



# THE



# PROGRESSIVE



# FARMER.

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

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No. 12.

### OUR FARMERS' CLUBS.

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

##### PINEY GROVE CLUB NO. 1, WAKE COUNTY.

This club numbers twenty members and is in fine spirit. It meets the second Saturday in every month, and would be pleased to have members from other clubs visit it. At our next meeting we will discuss the question, "Which is the Best Method of Making and Using Home Made Manure."

President B. T. Honeycutt; Vice-President, James Honeycutt; William Nowell, Secretary; William Medlin, Treasurer; Executive Committee: L. Honeycutt, Hackney Nowell, Wiley Hood, W. H. Bunch, P. Nowell.

We hope to run our list up to fifty or sixty members before the fall. We, like all farmers, feel the pressure of hard times, but we want to make up a good list of subscribers for your paper, for we feel that all farmer's clubs should take it. MEMBER.

##### GRANVILLE FARMERS FALLING INTO LINE.

Our highly esteemed friend, Mr. S. H. Cannady of Wilton, N. C., called to renew his subscription and gave us the following points as to the farmers' club recently organized at his place:

The club started with twenty-two members, which has been increased to about thirty. The following are the officers:

S. H. Cannady, President; Lee Jenkins, Vice President, W. P. Lyons, Secretary, and J. F. Cannady, Treasury. Executive Committee: J. B. Floyd, G. L. Allen, Joseph Gooch.

We hope to be able to meet the farmers of Brassfields township at Wilton, at a big farmer's dinner during the summer. Granville is a grand old county, and her farmers must keep up with the great farmers' movement, and when they do fall into line it will add strength to it.

[FOR THE PROGRESSIVE FARMER.]

### DON'T STARVE YOUR LAND.

Some of your readers think the article published in your columns some weeks since, headed, "How to Reclaim Worn Out Lands," rather extravagant, and too much risk for general adoption. I don't think, however, that there is any danger of foundering our lands, or producing indigestion, if we should double the mentioned in that article. The more money we have deposited in the bank, the more liberally we may draw checks upon it. Just here let me remark, that if a farmer does not get above 25 per cent. on his money in the bank, he had better draw out and loan it to his fields in the shape of good plant food, good farm machinery and sensible tillage. The more food in the soil, the more grain or grass you may expect to reap. It is the height of folly to expect fifty bushels of wheat to grow upon one or two acres of land that has nothing but a sand bed or impoverished clay to feed the crop. We might with the same propriety expect a horse to do good service all summer with nothing but a liberal feed of sawdust. I once knew a lady who lived upon a farm, and ordered chaff to be stirred into water to make slop for hogs. Many of our farmers feed their crops upon food of about the same strength as the chaff slop.

It took three of that lady's hogs to make a shadow or give a respectable grunt. Just so with the starved farm. Four or five shocks won't make a decent bundle. I never attempt to write or talk about farming, but the subject of making compost looms up and demands attention; but I am going to, with loud and long applause cheer it down this time, and only say that your columns, Dear FARMER, ought to teem with articles on manure-making, week after week, until our farmer friends are compelled to recognize the fact that manure-making is the all-important crop upon the farm, and upon it all other crops depend. I venture to say that there is not a farmer in North Carolina who is half-way doing his

duty in making compost to improve his hungry lands. I am almost ready to threaten an article on that subject exclusively, some time, even if you consign it to the waste basket. But I am digressing far from what I sat down to say. I wanted to say that I believe in liberally feeding the soil and rapid improvement. But many of us poor farmers can't do as much as we would like to do, for want of means. So I practice, to some extent, what I consider a more economical plan. I take a piece of thin land that I wish to improve, turn it during the winter or early spring. In May, prepare a nice mellow seed-bed and seed to peas, using a little sprinkling of compost or a small quantity of guano, to give the pea vines a vigorous growth. When the pods begin to form, the vines should be turned under. Then use a little more compost or guano when the wheat is seeded. By using half the quantity of fertilizers on the pea crop that I intend giving the wheat crop, I find I get a much better result than when I use none on the pea crop, but put the whole quantity in at the time the wheat is seeded. This plan is within the reach of the poorest farmer, and will pay handsomely. OLD GUILFORD.

