



# THE



# PROGRESSIVE



# FARMER.

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

Vol. 1.

WINSTON, N. C., DECEMBER 8, 1886.

No. 44.

### OUR FARMERS' CLUBS.

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

#### TRINITY CLUB.

Subject: Winter Work on the Farm.

A Parker. A matter of great importance in farm work, during suitable weather is to plow the land you intend to cultivate next season. It makes the soil easier to work and gives an earlier start when the push of spring work comes. It enables you to plant earlier, and thereby avoid annoyance from the cut worm. The land will also stand the drouth better by being more retentive of moisture and consequently produce better.

Another very important matter that should be faithfully attended to is the care and feeding of stock. Now if you have not the necessary shelter for their comfort go straightway and prepare such without delay. It will abundantly pay in saving feed; and the manure will be three times more valuable, than when exposed.

I have an utter contempt for any man who makes any moral or religious pretensions and then pretends to feed his cow by throwing a few shucks in the jam of the fence in an open lane after stripping the last drop of milk from her, leaving her to stand and shiver in the cold during the long cold winter nights while he and his family are comfortably housed with a glowing fire to sit by and warm beds to sleep in, and then hurriedly rise in the morning and throw a few more shucks to that same cow, if she survives, and proceeds to milk her ere the icicles have melted from her sides. To see such a man take a conspicuous seat in the amen corner of the church with his liquid eyes apparently enjoying the sermon, and absolutely assist in singing the doxology, and then have the self complacency to invite the preacher home with him to share his hospitality and how he can do all this is a mystery I fail to comprehend, unless he has inherited a streak of barbarism from some remote ancestry.

"The righteous man regardeth the life of his beast; but the tender mercies of the wicked are cruel."

Dr. Parker. Having gathered in and securely housed all the crops, now is a good time to review the past year's work and if any mistakes have been made, and like enough there are many glaring us full in the face, think over the whole field and see wherein we failed, and let us resolve upon better methods and better work for next year.

Failures teach wholesome lessons and will, if we heed their warning. Fix and mature our plans for next year. Before the weather gets too bad get in an abundant supply of fire wood and cut it ready for the stove and fire place and put it under shelter. This no sensible, prudent man will fail to do. For the want of this precaution many a breakfast has been spoiled, resulting in hard words at the festive board, and these in turn producing alienation and connubial infelicity. Get in your wood now while the weather and roads are favorable.

It would be well for some of us at least while we are overhauling our year's blunders to look into our manner of buying and using fertilizers. Did we do this judiciously and economically—has it paid us? I regret to say that quite a number in this section have been seriously hurt by the foolish buying and improper application of commercial fertilizers this year. But at the same time there is no fact in all the curriculum of the farmer's philosophy any better settled than that fertilizers pay, when bought with judgment and properly applied. And it is equally as well decided that when they are applied to thin land devoid of humus they do not pay. During open days we ought to rake up all rich woods mold, ditch banks and muck we pos-

sibly can, and cart out on our fields—there is an abundant supply of these on almost every farm. Don't clear up any more land until all the present area is highly improved.

Look after the ditches on your bottom lands and see that they do not become clogged up with trash &c; and then overflow and damage your best lands. Don't allow the winter rains to wash out all the fertility of the soil. All the muddy water running off of grain fields—the soil in solution—is a sure sign of coming poverty. Stop it.

Mild days in winter is a good time also to make under-drains in low wet places, which in their present condition are almost worthless to cultivate. Another permanent improvement you may make now is gathering up the rocks on rough ground where they have been in the way of cultivation for generations—get them out of there and thereby lighten the labor of tillage and increase the yield.

The farmer has a standing job all winter, whether the weather is fair or foul, in looking out after the making or saving of manure; this cannot be neglected if he would hope for flourishing crops.

Cut up all rough feed for stock and make the feeding and watering as convenient as possible. Keep everything about the barn and barn lot neat and clean. All this requires work and that is just what we are talking about—winter work on the farm.

And then there are the roads on the farm that need attention—make them at least good enough to render them passable. And if the farmer has one spark of patriotism in his soul or a decent regard for self he will fill up those ugly places in the public road in front of his house. Don't wait, my brother, for the commissioners or the overseer, for they are generally a long time in coming and you may be disgraced beyond remedy by depending upon them. In passing a farm, if you see the dwelling and out-houses, the orchard, the road, the fencing and the farm all neat and tastily arranged and in good order, you need not stop to find out how those people live, that is plain even to the "passer-by." But on the other hand should you see a few poor cattle in the lane and scattered about the premises generally without shelter, old wagons and plows and other farm implements left here and there to take the weather, the barn and stables dilapidated and leaky, the door-way of the stable filled in with crossed rails to serve as a shutter, but through this obstruction may be seen the head and neck of a poor horse, patiently interviewing the outside world and anxiously hoping for better times, it is needless for you to go in to see how they live. I have been there and can testify of the true inwardness of the whole shebang. The window frames are noisy and reckless, the sash is almost without a pane of glass and in these multitudinous openings are to be seen rare specimens of cast-off garments, such as obsolete breeches legs stuffed, old hats and superannuated bustles, besides a great variety of et ceteras too numerous to mention. These are show windows indeed and in truth. On all such farms, and I am sorry to say there are thousands of just such even in North Carolina, there is an urgent opportunity for winter work. Let us strive to do better work in all of our farm operations. So mote it be.

