



THE



PROGRESSIVE



FARMER.

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

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No. 24.

OUR FARMERS' CLUBS.

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

TRINITY CLUB, July 10th, 1886.

Subject:—"Summer Making and Saving Manure."

W. W. Andrews.—On most farms each hand has his work assigned him. The manure pile is of transcendent importance to the farm and farmer. All farms should have on them an intelligent man, whose sole business is to cut feed for all stock, preparing it and mixing in a way to render it palatable for the animal and at the same time convert it into fine available manure. This is sadly neglected on many farms, consequently the land becomes hungry and pale. He then gives a dose of phosphate. This produces a spasmodic effect and some show of life but no permanent improvement. Like patent medicines, the good effect is only temporary. Home-made manure is permanent and never fails, let the case be never so bad. In summer every fence corner and ditch bank has vegetation that may be converted into manure and much more rapidly when we have summer heat to aid us; but the hands are busy and we lose the opportunity. The treasure is lost. I suggest this plan. Hire a man of some intelligence, give him a gentle horse and a dump cart. Have him hitch up early and carry the needed tools, for the day, to the field and deliver them where needed and return with a load of green feed. Clean out the stalls, examine the manure bank, if about to fire-fang get water and give it a thorough wetting. Go after more green stuff and thus keep it up unless called to the mill or shop. He should do all these chores, and put in the balance of his time at the manure heap, not neglecting to fetch in dry stuff for the bedding for the stock. Some may say our crops are planted and manured and it will accumulate in the way before we need it. There are 313 good working days in the year, each of which is a good one to haul out manure. The object is to manure the land not the crop, consequently you will find plenty places to put it.

A. Parker.—Use plenty of vegetable bedding in large stalls, well ventilated. When accumulated sufficiently take out and compost. Top dress with it in the fall. I object to putting long raw manure out before decomposing. In decomposing strong manure use plenty of rich earth to prevent it from burning. To decompose strong manure is a critical job. It requires as close attention as a physician would give to an extreme case of sickness. A little negligence at the proper time may cause great loss.

J. E. Summer.—I am preparing to cut and spread on poor places the weeds and bushes found in fence corners and on ditch banks. My object is to shade the land while decomposition is going on, and save the labor of taking to and from the barn. Putting green bedding in stalls makes them wet and filthy. Mow before the seed are ripe. I spread the remnant of my old crop of straw on the cow lot as an absorbent while decomposing. We are all negligent in the important matter of saving manure. Livery-stable men make more manure than other people by throwing it out often and saving it.

W. O. Harris.—I have lost a great deal by trying to compost manure. I have about come to the conclusion that when it is taken from the stall it ought to go direct to the field. Compost all other trash that grows or accumulates about your premises that has a vestige of plant food in them. The heat and scent in large quantities in the stall may be deleterious to the health of animals and injurious to the hoof of the horse. If so it should be removed often. Every person should have a pen near the back yard to put sweepings in, and

the wash woman should be required to put the water from the wash tub on this pen; it is rich in potash and other ingredients from the body washed out of the clothes.

Dr. Parker.—The most successful farmers are those who avail themselves of every opportunity to enrich their lands from home resources, allowing nothing to go to waste, which can be utilized for plant food. They raise clover and grass and produce stock and manure. They can raise big crops of grain and still their lands are improving all the time. The poor farmers are those who depend on tobacco or cotton, and buy their manures. They find that about all of their money goes to pay for their provisions, feed and fertilizers. It is said that Florida sends out more money for hay alone than all their orange crop brings in! We must make and save all the manure we possibly can. Feed your land and in return it will feed you. Don't be afraid of composting. None of the animal excrements, nor vegetable matter are available for plant food until they are decomposed. Some of you object on account of the extra work it takes to keep the heap from damaging. Labor is the price of success. This is true in every department of life.

D. M. PAYNE, Sec'y.

MT. TABOR CLUB.

Discussing How We Can Best Improve Our Lands.

MT. TABOR, N. C., July 17, 1886. The Club met this evening. Great enthusiasm prevailed. Three new members were added to the list. F. W. Pfaff, J. L. Pratt, Isaac Petree, David Endsley, J. T. Ziegler, J. A. Petree and Eli Thomas made short speeches on the subject, "How can we best improve our farms?"

F. W. Pfaff.—I think we ought to make all the manure we can, and sow peas and clover, turn the green crop under, and if we use fertilizer, use it in a scientific way; sow clover with it, and there may be some benefit derived by using it.

J. L. Pratt.—I think there are too many gullies on our farms that we ought to look after and try to stop, caused many times by carelessness by letting plows drag over land after finishing a field, &c. I think we ought to make all the manure we can by hauling trash and other refuse into our barn lots, and build a shelter to protect it from sun and rains. I do not think much of commercial fertilizers. I think they are proving a curse to our farmers to a certain extent. Let us go to work and make all our manure and sow all the clover we can.

