



THE PROGRESSIVE FARMER.

THE INDUSTRIAL AND EDUCATIONAL INTERESTS OF OUR PEOPLE PARAMOUNT TO ALL OTHER CONSIDERATIONS OF STATE POLICY.

Vol. 1. WINSTON, N. C., MARCH 17, 1886. No. 6.

Agricultural.

For the Progressive Farmer.
FARM HINTS.

NO. 1.

Messrs. Editors:—I like this way of writing above initials. The pronoun I, don't appear so prominent, and if a man wants to say anything he can say it; and nobody knows or cares who he is. If there is any weight in his points, the reader can easily perceive it, than if—in the writer,—he recognized a friend or foe. The farming population in North Carolina makes a community six times as large as any other in the State; and although their productions feed the country, make its commerce, and grease the wheels of all the industries and professions, an encomium upon the brawny, struggling thousands, is very rare.

But I just want to drop a hint or two that I gathered, from experience, in growing Irish potatoes: The ordinary habit of my neighbors, is, to use or sell the large and better formed samples, and plant the small ones. By experimenting for more than one season, I found by planting the largest and most healthful tubers, there was a difference in their favor, in the yield, of 30 to 45 per cent. in measure, and of 20 to 30 in quality.

Another fault I notice to be very common, is, that of crowding the plants. If I have nothing planted with them, I prefer one plant to the hill, 18 inches apart, and the rows 3 feet wide.

One more hint from my own habit. Knowing how vulnerable the plant is to excessive sun shine, if I want potatoes unusually tender and healthful, I plant in rows and ridges, five feet apart, and two eyes in each hill, 36 or 40 inches apart. Then, late in the Spring, I plant a hill of corn between each two hills of potatoes; I then cultivate, just as I would the corn alone, and I make three-fourths of a crop of the nicest potatoes that I raise, and five-eighths of a crop of corn. I don't say to any one do as I do; I drop the hints, and if no one wants to experiment; if his system is perfect, no harm is done.

I could not see the propriety, (from the reasons the books gave), of "cutting back" a grape vine every year, so that it could not take a natural pull at growing, like other things. So I tried one vine, and took note of another of the same age, to see the comparative yield of the two. The one that I allowed to run, making trellis according to its requirements, brought quite as nice fruit, and about eight times as much as the stubb that I had cut back. I am in farming, like I am in other things, glad to read a book, but when I am done, I go and do as I please. But there is a great future for North Carolina, if the yeomanry will try, just a little.

Truly, etc.,

J. W. V.

TO PRESERVE GREEN APPLES.

Dr. John B. Gaither, of Mill Bridges, this county, handed the reporter some perfectly preserved apples of last year's growth. He said their preservation was a very simple matter. The apples were picked from the trees, and only perfectly sound apples saved. Each apple is carefully wrapped in common brown or newspaper, and packed in a flour or sugar barrel and the head put in, or simply covered with plank. This is all there is to it. He said that Mrs. Gaither had saved five barrels in this way, and he did not think there was as many as five rotten apples in the lot. They were gathered before a hard frost, wrapped in paper, packed in barrels and set away in the closet or pantry. This is simple enough and worth remembering. Try it this fall. Apples always bring a good price in winter.—*Salisbury Watchman.*

FARMER'S GARDEN.

Every family should have an abundant supply of strawberries, currants raspberries and blackberries. These four kinds will give loaded dishes on the table daily throughout the summer months.

This will contribute to health, comfort and economy, save butcher's and grocer's bills and make home pleasant. One-quarter of an acre, as well cultivated as a good field of corn or potatoes, will furnish all the luxuries, and the same amount of substantial benefit cannot be had so cheaply in any other way. Every one likes fruit. It has been eaten by young and old for six thousand years, and there is no reason why it may not be six thousand more if the world continues. The appetite for it is natural, healthful and universal. Boys will steal hard, green apples rather than be deprived of fruit. Girls will take long walks through bushes and briars to get a few small berries in their baskets, when they might be had incomparably better, and far more abundant in a well cultivated garden at home. The great difficulty is, the owners of gardens will not take the pains to procure the plants, or, after they have procured them, they are badly neglected. The farmer, too, often leaves the care of the garden as the last thing to engage his attention. He should always take it in hand first of all, and then cultivate and hoe his corn and potatoes afterward. The garden, for the amount of labor pays much the best, and is soon through with. Always put it first on the list, and the farm crops afterward.

PLANTING POTATOES.

