

A Page of Interest to Our Farmer Friends.

WHAT FARMERS WANT TO KNOW.

Professor Massey in Progressive Farmer.

Some farmers need to know that writing with a pale pencil on dark paper is hard on old eyes, and that if a reply is wanted by mail, they should enclose a stamp. White paper and pen and ink are all cheap enough, and if a reply is not worth a two-cent stamp it is of little value.

Pea Weevil.—The weevil that infests peas and beans is a little black beetle with white markings on the wing covers, and is not more than three-sixteenths of an inch long. He has a snout which is inserted into the peas through the green pod and the female lays an egg there. This hatches to a worm-like form and feeds on the pea, going into the pupa state in the pea and coming out a full grown beetle ready for work at once. The full grown beetles live over winter and come out in the spring. The scientific name is *Bruchus pisi*. If the seed are heated to a temperature of 145 degrees for an hour they may be destroyed in the peas and never get out. After they are out the best thing is to smother them with fumes of carbon bisulphide. A pint of this in a pan set on top of one hundred bushels of peas and the bin closed up will smother all the beetles, as the fumes are heavier than air. They are also explosive and fire must be kept away.

Feeding Cottonseed Hulls.—Cottonseed hulls have a feeding value about the same as wheat straw, but they are harder to digest than the straw. I would prefer corn shucks and corn stover, and fodder is far away better than cottonseed hulls.

Spraying Tomatoes.—Slake 8 pounds of lime and 8 pounds of sulphur together in a barrel covered with a sack. Then add water enough to make 50 gallons. Strain this into a spraying machine, and spray the plants as soon as set out, and every ten days till the tomatoes are half grown. This will prevent rot and leaf blight, but will have no effect on the Southern bacterial blight. The only thing for that is to avoid infested land.

Keeping Eggs.—Yes, you can keep eggs in water-glass, Silicate of soda, for some length of time. But they cannot be sold for the price of fresh eggs, and I never want to eat any eggs but the fresh laid ones.

Clover Backward.—Give it a top-dressing of 300 pounds of Thomas phosphate and 25 pounds of muriate of potash well mixed. I think this will help it.

Chloride or Sulphate of Potash.—"I notice in a seedsman's catalog that muriate of potash should never be used on cabbage. Is this correct?" I know of no reason why the muriate should not be as good for cabbage as the sulphate. The cabbage in a wild state is a native of the seashore, and there get plenty of chlorine in the chloride of sodium or salt, and the muriate is the chloride of potash. I have found that the sulphate is best for tobacco, and for any plant in which sugar is an important thing as on melons, tomatoes, sweet potatoes, etc. But if I were making a fertilizer for cabbage, I would get the potash from the muriate because it is cheaper.

Fertilizing Watermelons.—"Shall I use manure in the hills or fertilizer, or both, for watermelons?" We have long ago quit making "hills" for melons or cucumbers. Melons, both watermelons and cantaloupes and cucumbers, are very largely grown where I live. The rows run out deep furrows in January and fill them half full of manure. These furrows are six feet apart for cantaloupes and cucumbers and ten feet for watermelons. The manure is gotten in early so as to rot to some extent by planting time. Then at planting 500 pounds of high-grade 7-6-5 fertilizer is applied on the manure and bedded. The beds are rolled flat and the seed sown in a continuous row. After a good stand is assured the watermelons are thinned to six feet, and as the vines start to run about an ounce of nitrate of soda is scattered around each plant. It is found that the best melons must have manure and fertilizer both.

Where to Use Floats.—"I have a car-load of Tennessee phosphate rock. If I use this to same money value that I would use acid phosphate on land that has abundance of vegetable decay, can I get as good results as from acid phosphate?" I think that on your swamp soil you will get even better results with the floats than with acid phosphate. But besides phosphoric acid, your black soil especially needs potash more than any other class of soils. To get the best results from the floats you should use muriate of potash liberally with the floats.

Bone Meal.—"What do you think of bone meal 3 per cent ammonia and 50 per cent some sort of acid or lime?" I suppose that the article is represented as having 3 per cent ammonia and 50 per cent bone phosphate of lime. That is 3 per cent ammonia and about 25 per cent of phosphate acid, a large part of which is for the time being unavailable. I think that it is a very costly way to get phosphoric acid, and that the sample is not high in ammonia, for a good sample of raw bone meal should have 4 per cent of nitrogen. You can get phosphoric acid more cheaply in acid phosphate and ammonia more cheaply by growing peas and clover. The phosphoric acid in bones is not a particle better than phosphate acid in rock. Both are the same identical thing, and the phosphoric acid in the dissolved rock is more readily available than in raw bone meal, which must decay and the ammonia become nitrified before it comes into use. You can get the nitrogen cheaper in nitrate of soda if you must buy it.