D. M. Payne. Men who plant more tobacco than they ought, as we think, find plenty work for the winter months in preparing it for market. This is one reason of the great causes arising from that crop that deteriorate our farms. The long tedious job of casing, assorting and handling a crop of tobacco consumes nearly all of the time set apart by nature for us to enrich and prepare our land for the next crop. Nature in her wisdom has suited the

seasons in all latitudes so that sufficient time is allowed from the cultivation of crops for us to restore it to its virgin richness. My vanity—if such it is—constrains me to believe that by persistent effort we may make our lands more productive than they were when we took the forest off them. In this way we are allowed to provide for the multitudes of increase in population; and thereby leave to posterity a superior inheritance to that of stocks and bonds. Nature provides a non-vegetating season of sufficient length to afford time to put the farms in a productive state. Neglect on our part at this season is as wrong-doing as to neglect to plant and cultivate at the proper season. Idleness has no place in nature's programme and when it prevails it is counter-balanced by want.

Let us be up and doing at this season. Dig, scrape, haul and compost every fertilizing thing found in unavailable places. Do this as early in the winter season as possible while the weather is suitable and while these scrapings contain most nutriment for plants, and thus give more time for decomposition to take place. Occasionally take a back sight and see if you can improve on former methods. Back sights are as necessary in engineering as front ones. Later on when the wet weather sets in see after water furrows. Take a shovel with you and trace each one and at the first approach of a break mend it, and where the water has been near the top make them higher. Eternal vigilance is the price of success in this important calling.

The resources for fertilizing material are ample. Less than an eighth of the earth's surface is under cultivation. There are left seven eighths to replenish from. Scarcely a day passes but I see a field deeply covered with grass and weeds just killed by the frost. These are in a better condition for turning than they can ever be again. The weather at this time is fine for it and yet I see none of it doing. The dead growth will bleach and leach and get poorer each day. It should be turned under and locked up for the next crop. Bare lands need not be turned this early in the winter, unless it is stiff, clayey land. The object of winter fallowing is to decompose the previous crop left on it, and render clayey land friable by freezing. These precautions demand as strict attention as the gathering and housing crops.

D. M. PAYNE, Secretary.

The farmers of Edgecombe are on the move. A meeting was held at Tarboro yesterday to organize a club, the call for which was signed by sixty of the leading farmers of that section of the State. The club movement is spreading in all portions of the state. The editor of THE PROGRESSIVE FARMER acknowledges a cordial invitation to be present.

The farmers of Ormondsville township, in Greene county, organized a club on the 3rd inst.

#### PURE MILK SAVES A MAN.

"I rise to offer an excuse," said W. E. Clark, Esq., in court yesterday when the name of Mr. Henry Staub was called as juror. "If your Honor please, this man is a milk man of New Berne; he has a great many cows and no one to do the milking but himself and the people cannot get along without milk."

"What sort of milk does he sell?" asked his Honor.

"Pure milk, may it please your Honor; I have been getting milk from him for a week and I find it perfectly pure—not a particle of water in it."

"Then he may be excused," responded his Honor.

The milk of human kindness flows around Judge Graves' heart, but he recognizes none but pure milk.—*Newbern Journal.*

### State Items.

—Fifty thousand dollars worth of cotton was destroyed last Tuesday week at the depot of the Raleigh & Gaston railroad in Raleigh, partially covered by insurance.

—Seventy more convicts passed through our town last Friday on the way to work on the Mt. Airy section of our road. Work is being pushed rapidly.—*Germanton Times.*

—Alex Sloan, the negro murderer of Victor Sloan, was found guilty last week, and Judge Boykin sentenced him to be hung on the 31st of December.—*Salisbury Watchman.*

—The fifth and last bridge between Shelby and Rutherfordton on the Carolina Central road has been completed and by the 15th inst. trains will be running through from Charlotte to Rutherfordton.—*Charlotte Democrat.*

—A Yadkin county babe was recently born into this world of sin with quite a novel relationship, being blessed with five living grand-fathers and three living grand-mothers. The *Outlook* says the father of the child is Newton Dickson, living near Conrad's Post-office in that county.—*Winston Republican.*

—Thieves and their nocturnal depredations have become the topic of ordinary conversation among our citizens, and almost every day brings information of some new robbery committed in this section.—*Washington Progress.*

