



THE



PROGRESSIVE



FARMER.

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

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No. 16.

OUR FARMERS' CLUBS.

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

WILDERS CLUB NO. 1, JOHNSTON CO.

This Club was organized March 5th, 1887, and elected the following officers: President, W. B. Eason; Vice-President, J. R. Barnes; Secretary, R. E. Wall; Treasurer, J. R. Batton. Executive Committee—J. H. Boyette, J. T. Hinton, W. T. Hinton. Postoffice, Archer Lodge, N. C.

This Club is young, but it is in earnest, progressive, and its members realize the importance of organization and co-operation, not only for their own interests, but the interests of the farmers of North Carolina. By mingling together and giving each other the benefit of practical ideas and experience, we are all the gainers.

R. E. WALL, Sec'y.

FARMERS' CLUB OF CRAB ORCHARD TOWNSHIP.

The farmers who met two weeks ago and partly organized a farmers' club, and of which notice has already been given, met according to appointment at Hickory Grove last Saturday and organized permanently.

The following officers were elected for a term of one year: President, J. M. Caldwell; Vice-President, E. W. Lyles; Secretary, C. B. Cross; Treasurer, M. F. Trotter. Also a committee consisting of W. W. Gaither, S. H. Farrow, N. P. Lyles, W. Harvey Taylor, R. B. Trotter, P. Berryhill, and A. F. Yandle was appointed to draft by-laws.

There were twenty-two members enrolled, and the club is to be known as the Farmers' Club of Crab Orchard. It will meet regularly once a week at Hickory Grove church, and the next meeting will be held at that place next Saturday at 2 o'clock.—Charlotte Democrat.

OAKS FARMERS' CLUB.

The Oaks Farmers' Club, at the regular meeting in May, discussed the proper construction of farm houses. Much interest was taken in the discussion, and accounts were given of model barns and stables which some of the members had seen, and of the English stalls with stone and cemented floors, with gutters for conducting the liquid manures into cemented tanks. All agreed that stock of all kinds should be housed in winter and the stalls kept well littered.

The subject for the next meeting is the gathering and storage of forage. A resolution was adopted recommending that the farmers of the county hold a Farmers' Institute at Hillsboro at such time during the summer as the President of the Club on consultation with the farmers may designate. It has been suggested that July 29th and 30 will be a suitable time, and that the farmers of the county at that time will organize a county club.

A. M. I.

[FOR THE PROGRESSIVE FARMER.] MANURING CORN.

The subscribers to the PROGRESSIVE FARMER should take notice that now is the proper time to manure their corn, and the proper way to manure is to manure it beside the stalk after it has been weeded out. Chop your stable manure up as fine as you can well get it, fill your cart full, take baskets that will hold about half bushel or three pecks, fill full of manure, take on your arm and put a single handful to a stalk. By so doing, two full loads—say about 40 bushels—will manure one acre in corn, the rows being 4 1/2 feet wide and planting the corn 30 inches apart, and the results will be surprising. This has been my way of applying my stable manure for four or five years. And one man will manure five acres a day. Now take your stable manure and compost it as most everybody does. He will put about one load of stable manure with eight or ten loads

of poor dirt, and then one can manure about one acre per day, and in order to do that, he will have to train it between the rows with a shovel; he can't take that in baskets, either. And besides, it is the stable manure that does the good, and not the poor dirt. It is also a good plan to have large stables, and not clean them out until you get ready to use the manure, then you save one handling, and besides it will keep packed down and not burn up. But if you dig them out, it will be sure to undergo a heating which it ought not by any means to do.

R. D.

[FOR THE PROGRESSIVE FARMER.] SENSE AT LAST.

Capt. Williamson on Grasses.

I wish to congratulate the readers of THE PROGRESSIVE FARMER on its success in laying before the farmers of this State some practical ideas of "How to Succeed in Farming." I believe the farmers' institutes will solve the question of agricultural success in North Carolina. Open, free debate, a comparison of views and the conflict of mind with mind, is just what we need.

I was especially pleased with the views of Capt. B. P. Williamson, of Wake, on grasses. And it so happens I can fully endorse his general views, and especially his plan for making upland meadows. In following the common slipshod statements of others, I experienced the same difficulties, and did not succeed till I fell on the same plan. It would do to re-publish.

A STOCK FARMER.

[FOR THE PROGRESSIVE FARMER.] FARMERS' INSTITUTE.

Grain, Grass, Stock and Fruit Exhibition. (C)

Arrangements are being made to establish at Mount Holly, in this county, a permanent Farmers' Institute, and in connection have annually an exhibition of grain, grass, stock and fruits.

It is proposed that each farmers' club in the State shall have erected a club house, where the members of the club can stay during exhibitions, so as the expense of attending the annual fairs will be comparatively small. The cost to each member of the club will not exceed one dollar and fifty cents, as a greater part of the material and funds for erecting the houses have already been guaranteed by business men and farmers in and around Mount Holly.