It is time for farmers to begin preparations for planting potatoes. There are a great many things necessary to consider before and at the time of planting. The soil of North Carolina is well adapted to the culture of Irish potatoes, and especially Western North Carolina, but it will be found that there is a variety of soils even on the same farm, and the farmer should be careful that he plants his potatoes, as well as every other crop, in the soil to which that crop is best suited. If you were troubled with the rot in your last season's crop you have special cause for being careful in the management of the coming crop, or you may expect to be less successful than you were last season. Do not plant the same spot you did last year, for the parasite—the only cause of the disease—often lives in the soil over winter and is ready to begin its depredations in the new crop. It is also better not to plant near such spots if some remote locality can be found. The growth of the parasite is favored by moisture and stopped by drought. It is rapid in rainy weather and when there are heavy dews, and usually the rot is much worse upon clay land or other soils which retain moisture. Choose, therefore, a light and dry soil for planting and you will have more satisfactory results. Plant no tubers unless they are thoroughly sound both inside and outside. Many farmers do not notice little black spots on the potatoes at planting time—thinking they will do no harm. These spots contain the fungus or seed which does the future damage. Some tubers may appear sound on the surface and at the same time severely diseased within. Determine the soundness of the tubers by cutting them all at planting time and plant none except those found in perfectly healthy condition. To plant diseased potatoes will insure a continuation of the rot.

A STRANGE STORY.

We are reliably informed that a Rev. Mr. Lindsey, who formerly resided in this county, was able to

boast that he was born four months after his mother had been dead and buried. Here is the explanation: His mother, who resided in Stewartville township, in this county, fell ill, and to all appearances died and was buried in Stewartville cemetery. The night following her interment, ghouls, for the purpose of securing some jewelry that was buried with the body, unearthed the remains when consciousness returned and she was enabled to return to her home. Arriving at her late residence she rapped at the door and was answered by her husband who demanded to know who was there. To his great astonishment the response came: "It is me—your wife." He was not quick in opening the door, but finally did so and was overjoyed to meet again in life his beloved wife whom he had mourned as dead. Four months afterwards Rev. Mr. Lindsey was born, and she survived several years. This is indeed a strange story, but we are assured that it is literally true.—*Spirit of the South.*

BE MORE SOCIABLE.

The busy, ambitious farmer is constantly employed. He hardly sees how he can spare even half a day away from his farm work and business. And this is as true in Winter as in Summer. Then there is the slow farmer—content to do his chores and slide through the Winter with the least possible exertion. The former thinks he can't spare the time to go to farmers' institutes; the latter excuses himself from attending on the ground that they don't amount to anything. Now, this is all wrong. We need to get together more than we do. We need to exert ourselves to be sociable, pleasant and lively. It gives new zest and added interest to life.

We must brace up and be active or pass the Winter in demoralizing social laziness. And it doesn't pay to be lazy socially any better than it does to be lazy in other business.—*City and Country.*

State Items.

—The Poplar Tent, Cabarrus county, fair will be held August 11th and 12th.

—Raleigh and Durham will vote on the question of prohibition on the first Monday in June.

—There are 181 cases on the criminal docket of Burke county, of which two are murder cases.

—Ladd McCurry, deputy tax-collector, of Rutherford county, has decamped with \$1,875 taxes collected by him.

—Jordan Shutt planted eight bushels of onion sets. Last year he sold more than 150 bushels ripe onions.

—The annual convention of the Young Men's Christian Associations of North Carolina will be held at Chapel Hill, March 11th to 14th.

—The Albemarle and Pamlico Colonization Company has purchased 200,000 acres of land in Dare county, having paid \$100,000 for the same.

—Wilson shipped up to 1st of March 20,000 bales of cotton. Goldsboro shipped up to the same date 16,146, which puts Wilson ahead 3,854.—*Wilson Mirror.*

—The Stanly wagons are in town this week after fertilizers. They say that they are going to use a "good lot" of it on turnips and beets, to raise to feed to cattle.—*Concord Register.*

—An unusual quantity of oats will be planted in Granville county this year, judging from the amount of seed now being purchased here.—*Oxford Torchlight.*

—The prison doors of Person county are wide open—not a single prisoner therein. Our jail has been clear of prisoners since last court, there being but one then.—*Person County Courier.*

—It is reported that in Buncombe county a trapper found a "bee tree." It contained a column of honey four feet in diameter and ninety-five feet high.—*Charlotte Democrat.*

—We learn from the Greenville Reflector that some of the farmers of Pitt county discouraged with the low price of cotton are going to try tobacco this year. If they succeed others who are watching them will follow.

—The Commissioners of Rutherford county have signed the \$200,000 of bonds voted to the railroads and placed them in the hands of Col. Frank Coxe, trustee.—*Newton Enterprise.*

—A new cotton factory is to be erected on the Catawba River, about ten miles from Charlotte, on the site of the old Rock Island Woolen Mills. The proprietors are Capt. John R. Erwin and S. H. Hilton, Esq.—*Charlotte Democrat.*

—The Monroe Enquirer says that Mr. James Belk, whose remarkable longevity he spoke about a few days since, he having died at the age of 111 years, was a native of Union county, and that the fact of his age is well authenticated.

