

# A Page of Interest to Our Farmer Friends.

## WHAT FARMERS WANT TO KNOW.

(Professor Massey in Progressive Farmer.)

Which is best to mix with manure, raw ground phosphate rock or acid phosphate, the first at \$9 a ton and the second at \$14? In experiments at the Ohio Station the acid phosphate made the greatest yield when mixed at rate of 40 pounds to the ton of manure, but the raw ground rock made the greatest profit because of its lower price.

Mixed with manure or on land where there is a heavy growth of dead peavines the raw pulverized rock will give excellent results, and will be the most economical, while if applied to a soil deficient in vegetable decay it will be a good while getting available.

**Pasture Grasses.**—For a pasture to last two or three years, and then turned in the rotation, I would sow a mixture of 5 lbs orchard grass, 5 pounds of tall meadow oats grass and 5 pounds of Canada bluegrass an acre. Sow peas on the land this spring and apply 300 pounds of acid phosphate and 25 pounds of muriate of potash an acre. Cut the peas for hay and prepare the stubble well and sow the grass seed in October.

**Winter Grazing.**—Hairy vetch and oats that have made a fine fall growth can be pastured moderately during the winter if the cattle are not allowed on it when the soil is wet. But the grazing should be only moderate, and the plants should not be eaten down to the ground.

**Irish Potatoes.**—How many bushels of Irish potatoes it will take to plant an acre when cut to single eyes, will depend largely on the size of the potatoes used. But I would not cut potatoes to single eyes. In all my experience I have gotten better results from cutting to two eyes with a liberal piece of the potato. This will usually take about three barrels of medium-sized potatoes to plant an acre.

**How to Apply Lime.**—"Should lime be spread broadcast and let remain on top of the land all winter or spread just before plowing?" Neither. Lime should not be left entirely on the surface, nor should it be plowed in deeply. The place to spread lime is just after plowing the land, and then harrow it in lightly. Lime sinks rapidly into the soil, and we want it to effect the whole soil. Hence, we put it on top and merely harrow it in.

**Bermuda Grass.**—The best way to kill out Bermuda or "wire grass," as some call it, is to plow it now shallowly and harrow out all you can get and haul it into a gully. Then in spring sow the land thickly in peas, for the Bermuda will not thrive in shade. Mow the peas for hay and harrow the stubble and sow crimson clover and turn this under for corn in the spring and you will not find much grass left, if you sow more peas among the corn and disk them down for oats in the fall.

**Care of the Incubator.** Many of us worrying about the kind of incubator to buy, and many others are selling their old incubators because of a machine they heard or read about that hatches more and better chicks without care or attention than their's did. Remember, there is no "best" incubator; no machine with all the good points and none of the weak points; none are perfect, most of them are good, some are better, and you can make no mistake in choosing one that is doing good work in your community. And do not discard the old machine that has done fairly good work, and is still in good condition, to buy one that "hatches every egg;" the chances are you will do no better with it. Within the past week one woman told me she was discouraged because of her poor luck the past season, as she only averaged 125 chicks from 200 eggs. Some of her hens failed to hatch a chicken, but that was no discouragement. Think of averaging nearly 10 chicks from 15 eggs. Another woman declared it was worth trying again, after hatching 100 chicks from 100 eggs. An incubator will not feed or regulate itself as the hen does, and we must not expect as good results until we have had some ex-

## DEBT.

There is no reason for a mortgaged farm in the South. The man who, from year to year has to pay interest on increasing debts, has something the matter with him. Either he prefers to carry the load to have something to worry about or he is content to exist at the expense of some one else.

If in the Northeast, the Middle North and the Northwest, where but one crop can be made per year, the farmers are for the greater part free from debt, as shown by the census that has just been taken, there is no reason why any farmer in the South, where from two to three crops can be made, from every acre, should be in debt for a nickle, in fact, it would seem that the boot should be on the other foot.

Let us take instances cited by the Census Bureau, which may be regarded as indicative of the whole. In Maine, where the growing season is but five months, 73 per cent of the farmers are free from encumbrances. Only 27 per cent of the farmers are in debt, and there is a possibility that of this percentage some farms are encumbered because their owners are enlarging.

In New Hampshire 75 per cent of the farms are free from debt. In this section, also the growing period is less than half of the year.

In Indiana 62 per cent of the farms are free from encumbrance, and the season is but a trifle longer there.

