



# THE



# PROGRESSIVE



# FARMER.

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

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### OUR FARMERS' CLUBS.

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

SEVEN SPRINGS, N. C., June 14, '87. General Deputy Eaton has re-organized Stella Grange No. 117, Patrons of Husbandry, and I would like to have some specimen copies of your valuable paper for distribution among the farmers.

Yours truly,  
N. B. WHITFIELD, Master.

HOUSE CREEK, N. C., June 13, '87. At a call meeting of the farmers of House Creek township, after hearing a speech by J. B. Barry, of Texas, setting forth the object of the meeting, the farmers thereupon organized a club known as the Farmers' Club of Alliance of House Creek, composed of the following names:

- W. G. Allen, President.
- M. M. Perry, Vice-President.
- W. R. McDade, Treasurer.
- J. V. Hubbard, Secretary.
- H. W. House, Chaplain.
- W. H. Peebles, Secretary.
- R. H. Sanders, Asst. Secretary.
- Isaac Blake, Door Keeper.
- J. A. Underhill, Asst. D. K.
- L. M. Emery, G. K. Buffalo, S. H. Harris, A. A. Johnson and B. B. Emery, all P. O. at Raleigh, N. C.

THAGARD'S MILL, MOORE CO., N. C., May 30th, 1887.

On May the 14th, 1887, at Thagard's Mill, there was organized a farmers' club, known as the Farmers' Club of McNeill's township, and on the 28th of May the club met in session and the following persons were elected officers for the ensuing year:

- W. C. Thagard, President.
- John A. Blue, Vice-President.
- P. Pope, Secretary.
- M. A. Munroe, Treasurer.
- F. D. McLean, R. E. L. Thagard, N. A. Underwood, Noah Deaton, D. McNeill, Executive Committee.

This club consists of twenty members.

The subject for discussion on June 25th, What is the greatest drawback or hindrance to the farmers of this community?

A motion was made and carried that the above proceedings be made known to THE PROGRESSIVE FARMER, and ask admittance of the same for publication in its columns.

Respectfully,  
FARMERS' CLUB  
of McNeill's township.

P. POPE, Secretary.

### FARMERS' CLUBS AND AGRICULTURE GENERALLY.

On the 2d of April the Lower Creek Farmers' Club organized at Marvin camp ground under flattering auspices. Fifteen members have joined. The farmers in that locality are taking a lively interest in the matter and, at the next meeting, many more members are expected to join. B. M. Tuttle, Esq., was elected President, John E. Corpening, jr., Vice-President and H. M. Kent Secretary. The regular day for meetings is on the first Saturday of each month. The subject for discussion at that meeting is the best method of cultivating corn.

The subject of farmers' clubs in general was discussed at this meeting and it was decided to encourage the formation of local clubs in different sections of the county, and when enough local clubs have been formed, to organize a County Association to meet once a quarter and to be composed of delegates elected by the local clubs.

Mr. H. M. Kent, one of the active members of the Lower Creek Club, is making some interesting experiments in wheat culture. He has planted four sections in wheat and fertilized one section with beef blood mixed with dirt, one with burnt bone, one with ashes and one with Merriman's commercial fertilizer. Each section was planted with five grains five feet apart. He frequently stirs the earth around each bunch of wheat and adds more of the fertilizer to it.—*Lenoir Topic.*

### AN EXODUS FROM THE FARMS.

The Young Men of the South Will Not Till the Soil any More.

There is a phase of life at the South which not only gives occasion for earnest thought, but serious alarm. When the war closed, and for a number of years after, the changed condition of affairs led many young men to believe that the cities and towns afforded the best fields for making a living. Farms and farm houses were in ruins, labor was disorganized, and there seemed to be no profit in tilling the soil. To a very great extent, therefore, young men sought the centres of population, while their fathers rented the farms to negroes. Many found employment as clerks in stores, others entered some one of the learned professions. As a rule, the clerks received small salaries, and when the busy season was over, their occupation was gone until the return of the fall. In the summer months some went back to the farms and engaged in irregular work; but a majority remained upon the scene of their spasmodic careers as clerks, and kicked their shins in idleness. Those who entered a professional life fared no better than the clerks. A few made fame and fortune, but by far the greater number barely succeeded in keeping up the union between body and soul.

The example set by these young men was contagious, because the exodus from the farms continues, and every year there is a large increase in the number of poorly-paid clerks and half starved lawyers and physicians. In recent years the activity in mining, manufacturing and railroad building has been an additional inducement to young men to seek the centres of population. This was never so apparent as at present. The dazzling stories of rapidly-acquired fortunes in the pursuits just mentioned have caused a rush of young men to the cities and towns that is astonishing, and to which there seems no end.

The exodus from the farms has two unfortunate results—one is, that the farms suffer, and the other is, that the pursuits open to young men in the cities and towns yearly become more crowded, thus lessening the opportunities for acquiring a competency. The exodus ought to stop. It is based upon a fallacy. Young men who remain on the farms, and cultivate them intelligently and industriously, are much more likely to make fortunes than those who seek a livelihood in the cities and towns. Besides, the prosperity of the country depends upon the prosperity of the farming interest, and unless farmers and the sons of farmers do their duty the country cannot prosper.—*Savannah News.*

[The Agricultural College will cure this. Interest the boys and teach them to make the farm interesting and profitable, and they will stay there.]