This location has been selected because it is conveniently near the finest portion of the grass and grain lands of South Carolina, a number of South Carolina farmers having promised to interest themselves, provided the locations were selected in some county adjoining their State.

We shall expect to have the Editor of THE PROGRESSIVE FARMER present, and guarantee that the Catawba Valley farmers will give him a hearty welcome.

Truly yours,
CATAWBIAN.

OUR NEIGHBOR IS SUCCESSFUL AS A FARMER.

Because he takes some good agricultural journal, reads it and tries to profit by its teachings.

Because he works according to some system, with common sense to vary it, if necessary.

Because he doesn't believe in over-cropping his soil and constantly taking away without replacing. He gives as well as takes.

Because he keeps ahead of his work and drives it rather than let it drive him.

Because he plants ahead, and when his hired man arises in the morning he knows what is the first business of the day after breakfast, because he was informed the night before.

Because he keeps an accurate account with his crops and his stock, and knows what field or what cow pays and which does not.

Because he watches the market and

studies the demands of the same, and neither buys nor sells with eyes hood-winked.

Because he purchases the best seed and is careful to get no other because it may be cheaper. And he doesn't wait until he wants to sow or plant before he purchases; everything is ready when wanted for use.

Because he takes good care of his team and stock and never allows them to be misused.

Because his farm tools are carefully housed when the season for their use is over, and are repainted and put in order for future use.

Because he saves all possible fertilizers made during the winter by his stock, and does not let the spring rains wash the best part out into the road.

Because he doesn't sit around the "corner groceries" in winter and go to town every night in summer.

Because he is temperate, kind, economical, honest, industrious, wide awake, fore-sighted, contented and happy.

COL. PETERS' ADVICE.

One of the most honored advisory members of the Young Farmers' Club, as well as one of ripe and rare experience, is Col. Richard Peters, of Atlanta, Ga., a man of big brain, big heart, big enterprises and big results. His experience as a breeder of all kinds of choice strains of live stock has been very fruitful of cheer or warning to less presumptuous breeders. When asked by a reporter what his advice would be to a young man who was thinking of going into the stock business, he said he thought it was best for a beginner to start on low-grade stock and build it up to a good standard, for the result would be better than if started on costly thoroughbreds alone. I think, said he, that those who know me will acquit me of selfishness—and certainly those who know how readily I sell all the animals I can spare will acquit me of any need of being selfish—when I say that one of the most important things is to improve the breed of our stock. It costs no more, in fact it costs much less, to keep a good cow or hog than a poor one. For example, take a man who owns five or six scrub cows. If he will buy a good Jersey bull of a pre-potent family, the heifers of his first cross will give him 50 per cent. more butter, on an average, and of a much finer quality than their mothers gave. It is an axiom that the bull is half the herd. I have seen grades of the third cross that no one could tell, by looks or butter, from registered Jerseys. It is hard to calculate how much good a fine, vigorous Jersey bull can do in a country neighborhood. One mistake is frequently made that should be avoided. A half-breed male should never be used to breed from. It is the male that lifts the grade, and a half-breed will lead a herd downward, no matter how fine the females may be. Where a Jersey is introduced his sons should be killed for beef or used for oxen, and his daughters crossed to another pure-bred Jersey. In one cross any man can see such a difference that he will thank me for my advice. In three crosses he will have a most valuable herd—as good butter makers almost as registered Jerseys. And so of hogs. A farmer, by crossing his scrub hogs to fine breeds, will get, in one cross, a compact and better hog that will fatten more readily and on less food than his scrubs. Another thing will follow: When a farmer improves his stock he will take better care of it, and will increase his herds and flocks. The compost heap, the pasture, the hay rick and corn fields follow cattle and sheep, and this gives us diversified farming, without trenching one bale on the cotton crop, which, of course, must and should remain our great crop.—Southern Cultivator for June.

Apply hartshorn, cologne water or vinegar for the treatment of poisonous bites or wounds made by insects. A poultice of ipecac is also said to be good.

THE INTER-STATE COMMERCE LAW.

The Voice of the Grange.

BY MORTIMER WHITEHEAD.

The strongest efforts are being made through the press and by taking advantage of technicalities in the act to bring the Inter-State Commerce law into disrepute, and to influence public sentiment against it that the attempts evidently to be made in the next Congress to have it repealed may be entirely successful. Farmers who more than all others helped to bring about this law, and who above all others are interested in its enforcement, should not be misled by false statements or let evil overcome good because of their apathy or want of knowledge in this matter. The very essence of the Inter-State Commerce law is equality, anti-discrimination, "a fair field and no favor," equal charges for equal services, equality in persons and in places. No higher charges for a short than for a long haul; no pooling of earnings, no free passes. We hear of petitions from railroads and those who have been enjoying unequal advantages against portions of the law; but so far there are more petitions representing more persons and interests against any repeal of parts or all of the law. Today we read the telegrams that tell of the failure of two large barbed wire manufacturing establishments in Chicago to the amount of \$755,000, and "the failure is chiefly attributable to the Inter-State Commerce act." If special rates of freight and undue advantages have been given firms, by which they became monopolies and could crush out other firms in the same line of business who had not these favors, and with the Standard Oil Co., whose freight rebates have been announced in eighteen months' time to amount of \$10,000,000, and who have crushed out hundreds of other oil refiners because of these special favors—and they cannot compete on an equal footing with other firms—they must fall. And it was to suit just such cases that this law was made and passed. Let justice be done though the heavens fall." Our forefathers said in the Declaration of Independence, all men should "have an equal chance in life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness." That principal is the foundation of all our Government, and it is the chief cornerstone of the Interstate Commerce law.