### GREENSBORO FARMERS' INSTITUTE.

The farmers of Guilford and adjoining counties will hold an "Institute" in Benbow Hall, Friday and Saturday, the 20th and 21st insts. Elaborate arrangements will be made for an enjoyable and profitable occasion. Among the attractions will be a small fruit and floral exhibition on Saturday. The *Morning News* gives the programme as follows:

- "Farm Education," by Prof. Jos. Moore, of New Garden.
- "Does the Farm Pay?" by Dr. D. D. R. Parker, of Trinity College.
- "Stock Raising," by Dr. H. F. Bahnon, of Salem.
- "Agricultural College," by H. E. Fries, of Salem.
- "Clover," by Col. Tom Holt, of Haw River.
- "Shall We Diversify Our Crops?" by Col. L. L. Polk, of Raleigh.
- "The Dairy," by Dr. D. W. C. Benbow, of Greensboro.
- "Agricultural Chemistry and Home Fertilizers," by Dr. Dabney, State Chemist.
- "How Shall We Keep Our Boys on the Farm?" by Prof. C. P. Frazier, of Greensboro.
- "The Orchard," by J. S. Ragsdale, of Jamestown.
- "Tobacco Culture," by J. L. King, of Greensboro.
- "Department of Agriculture of North Carolina," by John Robinson, of Anson, State Commissioner.
- "Ensilage, and Its Effect on Stock," by Henry Wakefield, of Friendship.
- "Special Crops," by W. E. Benbow, of Oak Ridge.
- "Strawberries," by J. A. Young, of Guilford.
- "Cherries," by J. Van Lindley, of Pomona.
- "Commercial Fertilizers," by P. M. Wilson.
- "Cooking," by ———

Short after-talks between the speeches. J. VAN LINDLEY, Chairman.

### FARMERS' CLUB.

MR. EDITOR:—Hickory Mountain Farmers' Club met in regular meeting Saturday evening, 16th inst., President A. H. Perry in the chair. The regular order of business was duly observed. The constitution and by-laws laid down in THE PROGRESSIVE FARMER, unanimously adopted. We number 21 and expect to increase rapidly. We heartily endorse E. W. A.'s proposal that the farmers have a county meeting at Pittsboro during the summer, and we would suggest that the meeting be held in July, and we do hope that all the townships in the good old county of Chatham will form farmers' clubs before that time. We will meet at the Hickory Mountain

school house Saturday at 3 o'clock, the 30th of April. The subject for discussion is, "How can we as farmers best improve our land and our crops?" J. D. DORSETT, Sec'y.

April 25, 1887.

—The Home.

### FARMER'S CONVENTION.

The leading farmers of Thomasville Township, as far as heard from, highly favor the coming together of the farmers of the county for the purpose of learning how to farm. A more appropriate name of such a meeting would be "Farmers' Institute." We are already satisfied that such a meeting would meet the hearty approval and cooperation of every intelligent farmer of the county. Two or three days spent together in comparing farm experience, aided by able lectures upon the leading industries of the farm, would wonderfully help the farmers. Dr. Dabney, Commissioner Robinson, Colonel Polk and other prominent characters will, as we are already assured, come to our help. Let us have the Institute some time in August next. What say the farmer clubs of the county and our farming friends where there are no clubs? Speak out at once and let us get right down to hard work to have the best thing for the farmer ever held in the county. Remember not a particle of politics in it. It is to be "through and through" for the farm.—I. L. Wright in *Davidson Dispatch*.