In Michigan the percentage of farms free from debt is 52, and the growing season is less than half a year there also.

In the South the growing season varies, according to latitude, from ten to twelve months every year. There isn't an acre of the whole of the South that will not produce at least two crops per year, and most of them will produce three.

Reasoning by analogy, would it not be proper to conclude that if the farms, where there can be but one crop grown per year, are to the greater extent free from debt, the Southern farmer in debt should be a rare exception. Is it so?

Unfortunately it is not. But the way has been shown, the path opened to the new arrangement of crops in the South, and the indications are that it will retrieve itself, that the day is close at hand when the exceedingly fertile lands will be kept busy all the year, producing crops that make the dollars to clear off the encumbrances and do away with the credit system that is so costly to the farmer and so profitable to the money lender.—Trucker and Farmer.

## LEARN TO DO THINGS WELL.

You and I are simply bundles of habits. Every time we do anything it becomes easier to do it in the future, until by and by the doing of it becomes unconscious, automatic—it does itself. It is, therefore, of the utmost importance that we form correct habits in doing, in thinking, in living. If we learn to do a thing badly and form the habit, we will in all probability do it badly all our days. If we form the habit of doing things in the wrong way, or if we form the habit of doing evil things, we will in time become careless men or bad men; for badness and goodness are, to a certain extent, at least, matters of habit.

When your Uncle Henry was a boy he was very anxious to get through with a good deal of work. For instance, he was anxious to be the fastest corn husker and the fastest grain binder in the neighborhood. Unfortunately, he formed the habit of binding sheaves loosely and failed to acquire the habit of getting all the silk and husks off the corn. The mice had a picnic in the corn that he husked. A loose sheaf, when hauled in, in harvest, or pitched out at threshing time, was instantly recognized as one of "Henry's sheaves." I tried hard to correct this habit in after years, but never succeeded. I could bind tight enough as long as I kept thinking about it, but the moment I began thinking about something else, and that was about all the time, the sheaf bound itself loose.

You will avoid a great deal of trouble in after life if you will acquire the habit of doing well whatever you do. It is no more trouble to acquire the habit of doing it right than wrong, and when a habit is once formed, it stays formed. The longer you practice it, the more firmly the habit becomes fixed. It is as easy to curvy the horse well, when you get in the habit of it, as it is to give him a "lick and a promise." It is as easy to milk the cow clean, and with neatness and dispatch, as it is to milk her otherwise. The habit once formed, of doing things right, will stay with you as a perpetual heritage and blessing. The habit of doing things right can be formed by the conscientious and conscientious right doing of them in the first place, and every subsequent repetition of the act fixes and confirms the habit until it becomes the permanent, though unconscious, habit of life. The man who learns to do the work on the farm right, will be very likely to do all his work right, for the reason that it becomes his second nature.—Dr. Henry Wallace.

perience, and we should not blame the incubator because of poor eggs, a poor location causing uneven temperature, or our own carelessness.

Give the old machine a thorough overhauling, or order the new one at once, so you will not be delayed at the last minute, and though it may seem like joking, we should like to warn against hatching too many chicks. Most of us are not prepared for large hatches, usually providing only one brooder for each incubator, and our chicks are overcrowded, in consequence most of them die and we pass along the saying: "Incubator chicks are never strong." Do not hatch too early or too late in the season and do not hatch more chicks than you can care for.—Colorado Agricultural College.

### Should the Bobwhite Be Killed Out?

They most certainly should not be killed out. On the other hand, they will repay bountifully all efforts expended in protecting them and favoring their increase. The farmer should never allow more to be shot for game than the surplus stock, being sure to leave plenty of birds for the next year's nesting. The live birds on the farm are worth much more than the dead birds on the table, however, well they may be cooked.

The bobwhite or quail is naturally trustful and where undisturbed becomes remarkably tame. He will rear his young and spend his days close to human dwellings, adding cheer by his merry whistle. More important than this, however, from the money stand-

point, the bobwhite is a strong ally of the farmer in the fight against weeds.—Dr. W. D. Bell.

### Success With The Chicks.

The most important thing in starting young chicks is to refrain from feeding them a single atom of food for at least 36 hours. Nature has filled their little stomachs before they left the shell and if they are stuffed as soon as they appear, many will die.