Farmer boys, you need not envy the young men who stand behind the counters of the city shops. You need not envy these young men who are making ready to take the places of the great army of lawyers and pettifoggers who are subsisting by the litigations of quarrelsome and contentious clients. And certainly you ought not to envy the boys who have no employment at all; those who are growing up to manhood without acquiring industrious habits upon which to rely in times of great need and pressing emergencies, whose idleness invites to temptations which so often lure to mental and bodily ruin. Your clothes may not be so finely spun and made as the city boys, but you are the peers of them all, with your bronzed faces and horny hands, however pretentious their employments. Your business is one which antedates every other vocation in the world. The farmer was plowing and sowing and reaping his harvest long before a merchant, or lawyer or doctor was known; and he still stands foremost at the gates whence issue to the millions of the world the steady, never-failing streams

of plenteousness and life. A generation or so ago the brightest boys of the farmer's family were assigned to the professions. The dull fellows were sent to the fields. Now-a-days a different order of things prevails. Once the idea was popular that only muscular strength was necessary on a farm—the strength to guide a plow, to wield an axe, a hoe or a scythe—the endurance to go through with the sweltering tasks of summer or the exposing duties of winter. These important requisites given, a booby might fill the place just as well as any one else. So some folks used to think, but what say you, working farmer boys? Do you not place a higher estimate upon your skill, and upon the value of your services? Look up, then, and vindicate yourselves. You are getting health and strength from the wholesome exercises of the fields, and that you may have the necessary intelligence to combine with this strength for the proper prosecution of your calling, apply yourselves diligently to acquiring knowledge whenever respite from labor shall give you the opportunity.—*Planter and Stockman.*

### SOUTHERN PORK.

There is money to be made in the South raising hogs for pork. Pork can be raised here as cheap as anywhere; and as our merchants must keep supplied with pork to fill the daily calls that are made upon them, they would just as soon purchase Southern pork as Western pork for their trade. The cheapest pork is made, not upon corn, but upon grass. Bermuda and Lespedeza will make good and profitable pasturage for hogs. As grass is the natural and cheapest food for the horse and the cow and the sheep, so it is for the hog.

Red clover is excellent for hogs, and those whose land are adapted to its growth ought to raise it for this special purpose. Fence in a large hog pasture and not overstock it. Provide plenty of water. Keep salt and ashes where they can get it always. Get good stock. The Berkshire hog is a good one, the Poland-China a good one, the Essex a good one, and very many speak in exalted terms of the Reds. Have your goober patches, chufa and pea patches, and turn the hogs in them in the fall, and they will fatten very rapidly. Grow enough corn to feed the fattening hogs for about one month before slaughtering for the purpose of hardening and solidifying the meat. You will have to feed a little corn during the winter, until spring, to the breeding stock, and "the young things" that will be necessary to carry over another year. In order to save corn in this connection you would find it profitable to get a cooker and cook largely of cotton seed. In the morning feed seed and in the evening corn, or corn in the morning and seed in the evening. Cooked cotton seed is not only a cheap, but wholesome food for hogs.

The paragraph below we clip from the *Texas Stockman*:

"A Bee county man sold 138 hogs in Victoria and Cuero. This shows that the bacon question is being settled in this section."

We love to publish such clippings as the above. The meat question is an important one in the South. We must stop the annual drain of money that flows Northward yearly for our meat supply. Why do we not raise our own meat? It is because we WILL NOT.—*Southern Live-Stock Journal.*

### THE WHEAT CROP.

CHICAGO, Ill., May 29.—The following crop summary will appear in this week's issue of the *Farmers' Review*: Our reports this week indicate that local rains throughout the Western States have more or less broken up the drouth. There is an improved condition of affairs in relation to winter wheat. The crop is noticeable in Indiana and Ohio, and while other States have suffered from lack of rain, it seems probable that should the present condition continue the damage will

be less than was anticipated. More rain is generally needed except in the Southern States. Twenty-three counties in Illinois this week report the average condition of winter wheat at 83 per cent. Cumberland, Lasalle, Marshall Moultrie, Scott, Douglass and Johnson counties report the condition of their crops at 100 per cent. Injuries from chinch bugs are reported by Edwards, Oly, Fayette, Franklin, Lawrence, Massaca, Monroe and Johnson counties, while the Hessian fly is at work in White county. Ten counties report lack of rain, while eight others have sufficient moisture and nine are not suffering.