Peas vs. Soy Beans.—A field from which soy beans and cowpeas were cut was disked fine and sown to wheat last fall. "The wheat, right to a line, is much finer where peas were sown. Why is this?" It is right in line with what I have often observed in regard to these two crops. Soy beans make a fine crop of excellent forage, but where they and peas are both cut off the greater development of the root system of the peas will leave more organic matter, and hence more organic nitrogen than the soy beans. If both were turned under entire, I don't think that there would be much difference, for the top growth of the soy beans is very rich in nitrogen, but the greater root development of the peas will make a pea stubble worth more than that from the beans.

Peanuts and Lime.—"Will prepared lime injure a fertilizer if mixed with it?" How is the best way to use lime for peanuts? Lime mixed in a complete fertilizer will tend to revert the phosphate acid and make it more slowly available and will carbonate and drive off ammonia from organic matter like cottonseed meal. Lime is not a fertilizer, though the lime makers often try to make farmers believe that it is. Its use on peanuts is to release any insoluble potash that may be in the soil, for it is the deficiency of potash, the strach former, that causes pops. You can apply some lime by using the Thomas phosphate that carries 40 per cent of lime. The phosphoric acid in this is not so quick as in acid phosphate. You can mix a little nitrate of soda with it as a starter, without damage, and a

JUST FIFTY MORE COMBINATION KITCHEN SETS LEFT AT THE HUSTLER OFFICE

applying 30 pounds of plaster in every 100 pounds. The important matters for peanuts are phosphate acid and potash, for like peas, they can get nitrogen from the air, though a little nitrate of soda at the start will give them an early help.

Male and Female Ears.—"A neighbor claims that an ear of corn that is hollow at the butt where broken off is a female ear, and one that is smooth where broken off is a male and non-productive for seed. How is this?" It is simply pure nonsense. Every ear on every plant is purely female till it is fertilized by pollen from the tassels, the male element. The silks are the pistils of the female flowers, each terminated at the lower end by an ovary, and the cob is simply the receptacle on which the pistillate or female flowers grow, and every grain is the fruit of an individual female flower. The tassels ripen, the fine, dust-like pollen is blown all around by the wind and falls on the outer part of the pistils or silks. These being moist and naked, the pollen grain swells and grows downward till it reaches the ovary, and there the ovule takes on a new growth and the fruit or seed is formed. And there is never seed formed till a pollen grain grows down the silk and makes it. Then each fruit makes a seed, the result of the union of the male and female elements, and there are no male or female ears.

INTENSIVE FARMING.

What Can Be Done on a Twenty-Acre Farm in the South.

The colonial idea in the South was that it required 1,000 acres to make a good plantation, and 2,000 acres to make a rich planter. These figures have dwindled down through the decadal periods, until now it is not only possible to grow rich in that region on a 100-acre farm, but on a one-horse farm or a one-mule farm, thrifty farmers may easily support a family and have something left at the end of the year or a neat bank account. That is not a theoretical idea but a fact demonstrated on just such a limited tract in a number of instances along the Southern railway. For the encouragement of small farmers who have heretofore failed, and, probably still are failing to make both ends meet, because they are, unhappy located in the wrong place for small farmers, we give some instances which must be convincing without further proof.

A Virginia farm of 34 acres yielded \$1,067 in cash, net profit in one year. It produced in that time 1,000 bushels of potatoes, which brought \$600; hay sold for \$115; early cabbage sold for \$150; milk and butter from four cows bringing \$310; other products—seed, corn, asparagus, honey, and stock sold, adding to the gross receipts in all \$1,387. For labor, fertilizers, feed for stock, and an allowance for interest on the land investments taxes, repairs; and waste was deducted \$320. In the meantime the owner had supported his family comfortably, and his land, by careful cultivation, had advanced in value.

Further South, a farmer produced 28 bales of cotton on 19 acres. Including seed, the crop brought him \$3,300. Deducting cost of labor, feed for one mule, fertilizer, seed, repairs, interest and incidentals, estimated at \$800, his net profits for one year were \$2,500.

In this case the planter received an unusually high price for his cotton seed—\$3 per bushel.

A Catawba, N. C. farmer, raising hogs on 25 acres, divided the land into four fields, rotating with cowpeas, sorghum cane, and clover for forage, and corn for feed from the ear. His stock were of good strain; his methods up-to-date, and his land was subjected to intelligent and careful treatment, enhancing its value by making it twice as fertile and productive as when he began, only a few years ago, to raise swine for profit. His clear profit for the year was \$1,200.

Others, and they are not few, have purchased small tracts in the Southern Railway districts the southeast, and have done about as those above cited, and now, with lands finely cultivated and worth several times more than they cost, they are independent and prosperous.

Lands in hundreds of fine localities in the territory embracing the Southern railway lines can be purchased at exceedingly low rates, and can be made as productive by a few years proper tillage as lands in their vicinity under a high state of cultivation now and valued at many times the price of these adjacent and uncultivated tracts. There is room for thousands of Northern farmers who would change to better locations, opportunities which they can nowhere else find; and possibilities in the soil of these Southeastern sections passing all expectations.