Isaac Petree.—I think the best way to improve our wornout lands is to sow wheat and then clover. I do not believe much in commercial fertilizer for improving lands. I think we ought to make all the manure we can, and use it judiciously. It is too common among our farmers to use too little of it on land. They therefore derive but little benefit.

David Endsley.—I don't think we plow deep enough. I think we ought to use the subsoil plow more than we do, make more manure, sow more grass and clover—mix orchard grass and clover together. The best time to sow is in the spring of the year. I think farmers ought to sow timothy—that it would grow on our uplands as well as any other grass. I do not like fertilizers to improve lands; I think it impoverishes land and leaves it in a worse condition than it was before. I never bought but five sacks in my life, and if I get forgiveness for that I will buy no more.

J. T. Ziegler.—When you use manure, use enough to do some good. A great many farmers don't use enough to do much good. I tried it last fall on a small piece of land by manuring heavily, and found it to pay best. The best way to use fertilizers is to sow on wheat and then clover.

J. A. Petree.—I think peas have great fertilizing properties, and

should be sown, turned under, and then clover.

Eli Thomas.—We ought to go to work with a will, and build up our waste places, make all the manure we can, sow grass and clover, beautify our homes, which will entice our boys to stay on the farm, and not think it degrading to be a farmer.

The following delegates were appointed to represent the Club in the County Convention to meet in Winston the first Saturday in August: F. W. Pfaff, Isaac Petree, David Endsley, J. T. Ziegler, E. H. Thomas.

The Club adjourned to meet again the second Saturday in August at 1 o'clock p. m.

THOMAS RING, Secretary.

The work of organizing farmers' clubs in the State is progressing. This office has received applications within the past week from five counties, and forwarded, forms of constitution and by-laws.

FROM WAKE.

The Wake County Farmers Waking Up. For the Progressive Farmer.

WAKE FOREST, N. C., July 14, 1886.

I have wanted to write you some time but so much rain and our failure in the wheat crop, with the most unpropitious time in the recollection of man to save an extra fine oat crop, has given most of our farmers the blues, and I myself have not had the heart to make you a report from our section. We have had some fine weather lately, though, and our farmers have made good use of it and have nearly succeeded in conquering the grass. Our cotton crops, where they have been well worked up to date, are fine, and the financial outlook, it seems, is better than for the past two years. Low ground corn has suffered from too much rain, but upland corn is extra fine and I think the acreage in corn and grain is much increased. I think our farmers have smelt the rat and are determined to make their own supplies and not to belong so much to their generous-hearted commission merchants. From what I can learn from our merchants we all owe less than usual, and I believe we have all used less commercial fertilizers than formerly. It seems to me that we have been warned sufficiently, and that we might, if we would, throw off the yoke of thralldom which we have worn so long and show ourselves masters of our country. How long, oh, how long will we continue in the course we have pursued since the war? Would that some one could awaken each and every one of us that claims the noble name of a farmer to act for ourselves—to act as THE PROGRESSIVE FARMER has so strenuously insisted on for the past six months. Let's make everything we need at home that we can make, and what cotton and tobacco we can as a surplus crop, and we certainly will then be travelling the right road to prosperity and wealth.

Wheat-threshing has commenced and there is much damaged wheat on account of wet weather. The water-courses in our community have done considerable damage to corn, oats, and wheat, carrying off much of the wheat and oats to the river.

I wish you would give us a good receipt for making cheese on a small scale for home use.

I am ashamed to state that we have not a farmers' club in our neighborhood, but I think it a move in the right direction, and I feel that the time is coming when we will be a well organized body and able to defend and represent ourselves with credit.

Respectfully yours,

C.

—Some think that Davie will have to buy her bread next year. It does sorter look that way, but it will be the first time she has ever had it to do.

A PROGRESSIVE FARMER.

GOLDSBORO, July 15, 1886.

EDITOR PROGRESSIVE FARMER—

Dear Sir:—There is at least one prosperous and progressive farmer near this place, and I know whereof I speak. While on a visit to Dr. Kurby's farm I was especially pleased to see a system of mixed farming pursued, the only successful course which can possibly lead to prosperity. Upon this farm I saw fields of tobacco in a fine state of cultivation. The last year's crop was in the barns and well attended, awaiting the rise in price. I saw on the bottom lands rice fields in luxuriant growth, and a large crop of field peas. The fruit trees of every variety were borne down with fruit, and I indeed thought I had found the spot I longed for, where cotton is dethroned and the farmer's home a Paradise. The field peas being cultivated by Mr. H. C. Parrot, of this place, had received only one ploughing, yet they had met in the rows, and are fruiting well. About one hundred acres on this farm will produce about two thousand bushels of peas, and some of these will bring one dollar and a half a bushel. Now it would cost at least four hundred dollars to harvest this crop of peas by means of hand picking, but Mr. Parrott will use a field pea harvester which will do the work at a cost less than forty-dollars, thereby making this a profitable crop, with no expense for fertilizers, and the vines will permanently enrich the soil.