Give them plenty of water and after 36 hours feed them lightly on fine rolled oats or coarse corn meal, then, just as soon as they show strength and vigor let them run on the tender, short grass for a little while every day.

Watch for lice from the start and if any are found on the heads or under the wings, touch the spots lightly with lard or vaseline. Having started right by following the above directions the success depends upon the fidelity with which you manage the flock until they become full-fledged or are ready to be sent to the market.—Atlanta Journal.

**Special Inducement.** It was a wild night. The doctor had closed his storm doors and retired. Suddenly there came a jingle on the night bell.

"Who is there?" demanded the doctor, irritated at being awakened at that hour.

"Billy Jones," responded a weak voice from below. "Baby has swallowed the Lincoln penny Mover gave him for a Christmas gift."

"He has, eh? Well is there and special inducement for me to come out such a night as this?"

"Oh, yes, sir. Mover says if you get the penny up you can have it."—Chicago News.

## A COTTON PICKER THAT'S A MARVEL.

Goodwin and Harding's Machine Does the Work—And at a Small Cost. Twentieth Century Revolution in Cotton Picking is Fully Shown by Successful Demonstration of the Picker Before the Public.

Cotton picking successfully by a machine is an assured fact. That a machine that does the work has been invented by Raleigh men is a source of local pride. The Whitney Cotton gin effected a revolution in preparing cotton for the market. The Goodwin & Harding cotton picker effects a revolution in gathering the cotton.

A few days ago the Goodwin & Harding cotton picker was successfully demonstrated at the Hobby farm near Raleigh. Yesterday afternoon there were four demonstrations at the Raleigh Iron Works, and each was a success. Cotton plants with the cotton bolls on them had been set out and the new picker—a twentieth century marvel—did the work of picking cotton cleanly and rapidly.

A large and representative crowd attended the demonstrations yesterday; and there was great enthusiasm over the work. "It is a wonder in picking cotton," was the verdict, for the cotton picker worked like a charm. The cotton picker, with one man using two pickers, has a capacity of a bale a day, the cost about 20 cents a hundred pounds, as against fifty cents by hand, the results showing one man in a day can pick 1,000 pounds, as against 150 to 200 pounds by hand. The machine is not an expensive one, its cost being such as to put it in the reach of every thrifty farmer. It is no heavier than an ordinary one-horse wagon, and it does not injure the cotton plant. One of the machines will carry two to four men, and this means the picking of two to four bales each day by one machine.

The power is supplied by a small gasoline engine and the cotton is taken from the plant into a tube, drawn in by a flexible shaft, the cotton being carried on by the use of a small revolving fan through a flexible tube into a receptacle. The machine has fully shown that it is a success, those who have seen it being astounded at its work. It will make a revolution in cotton picking.—Raleigh News and Observer.

### A Woman's Farming Venture

St. Paul Dispatch. Miss R. N. Hillman is the active head of a profitable farm of nearly 1,000 acres. She was born in St. Paul and for some years was well known as a stenographic reporter. Shortly before leaving for Canada she moved to a Wisconsin farm. Here she became interested in farming. She longed to get out on the Western prairies, so with what capital she possessed she took what she calls a "long chance" and staked her saving on Canadian land.

What she did, she persists, many a girl now working on a small salary can do. With her mother and small brother she went into the country, purchasing supplies in a blind way, for she knew little about farming. She is now classed as one of the large grain growers in the vicinity of Moosejaw.

From small beginnings her land possessions grew. At first it was forty-five miles to the nearest railway. It was a waiting game, but the market came, as it must inevitably come to a fertile country, and now what was once the frontier has a station within easy hauling distance. Miss Hillman buildings are of stone and cement. The barns have cemented alleys and it takes a foreman and a staff of four hands to run the place in the dull time and eight men during the busy season.

Miss Hillman is the real head. She rides about her farm and knows what she is doing. Her system of farm accounts shows every day where she is at financially, and she can tell you that back in the year 1909 she took off 8,300 bushels on 230 acres and cleaned up over \$6,000.

Broughton Brandenburg, the magazine writer, collapsed Friday when he was sentenced to a term in Sing Sing prison of from two years to four years and six months. Brandenburg was convicted of forgery of a check for \$50. The writer has figured in court for the last two years, notably in connection with the alleged "faking" of the Grover Cleveland letter and the kidnaping of Brandenburg's child.

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