Fourteen Indiana counties report an average condition in winter wheat of 87 per cent. The average reaches 100 in Madison, Miami, Monroe, Rush and Spencer counties. The weather, on the whole, in Indiana is now favorable to the winter wheat crop. Eleven Ohio counties report the average condition above that of last week. Local rains have fallen in many districts of the State, and prospects for a crop are much better. The condition of winter wheat is placed at 88 per cent. in seven Michigan counties reporting. The average reaches 100 per cent. in Grand, Traverse, and Shiawasse counties, and ranges from 75 to 95 in the others reporting. Rain is still needed in Grand, Traverse, Lenewee and Van Buren counties. The counties reporting from Wisconsin this week give the condition of winter wheat at 75 per cent. The percentage of the condition of the crop in Fond du Lac is placed at 100, in Marquette at 90, and in Cheppewa at 50, the latter county having suffered from drouth. The condition of winter wheat in Missouri is promising. Eleven counties report an average condition of 96 per cent. The condition in Mercer county is placed as high as 120 per cent., in Livingston at 110 and in Barry, Benton, Montgomery and Newton counties at 100 per cent. Injury to the crop from army worms is reported in New Madrid and Cape Girardeau counties. Kentucky counties reported this week place the condition of winter wheat at an average of from 75 to 100 per cent. Ten counties in Kansas report the condition of winter wheat at 68 per cent. of the average. Complaints are numerous of drouth and bugs. Hail killed most of the crop in Clay county on May 22.

The condition of spring wheat in Minnesota is placed by four counties at 58 per cent. of an average, while four others report the condition as good. Six counties report a lack of rain, while others are well or fairly supplied. Iowa promises to have a good crop of spring wheat, nine counties report the condition of the crop at an average of 94 per cent. Local rains have fallen, but much more is needed. Seven Nebraska counties report the condition of spring wheat in that State at an average of 91 per cent. Local rains have fallen but more is needed. Meadows and pastures throughout the country are in good condition where local rains have occurred, but a majority have been shortened by drouth.—*South West.*

### THE VIRTUES OF COTTON-SEED MEAL.

In your comments on my communication, you suggest that a barrel of cotton-seed oil be spread over an acre of land or poured on a compost heap. Used in this way it would be like floats, slow and unsatisfactory. Floats, when treated with acid become active and efficient. So cotton-seed oil, treated with potash or soda, becomes plant food. Its combination in the seed, like that in raw ground bones, renders it plant food.

This question seems in a fair way of solution by the large number of oil mills projected to be built in the near future, to make a more profitable use of the oil than as a fertilizer.

You ask for the experience of those who have used cotton-seed meal as a fertilizer or for feed. Its use as a feed seems almost overlooked, even by those who grow the seed. My plan is

to mix it with bran, half of each, and wet with boiling water. Thus I feed it to all animals I feed at all, even fowls. I have no hogs or horses so have not tried it for them. Thus used, if the quantity be gradually increased, no harm will ensue if they get all they will eat.

I consider it a cheaper food than corn or oats, and the resulting fertilizer far richer. I pen my stock at night and then run in a pasture in the day time, thus saving the fertilizer from woods fires. I supplement this feed with every other I grow at home, and throw into the cow-pen every sort of refuse that will rot, and about once in six months change the site of the pen and cart out the contents of the old one, the account of which will surprise a new hand at the business, and where applied to crops will again surprise him by the extraordinary growth it induces. Thus increasing in geometrical ratio his ability to further increase his pile of cow-pen manure, in which a liberal mixture of muck is of great advantage.

When I fertilize with meal direct, I sow it broadcast after the crop has come up and work it in, always with good results, but I consider it much the most economical to use it first as feed.—*D. C. Underhill, in Florida Farmer and Fruit-Grower.*

### FAILURE AND SUCCESS OF CREAMERIES.

The establishment of creameries or butter factories has done much to lighten labor in farmhouses, to improve the quality of butter, to increase good price for it, and to enable the producers of milk to obtain cash for it at regular times. That many creameries have failed does not go to show that the system of manufacturing is faulty. Some have failed because too much money was expended in the erection of buildings and the purchase of apparatus. Others did not meet with success for the reason that the buildings were not located where it was convenient for farmers to deliver milk or cream, and there were no arrangements made for collecting them. Still others failed on account of lack of skill on the superintendent or operator, or want of proper business management. Creameries have been started in several places before the farmers in the vicinity were ready for them. They had inferior cows that had been accustomed to suckle calves, and had never been properly trained by a competent milker. The farmers themselves were lacking in experience in the feeding and general care of dairy cows, and were generally indifferent or very poor milkers. Men who are not accustomed to it do not take kindly to milking cows.

A creamery should not be started in a farming neighborhood till the farmers are ready for it. Generally it will take them at least two years to make preparations to supply it with material. They will require some time to raise or collect a herd of good milkers and to learn how to take proper care of them. They will need instructions in the operations of cooling, straining, and handling of milk. They will want time for collecting money to build and supply a building for the manufacture of butter. The building need not be a very expensive one, though if farmers follow the advice of "sharps" who make a business of organizing creamery companies, putting up buildings, and supplying them with apparatus, it will be likely to be so. Economy must be exercised in the erection and management of a butter factory, or the profits derived from it will be small. It will require good executive management, like any other manufacturing establishment. Its ultimate success will largely depend on acquiring a reputation and keeping it. Once established and put under proper management it will most likely prove to be a paying institution and result in great benefit to the neighborhood where it is located.

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