—From the beginning of the year up to this time, the record of the Register's office shows that a greater number of mortgages have been registered than in any similar period in the history of the county.—*Asheville Advance.*

—The North Carolina Coach Material Company is a new corporation recently organized under the laws of North Carolina, with a capital stock of \$50,000. It has purchased the business and plant of the "Greensboro Handle Works."—*Greensboro North State.*

—The Winston National Banks represent an aggregate capital of \$1,664,439.08, and otherwise make showings highly creditable to the management of the institutions and the business interests of Winston-Salem which they represent.—*Union Republican.*

—Mr. Calvin Pitt, of Edgecombe county, killed a hog the other day that weighed 823 pounds, we are informed. Mr. George P. Sugg and Mr. Martin Gardner, who live in the same neighborhood, killed two some time since, that weighed respectively, 701 and 722.—*Wilson Advance.*

—The price of meat is keeping even pace with that of cotton in its fluctuations; one day it is up and the next it is down. So long as our farmers look to the West for their meat supply, instead of raising their own "hog and hominy," so long will they be exercised over the "market quotations."—*Goldsboro Argus.*

—The fine stallion belonging to Mr. Johnson of New Hope township, fell and broke his neck a few days ago while playing about the lot.—Rev. A. H. Perry tells us that the dogs got among his beautiful little flock of sheep a few nights ago and killed all his lambs but one and wounded that. They also killed five out of nine improved ewes. This was all done in one night.—*Chatham Home.*

—The State Superintendent of Public Instruction, Hon. S. M. Finger, reports that in the sixty-five counties of the State from which he has information, there are thirty thousand pupils on the rolls of the private schools, academies and colleges. This indicates a number for the whole State, as great probably as forty-five or fifty thousand, which is no bad showing.—*Raleigh News and Observer.*

—The report of Mr. J. L. Tomlinson, Superintendent of the Graded School for the six months, ending February 26th, shows, number of pupils enrolled, 520; average number belonging, 403; percentage of attendance, 93.1; average daily attendance, 375.—*Union Republican.*

—All of the peaches were not killed in the bud. Mr. J. A. Harbin was exhibiting around town, a few days ago, a twig which showed more live buds than dead ones.—The temperance movement is enjoying quite a boom in Statesville at present. The Woman's Christian Temperance Union has about fifty members and is holding weekly meetings.—*Statesville Landmark.*

—P. I. Nifong's hog pens were not chicken-tight last fall and this winter, so the chickens were allowed to eat some corn with the hogs. As a consequence, they have laid during the winter over 60 dozen eggs. These eggs at 20 cents a dozen were worth \$12, and the hens did not eat half this value in corn. It pays well to feed hens in the winter.—*Salem Press.*

—The Wilmington and Weldon Railroad Company are making preparations to put an iron bridge across the Neuse river, near Goldsboro, in place of the wooden structure which has been there ever since the war.—It is evident that the Carolina Central Railroad is working with a view to a Western outlet. It has already been determined, we understand, to build to Rutherfordton, and at once, and then either Asheville or Cranberry will probably be the objective point.—*Wilmington Review.*

—Mr. Samuel Vaughn and family, his son, N. H. Vaughn, and family, and his son-in-law, Michael Kunkle, and family, of Westmoreland county, Pa., moved to Hickory this week. They purchased of Mr. Joseph Blake "Sunny Side," his nice little home in the suburbs of the town. Several families intend coming here soon from the "Keystone State."—We learn that the mad dog that bit Prof. Geo. W. Hawn's little girl last week had bitten about a dozen dogs before it was killed.—*Piedmont Press.*

—A large number of unloaded wagons are coming to town now, but they return home loaded with phosphates.—The farmers' have gone to work pitching their crops with a vigor and foresight that augurs well for the coming harvest.—A good deal of cotton still remains in the country. It has been held for higher prices, but most of those who hold it will soon be compelled to sell.—*Monroe Enquirer.*

—Mrs. Emma M. Warrington died at the residence of Mr. Stephen G. McLean last Friday at 2 o'clock p. m., aged 55 years, after suffering greatly for six months.—A mad dog, a few days ago, in the northern part of the county, bit several dogs, sheep and other animals belonging to different parties. It bit two dogs at Mr. Adolphus Garrison's and several sheep.—Mr. Jas. P. Keep has a sow, a cross between the Berkshire and the Jersey Red breeds, that gave birth to fifteen pigs a few days ago, and a Cotswold ewe that gave birth to three hardy, healthy lambs.—*Alamance Gleaner.*

—On a little less than a acre, Mr. A. P. Craver, of Arcadia, made tobacco that sold for \$132.80 net. He used one sack of fertilizer, and the small boys did most of the work. It was his first crop. His brother, Mr. Lindsay Craver, made \$106 on one acre.—Mr. I. S. Brittain, of Friendship, Guilford county, was here, this week, exhibiting two cornstalks on which were eleven ears which averaged nine inches in length. Two years ago he presented the editor with a sample bag, which he tested with such satisfactory results that he planted the same kind in his garden last year.—*Davidson Dispatch.*