

THE PROGRESSIVE FARMER.

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

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PAPERS.

Progressive Farmer, State Organ, Raleigh, N. C.
Caucasian, Raleigh, N. C.
The People's Paper, Concord, N. C.
The True Story, Wadesboro, N. C.
The Union Blade, Peanut, N. C.

AGRICULTURE.

The first business of every young farmer should be to secure a spot upon which he can stand and proclaim to the world that these acres more or less broad are his.

For cattle feeding, corn ensilage is the cheapest summer food the farmer can raise. There are more nutrients per acre in corn than any other crop. In feeding value, all corns, including flint, dent and sweet, are about equally as nutritious.

Where you have a well grown blue grass it makes your land richer, you don't have to rely upon the snow for protection of your soil, and you can pasture it when the soil is moist, without the stock cutting it all to pieces, for the grass is a great protection to the soil as well as to hold the moisture.

The Blymyer Iron Works Co., Cincinnati, Ohio, manufacturers of sugar cane and sorgho machinery, fruit evaporators, have published a very handsome catalogue describing their machinery. This catalogue will be mailed free to any of our subscribers who write for it. The company advertise in our columns.

It is not worth while to turn cows into woodlands early for the pasture they will get. Shaded as the ground is under the trees the grass is very nutritious until the season is well advanced. There are besides in most woodlands many weeds like wild garlic which spoil the taste of milk, and make the woodlands unsuitable for pasturing with cows at any season.

A smart team with a plow turning 10 inch wide furrows will plow 1 1/2 to two acres in 10 hours if there are no stones to throw the plow out. But on rough land a good deal less than this can be expected. More can be plowed in spring than after summer heats have dried out the soil, and a very slight obstruction imbedded in solid earth will throw the plow out. We have seen oat and barley stubbled plowed in August for wheat sowing when an acre a day would be all that a good team could do, and the plow would need a new point every day.

HARVESTING CRIMSON CLOVER.

Correspondence of the Progressive Farmer.

On this subject those who have had little or no experience will need some help in order to avoid loss of time and seed.

The most vigorous growth of this clover may be cut before the flowers come out, and still leave vitality enough in the roots to make a second growth and ripen seed.

When this is done, or hay is made from the crop, it needs to be handled carefully to avoid losing the leaves.

To make clover hay well requires good judgment and quick work at the right time, and coolness enough to pursue a "masterly inactive" course with it at other times. Cut the clover, preferably late in the afternoon when the weather promises to be fine. If left in swath, next morning turn it bottom up if thick enough to need it. When well wilted or just dry enough to rake and to handle without breaking, rake into windrows; or, if thick on the ground, pitch directly into small cocks. No rolling of windrows is allowable, but if raked it must be pitched into cocks as described in Bulletin No. 98, p. 149, of N. C. Experiment Station.

When the windrow has dried so as to be brittle stop work on it. At evening it will get moist again and may be finished between five or six o'clock and dark. Examination of the cocks will indicate when and how much handling should be given. These may stand from one to several days according to condition of clover when put up and the weather, but they should not be left long enough for mould to start in the clover. On a bright morning when the outside has nearly dried off, begin to handle the clover by taking up thin layers and reversing. Take six inches to a foot of the top at the first forkful from a cock according to dryness; and with out shaking, deposit it on a dry place beside the first cock but turn the fork in the hand so the top of the cock rests on the ground; if all dry serve the next layer the same. Toward the bottom the clover will be damp, then green and wet. Shake this up well and lay on top as loosely as possible. The shaking in the sunshine air and dries the clover, and reversing in this way brings the part which needs further curing to the surface. At the same time, the limp green clover hangs down over the top and sides in such a way as to protect the dry bottom and middle of the new cock from rain if moderate showers fall on it. If need be, go over the clover again, but unless very heavy on the ground or bad weather ensues, cocking over once will be sufficient. When apparently ready to store begin early before the morning dew is off and load the very driest. Then before going to the barn or stack, examine enough for next load and probably the bottoms of the cocks will be found wet. Tip them bottom up by first setting the fork at the edge of the cock so the "lift" on the fork will be opposite the usual work with it. Make a forward movement in lifting and the cock rolls over while the reversed fork does not disturb the clover, but slips out easily. Turn the cocks from the sun so the damp places may have the benefit of its direct rays.

