

# 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.  
Coca-Cola, Hickory, N. C.  
Whitakers, N. C.  
Reaver Dam, N. C.  
Lumberton, N. C.  
Charlotte, N. C.  
Concord, N. C.  
Wadesboro, N. C.  
Fountain, N. C.  
Shadow Blade.

Each of the above-named papers are requested to keep the list standing on the first page and add others, provided they are duly elected. Any paper failing to advocate the Ocala platform will be dropped from the list promptly. Our people can now see what papers are published in their interest.

## AGRICULTURE.

Farmers, write us your experience with various crops, stock, fruit or anything else that will be of benefit to your fellow laborers.

To break a cow from sucking, tie up her bag. Knit woolen goods fastened by a string tied over her back are best, as they stretch as the bag fills.

Thorough milking pays, especially when the milk is set for butter or cheese, as the strippings or last milk contains a far larger per cent. of butter fat, while the first drawn milk is more watery.

Ex-Senator Warren rarely takes a morning walk around his Wyoming farm. One reason is that it is six times as big as the State of Rhode Island, and has on it 2,000 horses, 15,000 cattle and 130,000 sheep.

It is not of so much importance that our agricultural machinery is sold in foreign countries at less than it is here, as it is that it is sold at all in those countries. When sold there it is operated by pauper labor on the cheap lands of India, etc., and enables capital to produce immensely more to compete with our products.

In making a market at home for the grain and coarse fodder he grows the keeper of good stock saves himself a good deal of labor in finding a market for it. He should not charge his stock all that the produce would bring if carried to market, as by feeding it at home he saves what marketing of it would cost, besides the value of the manure which the home feeding makes. This with many products is a large part of the price they would bring when marketed.

The majority of farmers keep too many horses for the work they have to do, too many cows for their dairy product, too many hogs for the pork they have to put in the barrel and too many hens for the value of the eggs and poultry they have to sell. Are not these reasons enough why so many cannot make farming pay? If they can lessen the expense of keeping a large stock and yet get the same product there will be a profit instead of a loss on all their farming operations.

## PARIS GREEN FOR MELON VINES

Correspondence of the Progressive Farmer.

LEXINGTON, N. C.  
Should sulphur, phosphate and the usual remedies fail to drive the bugs off melon or cucumber vines, give them Paris green. Take one tablespoon of Paris green and mix thoroughly with four tablespoons of flour, shorts or corn meal, and with a small spoon or paddle of wood, place a good sized pinch close to the root of each stalk, when the dew is on, and you will get rid of the pests. Must be repeated after rains. A. M. H.

## TO DESTROY INSECTS.

Correspondence of the Progressive Farmer.

BRIDGEWATER, N. C.  
As I see in your valuable paper plans for keeping bugs and insects off young melon vines, I will give you one which is as follows:  
Go in the evening and get a lot of fat pine knots and carry them to the melon patch and then, just when it is beginning to get dark, take the pine knots and build a small fire every three or four steps and keep them burning about one hour. The bugs and insects will fly in the fire and get burned up, or take fright at the fires and leave.

I have tried the above plan and have never failed in a single instance. If the pine knots can't be had anything that will make a blaze will do just as well. Once tried always used. A dark night is preferable.

Yours fraternally,  
W. J. SNIPES.

New milch cows when on good pasture in June need to be milked three times a day. If the attempt is made to divide evenly with 12 hours between milkings it makes the morning milking much too late. If the milking is done then, at noon and 8 p. m., there will be daylight for each operation during the month of June. Milking three times a day gives the cow less time to absorb milk fats, and the milk will be richer than if milked less frequently. It will need extra feeding for cows so milked to prevent them from losing flesh.

## BERMUDA GRASS.

It may be of interest to you and a benefit to some of your subscribers to know of a simple way to eradicate Bermuda grass (Cynodon dactylon), which we incidentally found outlast summer. We had a piece of land, three acres in area, which for eight years had been covered with a tough Bermuda grass sod, writes A. R. Bellwood, Chesterfield county, Va., in the Southern Planter.

