

A Page of Interest to Our Farmer Friends.

Four Essentials to Southern Agricultural Prosperity.

If the farmers of the south produced all the mules, corn, hogs, and hay that are used in the South, what would be the effect on our agriculture? It would simply mean a revolution. There are few counties in the whole South that have a railroad station or a steamboat landing that do not buy large quantities of two or more of these staple products. There is no way of estimating accurately the money spent each year for these farm products, but it is simply enormous. All this would be retained in the South to circulate and increase all lines of business; but this is only one of the many benefits which would accrue. Not until we breed our own mules can we hope to have enough of them to do our farm work well and economically. There are no greater weaknesses in our present system of doing farm work than those resulting from a lack of mule power—the use of small, ineffective implements and of man labor which should have its place taken by machines and mules.

As long as corn and hay are purchased to feed live stock, we can never hope to keep that necessary to build up our worn lands and consume the forage which must be grown when a proper crop rotation is adopted.

Hogs offer one opportunity for getting into live stock husbandry at a small cost for breeding stock and there is abundant proof that they can be produced on cheap Southern grown feeds at a large profit over present prices. Here, indeed, is a "money crop" equal to King Cotton if cultivated with the same interest and moderate intelligence.

Many of the suggestions offered for the betterment of Southern agriculture are rejected by southern farmers, as impracticable under existing conditions. This is generally not true, the impracticability of their adoption resting entirely in the disinclination of our farmers; but who will dare state that every individual farmer in the South can not raise his hay, corn and hogs and a little more for the town people of his section, if he really wants to. Moreover, the farmers of the South, as a whole, can raise all the mules used by the South, just as soon as they want, or try to do so.

Mr. Lem Banks of Memphis, Tenn., who is largely interested in Southern agriculture and a close student and observer of conditions, insists that if the South will simply grow these farm products, mules, corn, hogs and hay, in sufficient quantities to supply the South, all things else needed to regenerate our agriculture will come naturally and easily. Who can deny the truth of this statement, or offer any sensible reason why we should not produce these farm crops in quantities to meet all our needs?—Progressive Farmer.

Value of Wood Ashes.

A correspondent wants to know if he can use to advantage a large pile of ashes, which is near him, to apply to his land.

Wood ashes vary much in their composition according to the variety of wood burned and the amount of leaching that has taken place. Unleached ashes, contain from 16 to 40 per cent. of potash. Large quantities of lime and a small amount of phosphoric acid are also found in unleached wood ashes.

The average composition of ashes as found, where they have been more or less exposed to the rain and other materials become mixed with them, is about 4 to 6 per cent of potash, 2 per cent phosphoric acid and 30 to 32 per cent of lime. Leached ashes contain 1 to 1 1/2 per cent of potash and phosphoric acid each, and 28 to 30 per cent of lime.

If potash is needed, there is probably no better form than in wood ashes. The phosphoric acid and lime will also be of some value.

With a haul of less than a mile and fresh ashes being added to the supply each day, they can be used to advantage on any soil not abundantly supplied with lime and

and apply the ashes broadcast and harrow in a week or so before planting the crop. They may be applied in any quan-

tity from 500 pounds to a ton to the acre. If land is deficient in potash, and the ashes are applied to supply that plant food, 500 pounds to the acre will do very well, but if on sour land, where they will probably do most good, a ton to the acre or more might be used.

If these ashes contain 2 per cent of phosphoric acid, that is 40 pounds to the ton, which is worth about \$200. This alone will pay for hauling, if land needs phosphoric acid.—Exchange.

Some Farmers Still Burn Stalks.

Messrs. Editors: Our farmers down here in the east are pushing on their work with the full hope that the coming harvest will not be flooded as was the last. However, we find a few farmers along the highways piling and burning their cotton stalks and corn stalks. These are the men who can't find time to read The Progressive Farmer, but go on in the destructive way their fathers work.

This waste of humus is now rather the exception than the rule with our farmers, and the disk harrow is generally used now instead of the torch.

The trucking interests about New Bern do not seem to be as extensive as heretofore. Wet weather and poor transportation seems to be the causes of reduction.

