



# THE



# PROGRESSIVE



# FARMER.

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

Vol. 1.

WINSTON, N. C., JUNE 23, 1886.

No. 20.

### OUR FARMERS' CLUBS.

What our Farmers are Doing and How the Work of Organizing is Progressing.

TRINITY CLUB, June 12, 1886.

Subject: "Clean Fields—Clean Seeding."

W. W. Andrews.—Fields are cleared of noxious weeds in two ways. First, by turning stock upon them. This is not complete for two reasons. Many seeds eaten by animals will germinate afterward and make weeds again; and some weeds will be rejected by the animals and go to seed. If animals are turned in for this object it is best to have three or four kinds in the same field. Second, by thorough cultivation. This seems to be the only way to clean a field properly, of weeds and grass. The plow is the best implement, the turning plow—not one that will edge it up, but one that will turn the soil over flat. If there is any one thing I know positively it is that the soil should not be turned deep. Deep plowing is an absolute necessity, but not with a turn plow. To clean a field start your turn plow in March, follow in same furrow with a subsoil plow as often as you think best. In about ten days there will be a crop of weeds and grass started. Turn again for every ten days until frost or seed time. An old philosopher has said: "The best time to stop a pig out of the field is just before it gets in." The best time to kill the seeds of weeds is just before they seed. If there are stumps and rocks in the field hoe around them. Mow the hedge or fence corners, and make your neighbor mow his if you have to shake your fist right under his nose. By the summer following you have not only killed the weeds, but your lands have become friable and much improved in fertility. God helps those that help themselves. Fertile elements are always passing over our fields, and will be absorbed by them if we have them in proper condition to receive those elements. They are a free gift, you don't have to mortgage your farm for them. Now that you have got your field clean sow wheat and none of it will turn to cheat.

A. Parker.—It may be an easy matter to keep a farm clean if you begin in the forest and clear away the timber yourself; but to take an old farm that is thoroughly seeded with noxious weeds and clean it is no insignificant job. St. Paul said, "Let us walk worthy of our vocation." Our trade is our vocation. Good citizens do all the good they can. Let a farmer do all his work cleanly. The sloven that suffers noxious weeds and tares in his grain damages his neighbor, the miller and the one whose grist follows his. Churchmen who are guilty of such ought to have charges preferred against them, for they know they do their neighbor a wrong. If you are beset with thistles all around it is hard to keep them down. When society is educated up to a right standard we will have a statute to punish such offences.

D. M. Payne.—Cleanliness is a divine law. The beasts for sacrifice were required to be clean; and David in lamenting his great sin against Uriah asks God to give him a clean heart. Sin is uncleanness. Where filth abounds the laws of God and man are winked at. A meaner act is seldom done than the devil did when he sowed tares among the good man's wheat while he was asleep. How can a man be a good, clean man when hedged about with filth? Filth is prolific; not subject to smut, rust or any of the blights. It consists in a multitude of things; sprouts, briars, weeds, cockle, spelt, cheat, and lastly, and greater than all, garlic or wild onion, the great arch enemy of the grist and the oven. Garlic almost defies hail storms, tornadoes, cyclones, floods and freezes. While you are destroying the seed on one end the other in the ground

is multiplying faster than the ingenuity of man can devise instruments of destruction to keep even, much less destroy. Their introduction in this section dates within the memory of persons now living. That they are on the increase is plain and alarming. Like the skunk, the offensive part is its scent. This is permeating. Nearly all domestic animals graze it. If eaten just prior to slaughtering it utterly ruins beef, mutton, pork, poultry, milk, butter and cheese. Nothing renders these things so repugnant. The man who plans an implement for its final destruction will be immortal in history, and live in the memory of man as long as Howe, Fulton or Morse. What is more unsightly than fence ways grown up in briars and bushes too high to look over and see the crops within? It is an infallible sign of laziness; and the man who suffers it is willfully so or born tired, as some would say. The only remedy is to clean the seed planted and wage an incessant war against all that is growing, and in time it may be conquered. If all the farmers would set a resolution and carry it out to fight the tares in grain to the death, in ten years they would very nearly disappear. They are luxuriant this season, and will get an advantage that it will take time to regain.

Dr. Parker.—Every farmer should know at sight every useful plant and noxious weed, so as to know what to let grow and what to exterminate. A field overgrown with cheat, spelt, cockle, wild carrots, fennel, dock, red-root, thistles and the numerous other pests, is a standing disgrace to the owner, and publishes his shame to every passer-by. If he knew it, he is harboring enemies that will sap the life out of his land, double and treble his labor and cut short his profits. All of these vile cumberers of the ground are very tenacious of life and are determined to reproduce themselves a thousand fold.

Nothing short of a most heroic battle—persistent to the end, will subdue these enemies. Don't allow a single one of them to mature their seed this year on your places. I have thoroughly made up my mind on this point and the success I am having encourages me to persevere.