### MECKLENBURG MOVING.

The farmers of Long Creek have organized a farmers' club, composed largely of young members. Let the old ones help them along, both with advice and encouragement. If the farmers don't take care of themselves they will not be taken care of, and these clubs are calculated to produce a great deal of good.

The farmers of Sugar Creek and adjoining country met at the residence of Mr. Hat Farrow, on Saturday, and organized a farmers' club. The object of the club will be to improve the condition of the farmer, and promote the cause of agriculture. Only a temporary election of officers was held. Will elect permanently at next meeting, which is to be held at Hickory Grove on the second Saturday in May at 2 o'clock. Among other speakers invited to address the farmers, is Mr. R. B. Hunter, of the *Observer*, and Mr. S. B. Alexander, and we confidently hope they will accept. Our farmers are sadly in need of an organization of this kind, and we hope to see them turn out largely at next meeting and hear some good speaking. N.

Charlotte, May 3, 1887.

—Charlotte Observer.

### FARMERS' MEETING.

The attendance at the meeting of the Farmers' Club Tuesday was not numerous, but what was lacking in quantity was in a measure made up in quality.

President Carr presided. Owing to absence of books the roll and minutes were dispensed with, Messrs. Geo Howard, Seth Speight, Lam Lawrence, H. C. Bourne, and Dr. A. B. Nobles, were elected members. Mr. D. W. Bullock was elected an honorary member, and entertained the club in a diversified speech to prove that farmers were neither fools nor laggards. Col. Carr gave a lucid and entertaining account of his trip to the farmers of progressive tendencies around Raleigh. Dr. Staton was called on and explained the method of making perfect Ensilage. Mr. Jack Cotten and Dr. Nobles discussed manuring, broadcast versus drilling. Dr. Nobles spoke on deep plowing, which he advocated except just before planting cotton. Dr. Nobles reported that he had made two bales of cotton per acre in 1884. Mr. Grey Hargrove said he made 3600 pounds seed cotton to the acre in 1886. On motion of Dr. Bass, Dr. Nobles was appointed to read an essay on

manuring. Mr. Barlow moved that Mr. Hargrove discuss the best manner of raising manure.

Meeting adjourned to meet the first Tuesday in July.—*Southerner*.

### IREDELL COUNTY FARMERS.

The Iredell county Agricultural Association held its regular meeting in Statesville Monday, and was called to order by the President. All the officers were present save Mr. T. M. Mills, the Secretary, who withdrew. N. W. Johnson was then elected Secretary. Seven township associations enrolled, and were represented by their delegates. Good reports were received from each township association, showing that they were receiving new members at every meeting and the organization growing in favor with the farmers. Several amendments to the constitution were presented and referred to the committee, which will come up at the next regular meeting. The meeting lasted for several hours and a great deal of interest was manifested. Several speeches were made by leading members and considerable business of importance not here reported was transacted that will greatly strengthen and perfect the organization.

Besides the regular routine business of the association, hereafter there will be essays delivered upon progressive farming.

The association adjourned to meet again on the first Wednesday in August, at the Court House in Statesville, at 11 o'clock a. m.—*Statesville Landmark*.

### HOLSTEINS.

For the combined use of the dairyman and general stock raiser the Holsteins possess superior advantages over any and all other breeds. With the first, the most valuable consideration is the production of milk, for which purpose they have been especially bred, and acknowledged to exceed all other breeds for centuries in their native land, Holland. Their yield of milk ranges from 10,000 to 18,000 pounds per year, and has reached, in the case of Smith, Powell and Lamb's Clothilde, 26,026 pounds or an average of 71 pounds per day! They mature early, coming into milk when about two years old, hold out evenly nearly the entire year, and when properly fed, give rich milk. They are very hardy, requiring neither rich food or extra care to obtain good results. To all these valuable qualities is added, for the general stock breeder, large size, hardy, rapid growth, early maturity and easy fattening for beef. The heifers at one year often weigh 800 pounds, at two years 1,200, and cows at maturity 1,400 to 1,700. During the milking period it is difficult to keep Holstein cattle in high flesh, but when dry they take on flesh rapidly—hence are the most desirable, as being large and valuable for beef when done milking. They have been thoroughly tested in different parts of the United States from Maine to California, and as far South as Texas, and everywhere proven successful. No other breed has ever made such rapid progress in favor of the practical American farmer as the Holstein has done in the past fifteen years; and at the present rate of increase in twenty-five years more they will out number any other improved breed in America. The quality of Holstein beef is of the finest kind, the fat better distributed through the lean than most any other breed, and commands the highest prices paid in the markets.—*Breeder's Journal*.