HOEING CORN.

Corn, properly planted on well prepared land, should rarely need the hoe in the early stages if the plowing be skillfully done. While our personal experience does not approve the general practice of planting in the water-furrow (as advocated by Dr. Jones), we have found it very helpful in the way of subsequent cultivation to plant in very wide, deep furrows, and covering very shallow, so that the plants will be below the general surface. The first plowing should be done with an implement that throws but little dirt to the corn, yet enough to cover well the step between the hills or plants. The thinning (if needed) should be done ahead of the plowing, and the latter should be done only by conscientiously careful laborers. The plowman should be required to stop and uncover plants, or cover or pull out weeds or grass with foot or hand as he goes. He should be impressed with the idea that the work of cleaning the young plants must be done by the work of his plow, or his hands and feet—no hoe to follow. It is not a bad idea to furnish each plowman with a small, short-handled, one-hand hoe, to be carried with his plow and used as occasion may require. It will be found that he will be much more careful to do good work with his plow if he is given to understand that careless work will not be endured and left for the hoes to remedy.

Of course it will often occur that the land is sufficiently smooth to admit of thorough work by the plow, except

around trees and stumps; but it will not pay to go over a field, row by row, in order to clean around such obstacles. Better make a job of it, early in the cultivation, going from one to another without regard to the intervening rows.

It sometimes pays well to go over the corn crop with the hoes about laying by time, each hand taking two or more rows at a time, and destroy scattering bunches of grass and cleaning around stumps and trees. This will depend upon whether the hands can be spared from the more exacting cotton crop.—Farmers' Friend.

DON'T DEPEND ON THE YOUNG GRASS.

However eager cattle may be to get on the fresh spring grass, and however greedily they eat it, remember that it alone is not sufficient to keep them in flesh, much less to fatten them any. As many people will be turning cattle into pasture earlier than usual on account of scarcity of feed, they should bear this in mind. On this subject the National Live Stock Journal says:

Cattle never make any gain on the first grass of the season, but the question properly considered, it will be found that they always lose ground for the first two or three weeks if turned upon feed that is inadequate to meet their wants. These needs are always considerable, and very imperative, at the close of winter, especially a winter on short keep, and in some form or other, is the rule rather than the exception. Cattle that have been wintered on very coarse feed, hay grown on very rich, low ground, especially if the land is wet, or, on the other hand, on straw mainly, will become at once very weak if put upon grass of the first growth. There are two reasons for this. In the first place, the growth is scattering, as time is required for any crop of grass to thicken up, that it may fairly cover the ground and give the beast what is termed a "fair bite." In the second place, this early shoot of grass, so far as the nutriment contained is concerned, may be likened to a head of grain before the berry is formed. It looks as though it might have nutriment in it, but the trial proves that appearances are deceptive. It may also be added that the taste—for it is but a taste—that cattle obtain of this early growth, destroys the appetite for the dry provender they were fed upon before. Hence, for every reason bearing upon the subject, it will be found in the end much more economical to keep the cattle stock upon dry feed, and to the hay, fodder or straw, there should be added a fair ration of ground feed.

ESTIMATE OF THE WOOL CLIP.

An estimate of the wool clip of this country, prepared by the Philadelphia Textile Association, places the total unwashed wool at 208,595,126 pounds, and washed, 52,469,524; grand total, 261,064,650 pounds, which reduced to scoured wool, taking ordinary shrinkage, makes 116,136,685 pounds. Another table shows the estimated decrease and increase between 1884 and 1886, and between 1886 and 1887. For the former period there was a total decrease of 41,951,424 pounds, and an increase of 9,032,217 pounds, making a net decrease of 32,919,207 pounds. The total estimated decrease between 1886 and 1887 is 22,582,195 pounds, and an increase of 1,720,783 pounds; net decrease, 20,861,412 pounds. The increase occurs in Oregon, Colorado, Montana, Wyoming, Utah, Washington Territory, Nevada, Dakota and Idaho. All the other States and territories show a decrease. For a period between 1884 and 1887. Kansas, Minnesota and Nebraska show an increase, but these States are in the decrease column for the period 1886-7. Texas shows a decrease of 19,166,664 pounds for three years, and 12,244,704 pounds the past year. Ohio decreased 2,185,615 pounds in the three years, 950,605 the past year.