The Land and Industrial Department of the Southern Railway will furnish lists of many places desirably situated for sale in the Southeast, and will promptly answer inquiries concerning them.—Southern Field.

HOW TO CONTROL LICE ON SETTING HENS.

Some Suggestions That Should Have Immediate Attention.

"The losses by poultry raisers due to injury to the flock by lice is enormous," says Prof. J. G. Halpin, head of the poultry department of the College of Agriculture of the University of Wisconsin. "This is especially true in the case of the setting hen whose body furnishes an ideal place for the growth of lice. An idea of the rapid reproduction of these pests can be gained from a recent experiment which shows that in an eight weeks' period one louse produced 25,000 lice.

"The physical vigor of lice-infested hens is materially impaired; the hens are uneasy and restless and neglect their sitting. By far the greatest injury wrought by the lice-infested hens is their ready transmission of these pests to the tender chicks who are in a defenseless condition to resist the parasites.

"The season is almost here when the setting hen will be called into service," continued Professor Halpin, "and she should be in the best physical condition for efficient results. It is a good policy to dust the hen thoroughly with some good insect powder before she is given any eggs. Then repeat this during three to four times during the incubation period if any evidence of lice is noted. The last dusting should occur about four days before the eggs are hatched.

"A simple and effective insect powder can be prepared by using 8 parts gasoline, one part crude carbolic acid (strength 90 to 95 per cent) and stirring in sufficient plaster of Paris or other fine powdery ingredient until a thick, moist mixture is formed. Spread out this mass on a cloth or paper in a fairly warm room to allow the surplus gasoline to evaporate. At the end of 24 hours the powder is ready for use. Another excellent dusting powder can be made by running refuse tobacco stems through the feed mill and using the powder thus obtained for insect control."

The best crops are impossible without good seeds, no matter how favorable other conditions may be.

The Holstein-Friesian Association offers a silver cup for the best breeder's young herd at both the Virginia and the North Carolina State Fairs.

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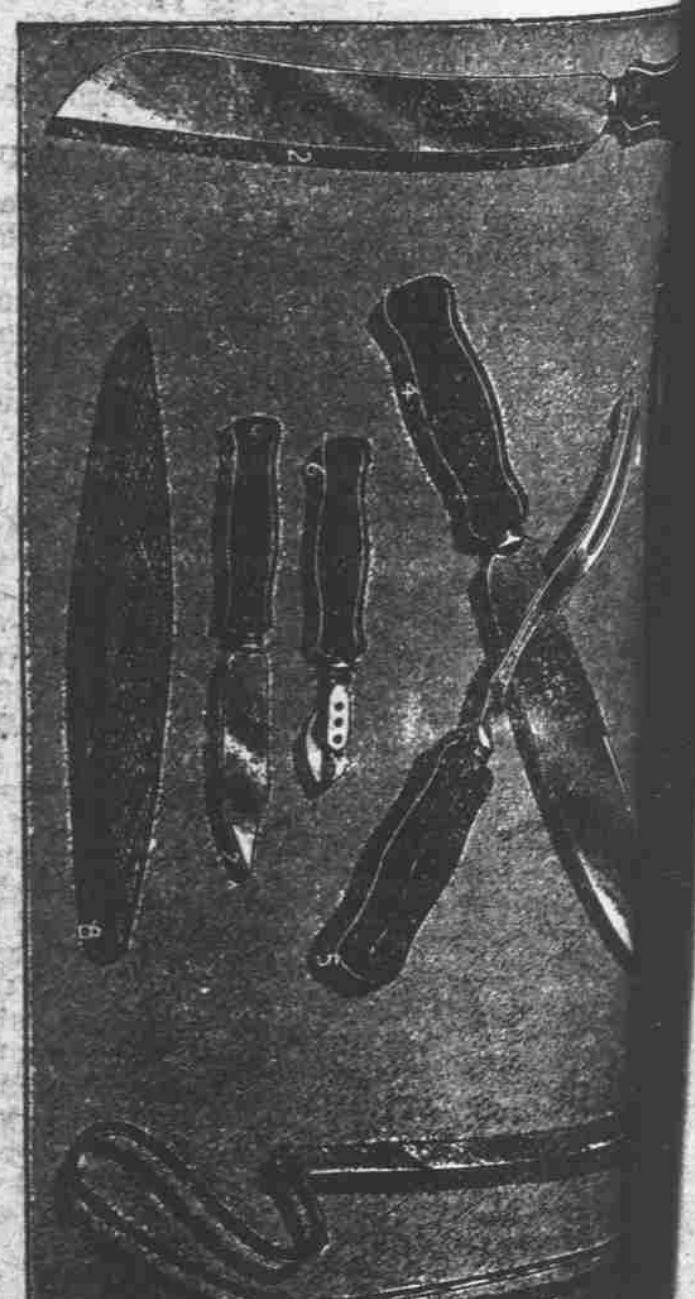
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