D. M. PAYNE, Sec'y.

### MOUNTAIN CREEK FARMERS' CLUB.

This club is made up of substantial, intelligent farmers in that splendid farming section around Bostick's mills, Richmond county. The club now numbers about fifty members and is in a most prosperous condition. THE PROGRESSIVE FARMER hopes to have a detailed report of its progress at an early day. Among the many commendable things it has done, is its action in establishing an annual dinner, at which farmers and their families will meet and pass a day of social pleasure. The first of these delightful occasions will be held about the middle of August, when, in compliance with a kind request, THE PROGRESSIVE FARMER hopes to be present.

There will be a meeting of farmers at Lewisville, in this county, next Saturday, 26th inst. Everybody is invited to come. Col. Polk, editor of THE PROGRESSIVE FARMER, and other speakers expect to be present and address the meeting.

The farmers complain that wheat is very light and in some of the bottoms it was hardly worth reaping on account of the damage from the recent freshets.—Two or three blockade stills were knocked up over about Julian and Columbia. Factory last week; and we hear one of our citizens in the neighborhood of Liberty had a lively race, leaving behind him a quantity of beer and whiskey.—Asheboro Courier.

—There were twenty-six persons arraigned for trial last week at Federal Court in Charlotte, most of them for petty offences.

### WHAT WORK WILL DO.

Some Facts, Figures and Suggestions by a Thinking Farmer.

For the Progressive Farmer.

#### STRAWBERRIES.

MR. EDITOR.—My strawberry bed measures 18x10 ft., with eleven rows 20 inches apart and 10 ft. long, and plants every four to five inches in the row. The whole equals 1-250 of an acre. Several years ago Mr. Griffin of our town purchased the original stock of plants from a Richmond, Va., nursery, but could not tell me the name of the variety. A neighbor of mine obtained runners from this bed and transferred them to her garden, and I secured runners from there in the fall, (Nov.) 1884. By comparison with descriptions and cuts in various catalogues, I have decided that it is the Wilson.

In November, 1884, I set these runners, as above, in moderately rich soil, with an exposure to east by southeast. The ground has the yellowish subsoil common in this country, and being on the slope of a hill running down to a wet weather branch, resembles very much a pipe clay, though with manure and good working it remains cheesy and friable under all circumstances. The soil is thoroughly drained. It produces fine corn and luxuriant clover, which I think is a good guide in selecting soil for strawberries. The ground was not specially prepared for the plants, nor was it manured further than in the previous cultivation as a portion of the garden. I did not think at the time of paying any special attention to the cultivation of berries, and set out the plants to please my wife. Yet the plants were carefully set in line, as I generally do with anything of this sort that I undertake. With a few waterings all the plants lived and did well. They were kept clear of grass and weeds and well covered before frost, with cornstalks and grass. They were uncovered a little too late in the Spring of '85 to get the very earliest berries, but they grew off, and gave us, the first season, one and a half gallons of fair berries. To protect the plants from the hot sun of the summer, I allowed some volunteer okra to grow besides planting corn here and there in the middle. Leaving the okra was a mistake, as the stalks grew very large and it was impossible to remove the roots without injuring the plants. I had learned another lesson about putting crab grass on as a cover, as the seed germinated in the Spring and gave me much trouble. The second season the plants were covered with cornstalks and pea-vines, after having been carefully worked and kept free from runners. I would have forked in stable manure just before covering, but did not have any. This season the plants were uncovered on the 16th day of March and as the weather was warm, they grew off at once. They had a thorough working on the 26th of March, and a good coating of rotted (not slaked) ashes worked into the middles—the only manure used since they were first set out. The plants were again hoed shallow in April and watered once, as the month was without much rain. On the 30th of April, whilst the plants were filling with fruit and blooming, and just after a good rain, they were carefully mulched by laying cornstalks and narrow strips of board near along the stems, and filling the middles with sod that had accumulated in the fence corners, making a neat and thorough job. Just as this work was completed a heavy shower came and settled everything down, and revived the plants after the handling necessary for such work. The results for this season have been so far beyond my expectations, and so far ahead of anything hereabouts that I give you the facts to use in any way that may encourage and benefit others.

I gathered the first ripe berries on the 5th of May and gathered the

last about the 5th of June, amounting in all to 28 quarts, Methodist measure. I sold 2½ qts for 30 cents each; 1 qt for 25 cts; 6 qts for 20 cts. each, and 4 qts for 15 cts. each—in all 13½ qts for \$2.80, or one half my berries. As my bed is 1-250 of an acre, at the same rates, the yield on an acre would be over 200 bushels, and half the berries would bring the handsome sum of \$700. I gave away 6 qts and enjoyed the rest on my own table.

Five quarts of the berries sold measured 3¼ inches in circumference; five other quarts were good sized berries and the rest of the 13½ qts were ordinary. This for a Monroe market, which has been glutted with berries at 5 and 10 cts. What would not such berries bring in a city market, handled as mine were? In selling, I used the little wooden trays of the grocer, lining them with strawberry leaves, that projected above and around the fruit in a very tempting manner.