Farmers throughout the country are demanding that the literary universities which have gobbled the national agricultural college fund must disgorge and that it be used for establishing purely agricultural and chemical colleges. This honest and commendable sentiment has received a fresh impulse from the Hatch act, which gives \$15,000 annually to each state and territory for an agricultural experiment station. In New Hampshire, for in-

stance, where the college fund has been absorbed by Dartmouth college, there is a movement to take a portion of the fund away from that institution and set up an independent agricultural college at a central location, and establish in connection with it the experimental farm provided for by the Hatch act. We are glad to see this movement, and especially glad that it is not confined to any one state. Let the agitation continue and increase until we get the institutions designed by the agricultural college act of 1862. When farmers have to fight to get their rights in this matter, they will appreciate the college more than ever, and will fill them up with their boys. The experience in many states with the college fund will lead farmers to be on the alert to guard the Hatch fund from being stolen or misapplied in the same manner.

We should be very sorry to see any quarrel over the experiment station fund in any state, but if a firm stand of the farmers in behalf of their rights in the matter is quarrelling, the more we "quarrel" the better. There must be no misapplication of this money. The only hesitancy that President Cleveland expressed in signing the bill was the fear that the money might be misapplied, as the agricultural college fund has been in some states. When he was impressed with the widespread interest in the act among the practical and progressive farmers throughout the country, he remarked that he felt safe in approving the bill, because he could trust to them to see that it was properly enforced.—*Farm and Fireside*.

### SHALL WE WASH OUR SHEEP?

To determine just the shape in which we shall sell any product we should know the views and wishes of the dealers and the manufacturers. Sometimes our own convenience may be consulted. For instance, there is some cheat in our wheat—we can afford to take less for it per bushel or be at the expense and pains of cleaning it perfectly? There may be burrs in our fleeces—can we better afford to sell it as burry wool than to pick those burrs out by hand? The question of washing has several sides to it besides the condition of the wool. No careful handler of pure blooded sheep would for a moment hesitate to answer no to the question. No reasonable man would consent to wash thinnish sheep in cold spring water. The washing of sheep in muddy water cannot be recommended nor in cold spring water on sanitary conditions. There was a time when fleeces sold higher if washed. Growers of course tried to do as required, especially when well paid to do so. In one instance a flock of several hundred were put through a pool bottom. The results can be readily imagined. The buyer stood by the shearing table and saw that the shearers had to stop every two or three minutes to whet their shears, on account of the sand in the wool. The buyer knew no better, but he assured the manufacturer was the loser. The wants of the manufacturer are what we need to know and consider. They do not object to the dirt—shrinkage—in the wool if they can determine just what per cent that amounts to. The wool growers can ask nothing fairer, and where the grower sells direct to the manufacturer nothing can be easier, than to ascertain exactly this shrinkage, if both parties are honest and wish to be fair in the matter. It was once considered honest enough to stuff fleeces with anything that would weigh, provided the trick was not detected. But all tricks are mean and dishonesty will not pay in the long run. Men nowadays have to look to their self respect in all transactions.—*Farm and Fireside*.

The fly wheel to Messrs. F. & H. Fries' new engine is 22 feet in diameter, 66 feet in circumference and weighs 25,000 pounds. It had to be shipped in sections and made a car load by itself.—*Sentinel*.