Cotton is also planted on this farm but receives only equal attention with the other crops, and it is fully understood there will be no net proceeds in its culture.

Dr. Kurby resides in town and is an influential gentleman, a large real estate owner and a most excellent physician, therefore others will pursue the successful course directed by his wise counsel and by his example make those attainments, which have ever marked his prosperous career.

X. X.

A DISASTROUS HAIL STORM.

DEEP RIVER, July 17, 1886.

After an almost continuous rain since June the 1st, giving the farmers, with what extra labor they could employ, more than they could do to keep the grass down. Abbott's Creek township, Forsyth county, (or at least the eastern portion of it,) and a portion of Deep River township, Guilford county, was visited by a most disastrous hail storm on the night of the 15th, doing great damage to corn and tobacco, but more especially the tobacco crop. The damage to tobacco is estimated to be at least one-half, and there are some fields so completely stripped of leaves that the farmers can only cut down the present growth and depend on the suckers to realize something for their labor and fertilizers already expended. A portion of the corn crop was also stripped of its blades, but it is thought by some that it will not affect the growth of the ear very much; but the fodder will be a total loss. Take it all in all, the farmers in the range of this hail storm have sustained very great damage, which cannot be repaired during this season.

EYE WITNESS.

—Mr. Wilbern Campbell has just sawed a poplar tree that made 7242 feet of lumber. The tree was 4 inches larger in diameter 48 feet above the ground than it was 16 feet above the ground. The lumber of this tree is worth over \$70.00 at the mill.—Waynesville News.

—Sad news comes from near Lincolnton. John Lantz, a young man was bitten by a strange dog some months ago, but the wounds soon healed and nothing more was thought of it until last Friday while working in the harvest field he was attacked with what the doctors pronounced hydrophobia.—Hickory Carolinian.

State Items.

—Two car loads of machinery were received here yesterday for Beaver Creek Cotton Factory, and teams are busy to-day hauling it out.—Fayetteville Sun.

—Messrs. O. I. Huff and Dan Warner have ordered machinery for a shuttle block factory, which they will put up in Concord. They intend to begin operations in a few weeks.—Davidson Dispatch.

—The cotton, in some places, is dying by the acre, and some are plowing it up and planting peas. Mr. Henry Williams, we learn has ploughed up a good deal of his.—Washington Gazette.

—Mr. H. B. Rumbough on Monday concluded the purchase of a body of timbered land in Blount county, Tennessee, lying about 14 miles from the railroad. The tract contains 14,000 acres, and will be resold in lots to suit purchasers. The whole is in a state of nature and is covered with fine trees as yet untouched by the axe.—Asheville Citizen.

—The recent long spell of wet weather has damaged much tobacco in the barns throughout the piedmont country.—The recent rains have done considerable damage to the wheat, shocked up in the fields, causing it to sprout. Corn in the low lands is ruined. There will be a short grain crop in this section this year.—Hickory Press.

—Mr. Mitch. Caldwell lost a fine horse on the 12th by feeding it moulded clover hay.—Another tobacco factory well soon be built in our city. Messrs. J. H. Gilmer & Co. have decided to build a brick factory, 30x39, on their lot adjoining the Banner Warehouse. Mr. J. Barker is making good headway with his contract to rebuild the Carroll factory. Both factories will be ready for the fall trade.—Greensboro North State.

—Mr. J. G. Sides, of this place, makes nine pounds of butter a week from one cow.—A great many persons say that Irish potatoes are rotting in the ground. Some persons are digging their potatoes.—There is a great amount of mushrooms in the woods and pastures, and it would be well for farmers to guard against allowing stock to have free access to them. In many instances they cause the stock to die, and it is said that if milk cattle are allowed to eat them they will decrease the flow of milk.—A person told us that he broke off a twig from a pear tree this spring and stuck the end of it into an Irish potato, planted it and that it took root and is now growing nicely. It is said that during wet seasons in the spring it is not a hard matter to root twigs in this way.—Salem Press.

ANOTHER HANGING.

Two little white boys, and a little negro, who witnessed the hanging of the negro, Frank Gaston, determined to have a small one of their own. The little negro consented to be hung. The gallows was rigged up with forked sticks supporting a cross bar, to which the rope was suspended. The scaffold was built up of boxes and the little negro climbed into position with some difficulty. When ready, and just before the black cap was adjusted, he was asked if he cared to make a speech. He talked a few minutes, repeating nearly the exact words of Gaston and wound up by requesting the executioners to make quick work of it. They attached the cap and rope and knocked the boxes from under him. A negro woman passing just then saw the little fellow "swing in de land" and cut him down. He would have died in a short time but for this timely rescue. It was a boyish "toy hanging" which came near being fatal.—Salisbury Watchman.