Being on a rented place, without any intention of remaining, the runners were pulled off as I gathered the berries, and I am still pulling them off; otherwise, I would have saved "sets" for enlarging my bed another season. I have planted an early maturing corn in every other middle to protect the plants from the heat of the coming months.

#### A REMEDY FOR CUT-WORMS.

Plenty of plants, red pepper and patience. The first must be prepared in the hot-bed; the second gathered from the vegetable garden the previous season, and the last is abundantly supplied from the same source whence Job obtained his. No patent on this.

#### MULCHING.

A patch of ground was roughly broken up with the plow early in the spring, turning up in great clods. Mr. H. broke these clods and leveled the ground, preparatory to planting; but before this was accomplished the "big rain" came and the land all ran together, seemingly worse than before. It was left in this condition awaiting "a season," and in the meantime a heavy coating of weeds grew up and took possession. Mr. H. again went at this patch, cutting down all the weeds with his hoe, but, on attempting to dig with his mattock, found the ground coming up in hard flakes. In disgust he left it the second time to await "a season." The month of April proving dry, and the ground being needed for cabbage plants, the old gentleman went with his rake and mattock, about a week after the weeds had been cut down, intending to dig and break the clods. What was his surprise, after raking away the weeds and making his first lick, to find that his mattock sunk up to the handle in a mellow bed of soil. The old gentleman, who is a great gardener, was so agreeably surprised at this result that he smilingly related the fact to the writer while each of us hung on to his respective side of our division fence. He readily agreed to my explanation of the matter, which was that growing weeds rapidly take up and evaporate water from the soil; but, as soon as cut down, they act as a mulch and arrest evaporation, thus rendering the soil beneath them mellow and friable. The lesson to be learned from this individual fact is, that where we have land covered with a growth of weeds which proves too hard to plow, instead of waiting for "a season," mow the weeds and leave them lying for few days, when, no doubt, a surface plowing can be given, which, in a few days more, can be followed by any desired depth.

On the same principle those farmers who are so often complaining of a want of "a season" for such a piece of land or for such a crop, would find it profitable, in more respects than one, to sharpen and harden the plow points and go ahead by making "a season," with well pulverized dry dirt. Land that has not been broken in some time might ad-

mit of a mere scraping at first, but after a few days the depth could be increased, and so on until any required depth can be reached. Land thus prepared often furnishes better seed bed and better results to growing crops, and remains in better condition throughout than land prepared with "a season."

Crops may be successfully cultivated in prolonged dry weather by continually stirring the surface; and, if the ground has been deeply plowed at the preparation I would rather take the risk of prolonged dry or prolonged wet. This frequent surface-stirring, or "dry dirt" mulching, during prolonged drought, is the only available method of mulching for a general crop.

#### MULTUM IN PARVO.

Good drainage, deep plowing, good seed, and frequent workings, both deep and shallow, on any lands, with little manure, will secure better average crops than are now made at considerable expense. Idleness and wastefulness and ignorance, with the best lands, and hundreds of thousands of dollars' worth of fertilizers, can never take the place of industry and economy and intelligence.

D. C. ANDERSON.

Monroe, N. C., June 16, 1886.

### State Items.

—There is a man living in this place who has been tried 52 times for different petty offences and convicted of 51 of them.—High Point Enterprise.

—The distillery of Mr. J. B. Rhyne, on the waters of Muddy Fork, about eight miles from Shelby, in No. 5 township, was destroyed by fire on Friday night.—Shelby Aurora.

—Some few of our farmers have gone into tobacco raising this year in a very small way. They seem to fear to venture far in this departure from the all-cotton system.—Roanoke Patron.

—A large portion of Davidson county will tend much less ground in tobacco this year than last, owing to the fact that farmers have been unable to obtain a stand. A man told us that in his neighborhood grasshoppers have destroyed whole fields of tobacco.—Salem Press.

—The good old county of Edgecombe has in its treasury \$23,000 to the credit of its school fund, an increase of \$6,000 in two years.—Mr. William Gay killed three mad dogs one day this week, and he is ready to kill more if they come about. They bit several dogs and hogs in town and they will likewise perish.—Tar River Talker.

—The finance committee of our railroad syndicate—Messrs. J. D. Williams, E. J. Lilly, J. A. Gray, J. T. Morehead and others—are in Wilmington this week, for the consideration of matters looking to the possible extension of the Cape Fear & Yadkin Valley railway to that city.—Fayetteville Gazette.

—The most of the early wheat has been harvested. It has turned out fairly well, though not so well as it promised a few weeks ago, owing to rain, rust, etc. The later wheat is not near so good, and the crop, on the average, is about the same as last year. The oat crop is excellent. Cotton is looking up, tobacco plants are doing well, and corn, though in the grass, promises first-rate.—Statesville Landmark.

—We have been shown by Capt. Shaw a sample of the Guinea grass now growing on his farm. Captain Shaw obtained the seed from the West Indies, and it will grow five feet high and is most excellent feed for stock. Why would it not pay to make this grass equal with clover and the blue grass of Kentucky? It is adapted to our soil.—Washington Gazette.