These directions should be modified in practice to suit special conditions, and the weather, which cannot be controlled. Here is where good judgment is needed. In saving seed of crimson clover cut as soon as the plants have assumed a rich golden yellow and the seed has hardened. Do not wait for it to get "dead ripe," because too much of it will be lost. If the clover is mown by hand, keep the scythes sharp and carry the clover all into the swath with a regular, steady stroke. It can be handled then much much better. On a small scale, it may be best to leave it in swath until ready to house and thresh, which must be as soon as dry; or else turn the swath if heavy by inserting a broad, long-tined fork to the length of the tines and when tops lie together turn over toward the butts of the culms. When this side is dry (but not dry enough to lose leaves or seed) pitch to small cocks and from these to the tight bottomed wagons which carries it to the stack or threshing floor. Be sure that the unloading and storage places have clean, smooth dry floors from which the seed in chaff can be cleaned up, because a considerable part of it is usually threshed off in this handling.

Threshing small lots as peas or

beans are threshed, is the only way to get the seed out. This seed is sown in the chaff.

On a larger scale a mowing machine with an apron behind the cutter bar, or a self rake reaper may be used to cut the clover. If a mower is used, a man with a light wooden rake should follow it up and pull off the clover in gavel, imitating in this the action of the self rake reaper, observing to place each gavel far enough behind the machine as not to be trampled by the team or machine at the next round. They should be so placed by the men if turned that the wagon can thread its way through without moving them and two men with long, broad forks take each gavel up lightly and place on the load.

With careful, active men this is an economical method of handling and there will be little or no use for a rake when the wagons have passed over the field.

This clover should be threshed, hulled bagged for market in a clover seed huller. Crimson clover should be grown in North Carolina in sufficient quantity to warrant the use of a \$450 huller in almost every county. This would enrich the land, the farmers and the State beyond estimate.

FRANK E. EMERY, Agriculturist N. C. Experiment Station.

TO SAVE GREEN CLOVER. Correspondence of the Progressive Farmer. GUM NECK, N. C. I see a correspondent of THE PROGRESSIVE FARMER gives his experience in stacking ensilage. I would ask Mr. Frank E. Emery how it would do to stack green clover in a house, and also if he stacked his on the ground or on a frame. Yours truly, J. L. COOPER.

It used to be thought that only on sandy soil could good early gardens be made. It is true that the sandy soil is easily permeable to the air and is soon warmed, and it is also well drained. But it has too little vegetable matter, and the sand dries out in hot weather, so that however promising the vegetables may be in early spring they prove a failure. Well drained, heavy land, thoroughly cultivated to a fine tilth, is best for most garden crops. There are a few, however, that do best on sand, but it requires heavy and frequent manuring to make such land produce its best results.

THE COW PEAS.

It is hard to find a more palatable and nutritious food for humanity at so low a cost as our Southern cow peas. All varieties eat well, of course, some preferred to others. We understand that cow peas, rice, and a piece of fat meat, is a favorite dish with the Georgia "cracker." The writer, we do not mind saying, has been blessed with five robust, healthy children, and there is no dish that ever comes to our table that is better relished by them all than cow peas. It is very nitrogenous food (as are all beans, and this is in fact a bean and not a pea), and such a food as children need to develop bone, tissue, muscle, etc. It is a very healthy diet in every respect, but we think the peas ought to be well mashed before eaten, as they are likely to be masticated and digested better. This food is so easily and cheaply raised that it is surprising that most of our farmers do not include them on their table at least once a day, every day in the year. Some of the coarser and darker varieties are in fact more palatable than the white varieties, but the latter are mainly preferred by housewives, as they are more presentable in appearance when cooked and ready for service. If the mass of Northern people who are so fond of navy and other varieties of beans grown in that climate, only knew the palatability and nutritiousness and cheapness of our Southern cow peas, we Southern farmers would soon have a Northern market for all the surplus cow peas we could raise, especially the white and lighter colored varieties—Edwin Montgomery, in Southern Live Stock Journal.

Two of a kind: Parity and International Agreement. Two goldbug fakes. —Farmers' Tribune.

WEEKLY WEATHER CROP BULLETIN

For the Week Ending Monday, May 13, 1895.

CENTRAL OFFICE, Raleigh, N. C.

The reports of correspondents of the Weekly Weather Crop Bulletin, issued by the North Carolina State Weather Service, for the week ending Monday, May 13th, shows some improvement over conditions of the preceding week. The rain fall was apparently not much above the normal generally, but the ground was wet at beginning of the week from rains of the last days of the preceding week, so that plowing could not be done during more than four days of the week anywhere, and in some places hardly any plowing was done. The temperature was considerably above the normal until the last two days, when a cool wave prevailed. Vegetation has progressed rapidly in nearly all sections. Wheat and oats continue to look well. Truck crops generally are reported fairly good. Tobacco plants and sweet potatoes are being set out. What is needed everywhere is a week or ten days of continuous fair weather, which would enable farmers to finish planting and get their crops in good condition.