There will be more corn and oats than usual. In a number of places now we see pigs grazing fall oats. Where oats were not put in the fall, that work of seeding is now going on, and some of us are putting basic slag broadcast on our oat land and running light harrow over to mix it with the soil as we know much of our lands are sour from the floodings of last year.

We notice in The Progressive Farmer a plan for sprouting oats for chickens. I have a cheaper one, which is to sow the oats on plants where the hens can scratch, cover lightly with cultivator or disk and let the hens scratch for them, by sowing a plat each week, sometimes oats, rye and wheat mixed, we keep the hens scratching, and the more they scratch, the better they lay, if they get what they need by scratching.—D. Lane in Progressive Farmer.

Bossy.

Our best friend among the farmyard people—yes, we must place the cow before good old Dobbin, for we should suffer more if she were taken from us than if we were deprived of the horse. Bossy is the chief support of many a poor widow. It is by her help that the oldest son is able to go through college. It is often Bossy who dispels that terrible bugbear, the mortgage on the farm. Not only does this gentle-eyed lady furnish us with meat, milk, cream, butter, and cheese, but her hide is used for shoes and harness, her hair mixed with mortar to plaster the walls of our houses, her hoofs made into glue, and her bones used for knife handles and buttons.

The cow is as old as civilization itself, herds of cattle having been kept by ancient Egyptians, Assyrians, Hebrews, and Greeks, partly for food they furnished and also for the labor they performed.

Every country has its own peculiar breed of cattle, one of the strangest being the "sacred running ox" of Ceylon, a little creature only thirty inches tall, that is used to carry express matter long distances because he is such a swift runner.

Every herd of cows has a ruler, a dignified cow who usually governs her band with a rod of iron. Every member knows that she may not eat or sleep in a chosen spot, that she must not pass first over the pasture bars unless she has obtained her leader's permission.

Bulls have long worn rings in their noses, but only lately has it become the fashion for cows to wear ear rings. Last year a law was passed in Belgium requiring every cow to have an ear ring with her special number engraved upon it.

Bossy is a most loving mother and an affectionate friend. She likes to have people talk to her, and one clergyman whom I know said he felt like taking off his hat every time he met a cow. Did you know that Bossy has a musical ear? The maid who sings as she milks succeeds in filling her pail much sooner and with less labor than does the maid who is silent at her work.—Selected.

CHICKS AND CHICKEN FEED

As the young chicks are hatched the owner's first question is what to feed them. Do not feed them anything for the first thirty-six to forty-eight hours. The absorbed yolk of the egg furnishes them all the natural food they require for this time, and when they are fed before the yolk has been completely absorbed trouble is sure to follow.

The first feed for young chicks should be water and fine grit. Then should follow finely ground or crushed grain in a mixture such as is supplied by the commercial chick feeds. Charcoal is good for correcting bowel troubles, and all of the commercial feeds contain it in ample proportion. Almost all commercial chick feeds are reasonably cheap, contain a variety of essential grains, and in most cases are better and cheaper than feed made at home.

After the chicks are four or five weeks old whole wheat may be given to them, and perhaps no other grain is better. Wheat, at present market prices can be purchased for about a cent and a half per pound. With the wheat some cracked corn can be fed to advantage. This is as cheap or cheaper than wheat in most sections of the country. If skim milk or sour milk of any sort can be spared, this makes an excellent supplement to the grain ration.

Skim milk is also one of the best feeds for laying hens at any season. Wheat and oats are the best grains to feed them, and some whole or cracked corn may always be used in the daily ration. Some persons condemn corn as too heating and fattening for hens, but when fed in moderate amounts, with other the more nitrogenous grains it gives good results.

Allow mature chickens, as well as chicks, to forage on grass or clover as much as possible in spring. The green feed furnishes valuable food elements and the vegetable juices aid materially in digesting heavy grains. Exercise on open and clean range is conducive to chicks' health and vigor and to laying hen's health and egg production.—Woman's Daily.

Poultry Notes.

Keep the brooder and coops dry. Millions of chicks die every spring from wet feed and damp quarters.

Early hatched chicks are always the healthiest and strongest, and give the best results in every way. Keep the incubator going at fullest capacity at this season, and set every hen that wants to set. In this way you will have some young cockerels for big, early prices, and pullets which will begin laying by the last of August.

