad, shallow kind—straighten up terraces, clean up the banks, fence rows etc.

Get stumps and brush out of the fields; fill in the gullies.

Look over the machinery and see that it is ready for use. Arrange now for the purchase of new implements needed.

Begin getting the horses and mules ready for the spring rush; put them to work by degrees; increase their feed gradually, groom well once each day.

Prepare the hot beds, if not already done, and sow tomatoes, pepper etc. Sow cabbage, lettuce, onion and radish seed. Plant peas and early potatoes.

Get good seed of corn, cotton and other field crops ready for planting. If there is any question of their quality, test seeds for vitality.

Fence off the oats for the pigs and begin preparing a pasture rotation for them.

Set the hens; clean out the poultry houses; whitewash; prepare cops and brooders.

Prune the fruit trees. If you suspect San Jose scale, spray with lime-sulphur solution.

Get the tobacco beds ready. Sow only clean and heavy seed.

HOW TO GET GOOD SEED FOR THE GARDEN

As a rule, it is bad policy to buy garden seed that are offered at low prices, for it costs more to grow good seed than poor ones, and the fact you are offered seed below the price charged by the best seedsmen is sufficient evidence that they should be left alone. Buy only the best, and buy from seedsmen of long standing and unblemished reputation. If you get a seed catalog with the most impossible pictures of fields of vegetables, watermelons, etc., that is usually a good catalog to put in the fire. But when a catalog has photographic illustrations in half-tone taken direct from the plants themselves it shows a man who is not trying to deceive and generally has good seed.—W. F. Massey, Raleigh.

YOU CAN NOT GET SOMETHING FOR NOTHING

Did you ever see of those darkies who when he went to do a hard job would play a little on one side of it and then fool a little on the other side, doing this and that and the other, and concerned chiefly with keeping out of the real work just as long as possible? If you have, you know how much he is really worth when downright hard labor is demanded.

Well, we have often seen farmers who sowed to us to think just like such darkies work. They would wonder and debate over and plan for a peanut or a potato patch, but they never did a good half-hour's really honest, concentrated thinking about their farming as a whole—never considered the various lines of work in relation to each other or to their own substantial and permanent welfare. They farmed without plan or system, with no definite goal in view and, therefore, no certain course in any direction.

To succeed at farming a farmer has got to think, honestly, earnestly, persistently and bravely. He must, when he finds a problem that needs solving, put his mind to work on it and keep it there until he has mastered it, just as he puts his team into a field and keeps it there until the field is plowed. The man who is

expect to do a lot of work with his afraid to work his brain a little must muscles for which he will get very little pay.

TEST THE SEED CORN

Have you tested your seed corn as yet? Or will you be caught asleep at the switch at planting time, when seedmen's tested stock is all cleaned out? The largest trade ever done in seed corn is now on. Illinois and Iowa, the two States of greatest production, are in undoubted bad condition. At the test at Ames last week only 60 per cent. of the seed was found strong. Twelve per cent of it was weak and 28 per cent. bad. Will these alarming figures drive home the necessity for absolute certainty as to the character of the seed planted next spring?

Much field corn, exposed to the winter, used for seed. If it is necessary to resort to such corn, get it in the house as quickly as possible and test each ear carefully. Take them preferably from the inside of the shock, where moisture and cold have affected them least. But get them indoors and test them. Do not trust a hok of an ear. You can no more tell by the looks of an ear how fertile and strong the germs are than you can tell how far a frog can jump by looking at him.

If our corn fields are planted next spring with seed that is only 60 per cent strong, calamity impends. If there is a single farmer who does not realize the gravity of the present grain situation he needs waking up, either in his information or his understanding. Our fields must be farmed as never before. And the foundation of the crop is strong seed. Test your now.—Breeder's Gazette.

WORK FOR THE MONTH

We desire to urge strongly upon our subscribers the importance of having a good garden to supply the table with the vegetables needed to enable the good lady of the house to prepare appetizing and nourishing meals all through the year. Too often in the South she is like the Israelites of old called upon to make bricks without straw, asked to provide the meals but given nothing beyond some salt pork, corn meal and flour and perhaps during the summer a few collards and cabbages and may be a few Irish and sweet potatoes. This is a great injustice done her and those whom she has to feed. There is no reason whatever why every farmer's table in the South should not have vegetables of some kind on the table every day in the year and for most of the time have den. If only the good man will do these gathered fresh from the garden his part she will not fail to do hers and the health of all will be greatly benefited. Farmers, most of them, shirk the garden work and if anything is done expect it to be done by the women of the house hold over and above their household duties. This is a very short-sighted way to look at the matter. Wherever a good garden is made and properly attended to all through the year and an account kept of the produce used and sold therefrom it will be found that no acre on the farm makes the returns for the manure, fertilizer and labor expended on it that the garden does. Let this short-sighted policy be changed and as an evidence of the intention to mend your ways start at once to make a garden and resolve that it shall have the necessary attention all through the year. That this shall be capable of being done without requiring too great a sacrifice of time from the other work of the farm let the garden be made large enough at the outset to provide ample room for all different crops of vegetables. An acre is not too much land to set apart for this purpose and let it be set out longer than wide so as to allow of all rows being made long and thus capable of being cultivated by horse power instead of with the hoe. Half an hour every few days with a cultivator will keep things growing and doing well when hours of labor with the hoe would be required in cultivating short rows. The half hour can be spared from the field crops almost at any time when the hours would be a serious interference with the well doing of the crop. Fence in the garden with a chicken proof fence, say 4 or 5 feet high. If this be made of chicken wire fencing very few of the hens will fly over it as the top selvage of the wire fence is so small that they will not