—We understand that the Baptist church at Scotland neck will soon have a pipe organ.—Mr. James Cotten killed a genuine prairie chicken on one of the river farms near Scotland Neck last Friday. It was the first ever seen in this locality and it is not known how it got so far away from its usual haunts.—*Roanoke News.*

—It is not true that Congressman Reid has made an assignment, as stated in some of our exchanges. Some heavy mortgages and deeds of trust have, however, been recently offered for registration. It is supposed that his liabilities will amount to thirty odd thousand dollars, while his assets will not exceed seven or eight thousand dollars.—*Webster's Weekly.*

—At the price paid for cord wood, heavy timbered land near Salem, is becoming very valuable. We heard of one person who paid \$127 for 4 1/2 acres of land, cleared one acre of it fenced three sides of it and made enough cord wood besides to pay for the whole 4 1/2 acres.—While some chickens were being dressed at a house in this place for a Thanksgiving dinner, on Wednesday of last week, there was found in a hen that was opened 8 fully developed eggs of usual size and one about the size of a goose egg. Inside of the large egg were two eggs, one of which upon being opened contained a little dead chick. This may seem a "tough" chicken story, but it is vouched for by reliable parties.—*Salem Press.*

—Robberies and burglaries are becoming too frequent. We again urge our citizens to be on their guard. A little gunshot policy might be quite effective when stragglers are seen around the premises.—Dr. Zeno H. Brown was the victim of a bold robbery last week. During his absence on Wednesday night some thief entered his bed-room and took money and notes to the amount of about \$1,000 from the bureau, where he deposited it.—*Greenville Reflector.*

—The cotton factory last week shipped 30,992 yards of Chambrays, and 4,256 yards of bag cloth. The Woolen mill is running on full time. In the paper box shop at Duke's factory thirty persons are employed and in one day 4,000 boxes were made.—Durham shipped last week 61,084 pounds of smoking tobacco worth 122,106.63; 4,144,040 cigar-

ettes worth \$13,721.33; 927 pounds of chewing tobacco worth \$324.45; 12,159 cigars worth \$392.50. At the warehouses last week 372,150 pounds of leaf tobacco was sold for \$22,591.62.—*Durham Plant.*

—C. H. Robinson has purchased Goat Island and is clearing it up preparatory to stocking it with blooded stock and part of it, we understand, he will devote to cranberry culture.—Reports from the porpoise fisheries of Hatteras represent the catch as large without a precedent. It seems to us that there is a mint of money in these marine waltzers.—They say there was "never, or hardly ever" such crops raised in Hyde county as in this year 1886. A friend told us that an ox cart could not drive in the field to gather the corn until the stalks were cut down with axes before the cart.—*Elizabeth City Economist.*

—Monroe has the best fire department and the best water supply of any town of its size in the State.

—Mr. D. C. Wilson, of Goose Creek township, has brought us a sample of tobacco raised and cured by him this year, which is a beautiful yellow.—The ordinance of baptism was administered to twelve persons in Richardson Creek, two miles south of town, on last Sunday afternoon, by Rev. D. M. Austin, pastor of the Baptist church in Monroe.—Mrs. Harkey, of Monroe, killed a 9 1/2 months old pig a few days ago which netted 225 pounds.

—Mr. Chap Hill, who lives at the Crow mill, has killed a 11-months old pig which netted 307 pounds.

—Esquire J. D. A. Secrest, of Monroe township, recently killed a pig 24 months old which weighed, after being cleaned, 491 pounds.—*Monroe Enquirer.*

#### CHATTEL MORTGAGES.

Mr. H. A. Forney, of Catawba county, has published a vigorous open letter to the farmers of that county, which might with equal reason be addressed to the farmers of the whole State, to which it applies with as much point, in which he comments on the chattel mortgage, reviews its history and manipulation and shows how it operates against the man who puts himself in its power. It is a strong and sharply written letter and cannot fail to make an impression upon those to whom it is addressed and on others who read it. Mr. Forney suggests that a convention of farmers be held at Newton on the 18th inst., before the meeting of the legislature, to consider this question and see whether a method cannot be devised of securing creditors without oppressing the farmer who may be compelled to buy on credit.

#### A WORD FOR THE FARMERS

Rev. Joseph Wheeler, in his sermon last Sunday morning, said in substance this: "Many tillers of the soil seem to be displeased with their occupation. They are not satisfied with being simply a farmer and are disposed to want a change in pursuit. But the farmer is the monarch of the land. He is freer, happier, and better off in almost every way than those engaged in other pursuits. The merchant reaps the reward of his toil in silver and gold, but these are not essential to the enjoyment of human life. The farmer furnishes food for his neighbor and for the world, and there is in this thought a satisfaction that does not come from being engaged in other occupations." Let those farmers who are disposed to be dissatisfied from the humbleness of their lot, or from short crops, or other causes take courage and remember that they are indeed the "monarchs of the land," and that to them the world owes a living. There is no more independent being on earth than an honest, systematic, industrious, frugal farmer.—*Concord Times.*