Being near the stable, we decided to sow it with corn, to cut green in mid-summer for the cattle when the pastures begin to get short. We plowed in April, and every foot of the furrow the plow had to tear and rip its way through the strong, wiry roots. We sowed the corn quite thickly. It came up well and so did the Bermuda grass, seemingly determined to hold the fort against its new enemy. When the corn was about four or five feet high, we began to think the wire grass would have a hard time of it, but it did its best and sent long though rather delicate stems straight up towards the light. We began to cut the corn as soon as it tasseled out, and were about two weeks feeding it. As soon as the Bermuda grass found the shade was gone, it started to recover its lost ground. On the day we finished cutting we plowed it again and sowed it in corn as before. We thought no more of the grass and cut the corn to save it from frost when four feet high.

This spring we plowed the same piece, and to our surprise found that there was hardly a spear of Bermuda grass left.

## WEEKLY WEATHER CROP BULLETIN

For the Week Ending Monday, June 1, 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 Saturday, June 8, 1895, indicate another favorable week. The weather continued fair and very warm the first five days of the week, the last two days being cooler, though slightly below the normal in temperature. A beneficial and refreshing rain occurred Wednesday night, averaging about half an inch over the State; light showers are still needed at many places. Farmers are catching up with their work and planting is nearly finished.

Eastern District.—The week was

very good for farm work, plenty of sunshine; rain on Wednesday at many places benefited crops, though ground is still hard and dry and rain is needed at numerous points. The last few days have been too cool and windy. The stand of corn is not good, but it is green and growing, and mostly clean. Irish potato crop is rather poor in this district; some are being shipped. Sweet potatoes are backward in sprouting; good many plants were set this week at some places, while many report scarcity of plants. Peanuts are late. Cotton is as small for June as ever known. Some are still plowing up cotton and planting corn. Millet and field peas being planted. Some reports of fruit dropping off are still received, but trees are heavily loaded with fruit.

Central District.—Reports generally indicate another fine week for farm work; warm enough the early part to advance growth rapidly, followed by showers on the night of the 5th, which just came in time. It is still too dry at many places, and the cool weather the last few days is not beneficial. Planting is now about over. Cotton-chopping goes on; cotton plants in central and northern portions average only three small leaves; it is larger in the southern part. It is a little chilled by the cool weather of last two days. Wheat, rye and oats are beginning to ripen and harvest will begin next week, which is about ten to fifteen days later than the average time. Some rust is reported, without serious damage. Wheat is in better condition than oats. Tobacco is nearly all planted, and being worked first time. In some counties as Vance and Warren, it is not in good condition; in some counties it is growing off well. A good deal of plowing has been done in corn this week. It is small but growing. Late planted is coming up very well. Worms are still doing some damage.

Western District.—Farmers have caught up with their work and fields are in good condition; crops are clear of grass. Corn is being worked; it is generally looking well. Irish potatoes are reported in fine condition by nearly every correspondent. Sweet potatoes are being set out and they start well. Tobacco has been about all set out. Grass and clover hay are being cut. Wheat is ripening; will soon be ready to harvest; some rust reported, but not very serious; the crop will be above the average apparently. Oats are generally good. The condition of fruit promises about an average crop.

Clover should never be plowed under until after it had attained full growth and a crop of hay has been made from it. We have known farmers to sow clover on spring grain and then plow the stubble in fall for wheat, thinking that the clover growth they thus secured was worth the value of the seed as manures. But we think that the cost of the seed expended in mineral fertilizers would have given better results. Clover seed is only cheap manure when the crop is allowed to make its full growth. While immature the plant has little nutritive or manurial value.

## HORTICULTURE

### HORTICULTURAL HINTS.

Grafting and budding should be on sticks of same or similar kind, so sap can circulate freely.

A rustic arbor is the work of but a few hours. Grapes planted here afford both shade and fruit. A wild climbing rose will clamber along the paling fence, a row of hollyhocks form a background for hardy perennial flowers, and a few seeds of annuals may be had for the asking.

It is characteristic of the age that nothing is regarded as settled. This is true in regard to the distance apart trees in orchards should be planted as well as other things. Some growers plant trees as far as 40 feet apart each way; others as close as 15 feet each way. The tendency among commercial growers seems to be toward thick planting, with a view to thinning when the trees begin to crowd each other.

A tree that has been raised in rich, heavily manured nursery land and pushed until it is over size is sure to be very tender, not having ripened its wood. Again, it is hard to get up enough roots to support a tree so overgrown. The medium size tree will have its wood well ripened and have sufficient roots to continue its growth, and in less than three years will be larger than the overgrown tree set out at the same time and age.