Make war on lice and mites before the cold weather is over, thus getting ahead of them in their season's work. Lice and large poultry profits do not go together.

Before warm weather comes make wire screens for the windows and doors of the poultry houses. Use wire heavy enough so that it will keep out dogs and other animals that might disturb the birds. Arrange good and safe fastening attachments for the screened doors.

Poultry droppings are the best fertilizers for flowering plants and for vegetable and fruit gardens. Save all of them, placing them on the soil as fast as they accumulate.

Ducks and geese are not so popular as chickens in many places yet good money can be made with either where plenty of open pasture is available. Geese after six weeks of age will live entirely upon grass, and they will soon turn the grass into money.—Ex.

The Poultry Yard.

The March-hatched pullets will be the early fall layers.

Many incubator chicks are killed with kindness by being overfed and kept too warm.

You need not be afraid the hens will eat too much crushed shells. Let them have all they want.

Make it a rule to count the biddies every day. Some folks never do this. They might be robbed and never know it.

I have heard the advice given to feed the chicks all they will eat up clean. That won't do. They will eat up clean (the first week or two) more than they have any business eating.

Hard enough to set for three weeks, without having to be gnawed all the time by insect pests. Look at your setting hens once in

a while and be sure they are free from enemies of this kind.

Particularly at this season of the year, do not set a hen until it is positive that she is thoroughly broody. If she does not have the full fever, she is apt to desert her charge, often after setting a week or two.

As the weather is still cold, not more than eleven eggs should be given a hen. When a large number is allowed, the eggs are not sufficiently covered, and those on the outer edge of the cloth are likely to become chilled.—Farm Journal, for March.

Hog Raising in Watauga.

Mr. Editor:—I wish to give your readers my short experience in hog raising since March, 1919.

In that month I bought a pair of Duroc pigs, and in August the sow farrowed 7 pigs, which I sold for \$36. Then on April 2 she mothered a litter of 10 which I sold for \$50.50, and on September 14 she brought forth 12 pigs—lost three—of which I sold 5 for \$25 leaving four still on hand. So rating them at the same price at which the others sold, the sow paid me \$131.50, and during the same time the male paid me \$65.50 making a total of \$179. Then after feeding the two parent hogs sixty days, feeding them 29 1-2 bushels of corn, I butchered and weighed them and the pair netted 785 pounds. The lard, after being rendered out, weighed 82 pounds.

My experience with the two hogs was as follows: I put them in the pen on November 17, one weighing 294 pounds and the other 204 pounds. On December 17, I weighed them again and one had gained 97 pounds and the other had gained 115 making a gain of 212 pounds. During the next thirty days they gained 210 pounds making a total gain of 422 pounds in sixty days, being weighed the last time after they had been killed and bled.—W. W. Blackburn in Watauga Democrat.

A One Horse Farmer's Success.

Mr. J. R. Reese, who has a little farm of 72 acres on the outskirts of the city, had a row to pick with the Democrat and the Progressive Farmer as he dropped into the office the other day. In a feeble way the Democrat has been trying to do the Aaron and Hurr stunt to the farmer in its effort to get the farmers to run two horses.

Now it so befalls that Mr. Reese is a one-horse farmer and is a bit resentful of what has been said of him and his class. Said he:

"Last year I sold at 1 1/2 cents cotton for \$406. I raised at 70c a bushel \$150 worth of corn; 300 bushels of sweet potatoes at 40c a bushel, \$120; 73 bushels of wheat at \$1.15 worth \$83.95; 18 bushels of rye at \$1.00 worth \$18; 100 bu. of cotton seed at 50c, \$50.

Besides this, I have hauled behind this same one horse 100 cords of wood to market. I have three cows and sold 12 pounds of butter a week. I killed 100 pounds of pork, and don't owe a cent in the world except for the Democrat, and I am here to pay for that."

We tried to convince Mr. Reese that he would accomplish just twice what he has done if he had had a mate to that marvelous piece of horse-flesh, and we have a sneaking idea that he believes it, for he admitted that he had swapped this horse, which by the way, was 7 years of age and weighed 1200 pounds, for two horses. But he got bit. That horse was worth three ordinary horses.—Hickory Democrat.

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