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use it for enabling them to get into the garden and few hens will fly directly over a fence without alighting on the top. Make a gateway into it at both ends so that time may be saved in working it. Cover the ground with a good heavy coating of rotted barn yard or pen manure and then plow deeply and leave for a week or ten days to dry and freeze if there be any frost. A dressing of a ton of lime to the acre applied after plowing will greatly help to make it more productive by sweetening the soil and improving its physical and mechanical condition. Harrow this in lightly. Especially is lime needed on an old garden plot as these are almost always sour. In our last issue will be found an article showing the benefit of lime in the trucking lands of Tidewater Virginia which have been long worked in vegetable crops. If when the manure is applied 40 pounds of acid phosphate is applied with each ton of the manure this will greatly help to fit the land for making good crops and will pay well. We often hear a man say his garden is too rich to make good crops. That it will only make vines and stalks. It is not too rich but the fertility is unbalanced. Farm yard manure supplies ammonia to the land which makes vines and stalks.

It supplies very little phosphoric acid or potash and all vegetables require these minerals to make seed and tubers. Two to four hundred pounds of acid phosphate and 50 to 100 pounds of muriate of potash to the acre should be applied to balance the farm yard manure. The sooner these mineral fertilizers are applied the better so that they will have time to become available before the crop calls for them. As the land is needed for the planting of the crops work over with the cultivator frequently so as to have a fine seed bed and then lay off the rows wide enough to admit of horse cultivation.

The first crop to be planted is English peas. These may be sown this month using the first early varieties, like Alaska and Nonpareil. Open a wide furrow and scatter the peas by hand in a wide row pretty thickly. Tread the seed into the ground and cover 4 or 5 inches deep. Beets and radishes may be sown together in rows this month. The radishes will come off before the beets need the ground. Early Horn carrots and Southport White Globe onions can also be sown towards the end of the month. These should be thinned out as they become large enough and the thinnings from the onions can be used to plant other rows. Sow mustard and kale in the same way for spring greens. Cabbage seed may be sown for raising plants to set out in rows as soon as large enough. It is well to sow the seed where the plants can be protected by either sashes or brushes and mats or straw if a severe threat-

ens.

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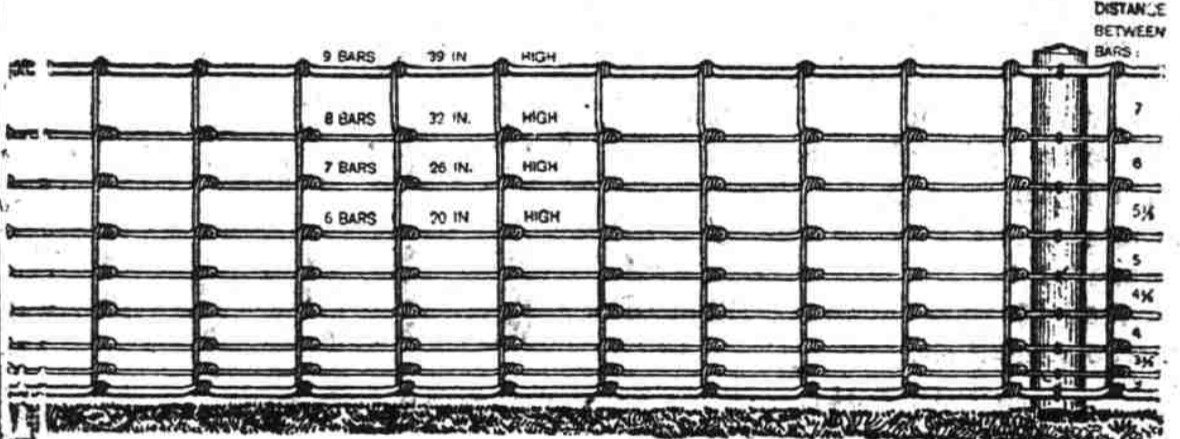
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