Eastern District—The rain-fall was unevenly distributed in this district. A majority of correspondents report the ground too wet for much plowing. A large portion of seeds planted just before the wet spell rotted in the ground and some farmers are plowing up and planting corn over. About half of the reports say stand of corn and cotton is poor, while the rest report fair stands. In Pitt a hail storm damaged tobacco beds on the 9th. Sweet potatoes and tobacco plants are being set out. The weather has been very warm until last two days of the week, and while it was not generally a good week for work, it was favorable for growing crops. Correspondents in the following counties report the week favorable for growing crops, viz: Columbus, Brunswick, New Hanover, Onslow, Wayne, Craven, Carteret, Pender, Northampton, Nash, Robeson.

Central District—The amount of rain in this district was generally not above the average, but the ground being so wet from previous rains kept farmers in some of the counties from doing much plowing. The following counties seem to have suffered most from the rains: Person, Chatham, Orange, some parts of Johnston, some parts of Richmond, Randolph, Alamance, parts of Anson, parts of Cumberland, Montgomery and Guilford. In a majority of the central counties the week was a favorable one for work and for all growing crops. Light showers occurred, but there was an average amount of sunshine and temperature was high during most of the week; vegetation made good progress. A week or ten days of continuous fair weather would put crops in good condition.

Western District—There were frequent showers in the west, which hindered farm work in many localities; but a large number of correspondents report the week favorable for work, and everything that is up is growing rapidly. The temperature was high until last two or three days, when a cool wave prevailed. Farm work is still behind nearly everywhere. A week of fair weather is what is needed. Crimson clover is about ready to cut. Wheat is generally fine, and the outlook for fruit continues good.

You start two young men in life with farms of equal size and fertility. One restores all organic matter to his land. He wastes none of the elements that enter into animal or vegetable life. The other takes no heed of the great preservative principle. At the end of 30 years one farm blooms with fertility and its owner is a successful farmer. The farm of the other will be exhausted.

SHERILL IS A GOLDBUG.

The Durham Sun remarks that it looks very much like the Illinois Democracy would fall in line with North Carolina Democracy on the free silver question. It does certainly seem that the prevailing sentiment of the majority of the people of the South and West is for free coinage of silver. But on the present ratio of 16 to 1 would it be wise without international agreement? We believe not—Lexington Dispatch.

Will the Dispatch kindly tell its readers why it would not be wise without international agreement? They are dying to learn. Now don't refuse. We just want to see whether Bro. Sherrill knows what international agreement is or not.

HORTICULTURE

RUSSET APPLES.

At this season of the year when all other winter apples have become stale and tasteless the winter russet has attained that maximum mellowness that brings it to perfection. The russet is one of our oldest varieties.

The leather coats which Justice Shallow served to Falstaff with a glass of wine in his garden were russets, authorities say. They must have been the fall russets, for our ordinary russets could not have been eaten from the tree, as these leather coats were. Even in the less luxurious days of Shakespeare, when men ate various things commonly which a beggar to day would despise, no one was likely to eat a hard russet. In some families the russet apple is neglected as of no value, except for eating occasionally out of hand. They make, however, the most excellent ginger apple we have. Weigh the apples, add about three quarters of a pound of sugar to a pound of fruit. Slice in the yellow peel and the juice of three lemons for five pounds of fruit with a quarter of a pound of candid ginger root. Cook the apples after peeling and coring them till just tender. Make a syrup of sugar, lemon juice and the liquor in which the apples were cooked. When the syrup boils add the lemon peel, which must be cut into little chips, and the ginger cut in small pieces. Let the apples boil for five minutes in this syrup then take them up and boil the syrup down thick and pour it over them.

STRAWBERRIES IN WEST TENNESSEE.

As early as 1866 the growing of strawberries for Northern markets was commenced in West Tennessee. From that date until now, this industry has continued to spread and flourish in this part of the State, until there are few stations on our railroads that do not ship this fruit. I think 1,000 cars, containing 500 24 quart crates, would not be an exaggerated estimate of the berries grown here for shipment to foreign markets, for one year.

Why is it that strawberries are so largely grown in this part of the State? I answer, because our soil and climate is pre eminently adapted to them. The strawberry is a fruit containing 94 per cent. of water. We had too much water in '94, but usually have nice showers at opportune occasions.

Crops on our soil will hold up under a six weeks' drouth, as well as on most other, with a four weeks' dry spell. Why this is so I am not fully prepared to say; but believe that our West and Southwest winds come laden with more moisture than do those less favored localities.

Again, our soil is largely made up of vegetable mould, quickly, frees itself from excessive moisture yet retains enough for a long time to keep vegetation in a thrifty condition. Much of West Tennessee soil seems to be after the order of second bottom land, drains rapidly, is open or porous, yet retains plenty of moisture. These conditions seem to suit the strawberry; then our network of railroads furnish quick transportation East, West, North and South. These are some of the reasons why we grow large quantities of strawberries, tomatoes, squash, potatoes, beans, peas, cantaloupes and other things too numerous to mention now.—R. H. Fisher, in Southern Horticulturist.

PRUNING APPLE TREES.

A young apple tree in the nursery requires but little pruning, if any, for the first two years. The side limbs contribute to the growth of the stock, which naturally grows with a regular taper from the ground up. When the lower limbs of a young tree are early removed, and the sap driven into the top, the tree will not so readily sustain an upright position, as lower branches removed seems to elongate the main shoots, and the tree becomes top heavy and the trunk too weak to support it. A tree trimmed at the right time requires no staking when transplanted. It is hardly possible to shape the top and leave only such limbs as will be needed in the future tree, while the young trees are in the nursery. The head should be worked up gradually, a few lower limbs each year being cut away as the shape and habit of the tree require.

It has come to be pretty generally accepted as the preferable way to have the lowest limbs of the trunk cut out of the way of teams passing under the tree. It will be found a great convenience in

plowing to have the tree trimmed to an upright stem.

One of the things of greatest consequence is that the branches are of the right sort that are left to form the top of the future tree, and that they join the trunk at nearly a right angle. Such as the tree develops will never break nor split down in after years. There is quite a difference in varieties in respect to habit of growth. The Wagner, the King of Tompkins and other varieties are inclined to send out branches close together. Care should be taken when the young trees are pruned to select the leading ones and cut out the less strong and hardy branches. A tree properly shaped before it attains its seventh year will seldom require the removal of largelimb.

Great harm frequently comes from leaving the two scions which, inserted in a stock, both grow and in after years the tree splits down at that point and frequently the tree is ruined at premature age. The second year, where two scions have been set and both lived, one should invariably be removed.

Trees should not be trimmed after the sap starts in spring until full in leaf, about the middle of June. If the sap oozes from the wound it will discolor and kill the bark. The cut surface will decay, and so react upon the tree that the heart will become affected and the injury extended throughout the tree. Small trees are often ruined from this cause. Large trees may withstand the shock, but are often seriously damaged. It is better to prune in autumn, or while the sap is dormant, else when the tree is in full leaf. In June the wood will immediately begin to heal. Pruned in October the wound will remain dry and sound.

The most and best apples are always borne on the outside branches. A thick top is always barren. Trees received from the nursery to be set in the spring frequently require some pruning, made necessary by few and mutilated roots, and having a top overbalancing the roots. Then trees frequently should have some of the branches removed and the remaining ones shortened in by one third or one half, an operation we do not hesitate to perform, because the life of the tree may depend upon bringing the top into proper balance with the roots.—Lexington Journal.

Haying will soon be here, and to handle the crop cheaply requires improved machinery. Only those who have kept pace with the development of haying tools are aware of the extent which modern machinery can take the place of muscle in the hay harvest. But before this modern machinery can be made to pay our grass lands must be improved, more attention given to meadows.

BRUNSWICK COUNTY MEETING.

Correspondence of the Progressive Farmer.

At a meeting of the Brunswick County Farmers' Alliance held April 11, 1895, the following resolutions were adopted:

Resolved, That this Alliance recognize with pleasure the great general good accomplished by the last legislature, and take this method of expressing our special approval of the acts of our esteemed and efficient Representative W. W. Drew, and hereby reaffirm our continued confidence in his loyalty and love for reform.

2 By the Brunswick County Alliance, that we pledge ourselves to vote for no man in the future for political office who is eligible to membership in the Alliance and is not a member in good standing.

3 That a copy of these resolutions be sent to THE PROGRESSIVE FARMER and the Caucasian for publication.

Though our Alliance has somewhat diminished in members we feel that what are left are strong in the faith and are pressing forward step by step to attain the object they have set before them and are firmly resolved to take no steps backward, but to go on and on till they shall stand on the very threshold of success waving the banner of "equal rights to all." Brethren, do you not think we shall then be bathed in a glory far exceeding our fondest hopes and aspirations?

ISAAC JENNETTE, Jr., Sec'y.

It used to be said, and truly, that pigs would starve if fed whey with nothing else. But though not a perfect ration, whey contains much sugar, or carbon, and this needs only some nitrogenous food to make a valuable feed. Fine wheat middlings mixed with whey saves all the virtues of the whey and make a food on which pigs will grow and fatten rapidly. What carbon the whey contains is in every available form, and with wheat middlings is very easily digested.