To keep heads of trees well formed requires but little pruning if given just

right and at the right time, but to try to give a rule would be useless. In pruning never cut out small twigs or spurs growing on larger limbs. Many cut these out thinking they will after awhile make cross limbs, such is not the case. These are your show for fruit, and many persons destroy their first fruit crops by thus cutting away these fruit spurs.

## PRUNING TOMATOES.

In his book on tomato culture A. I. Root says: Pruning should begin when the suckers get to be one inch long. This often occurs when they are still in the cold frames. When they are set in the field they will sucker very fast; when the suckering or pruning should not be neglected, as it makes the plants throw off their first blooms. There are three or four methods of pruning. Some leave the main stalk and one sucker; some leave the main stalk and two suckers, and some prefer to prune to a single stalk until just below the first or second cluster, where it is sure to fork, then leave the fork or two stems. If pruning is to be practiced at all, it is best to make up your mind to do it and to take everything but the main stalk under all circumstances. Prune until you have fruit enough and top; if you are after early fruit and a good heavy crop, five clusters are enough; if you are after a big crop from medium early to rather late, don't prune at all, as unpruned tomatoes will outyield pruned tomatoes; but where earliness counts for much, always prune.

The English walnut can be grown in the latitude of the Virginias, and there is no reason why we should continue importing that nut in such quantities much longer. There is a tree in Pennsylvania which produces 40 bushels anually of marketable nuts. Their growth is slow, but the outcome sure. When bearing, an acre of them would be of great value.

Lime seems to be an effectual remedy for mildew upon cucumbers, melons, potatoes, etc. Be sure to sprinkle the fine powder on the under side of the leaves as well as upon the upper. There must be actual contact between the caustic principles of lime and the fungus.

Sudden and severe pruning at any time, lopping off large limbs or taking away of undue quantity of wood in a single season is apt to ruin the ensuing fruit crop, because it forces so much sap into buds which remain so long that they grow coarse and sappy; even if blossoms appear the fruit will not set.

Some of our best fruits have come from our native varieties, taken from the woods; especially is this so of our raspberries, blackberries and gooseberries. Most of this within a generation. There are yet other fruits to conquer, doubtless. Let our experiment stations try their hand with the huckleberry, Juneberry, pawpaw and persimmon.

Tests have proved a mistake in leaving our apples on the trees until the early frosts, or until they are quite ripe. Those keep longest which are gathered soonest after maturity. If packed, either for shipping or home keeping, nothing is better than dry maple leaves. The only way to dry them perfectly is on a floor. Careless handling of fruit makes our efforts of no avail.

It is easy to grow grape vines, but we are not so sure of gathering the fruit. Cover the vines in winter to avoid the cold. Ward off the rot and mildew by spraying with a solution of sulphate of copper and lime. By planting upon high, sandy or gravelly soil, with southern exposure, we may avoid the frosts of autumn and spring. The rosebug may be dodged by allowing them to bloom upon the ground, or by spraying with Paris green.

Those who do not spray their orchards and take the pains to procure sound fruit will be driven out of the market, while those who get the better price will be justified for their pains and expense. The codlin moth has made it very hard to get perfect fruit for many years past, or an abundant crop. Verily there is no excellence without great labor, no matter what may be our line in obtaining a livelihood.

Favoring free coinage means favoring more money. Opposition to free coinage means opposition to more money, and that is practically all there is in it. "Parity," "intrinsic value," "sound money," &c., do not belong to the discussion at all. These expressions are intended to mystify the true question.—Ignore them.—Missouri World.

## POULTRY YARD

### POULTRY POINTS.

The duck likes a clean bed and ought to have it.

The flock should be kept tame, which can be assured by gentleness when among the fowls.

Whitewashing the poultry house inside and out, is not only a precaution against vermin, but adds to the appearance.

While there is such an immense consumption of eggs, it is worth while for the farmer to think about helping supply the demand.

Whatever may be thought of the recent praises of the sunflower as a farm crop, sunflower seed is a capital feed for poultry, and is worth growing for that purpose.

John Bauscher, the poultryman of Freeport, Ill., says: After years of experience and careful study we find that the following recipe for making egg food is the very best we have ever used. For growing chicks, moulting and laying fowls, the food provides material for making bone, muscle, feathers and eggs. It strengthens the digestive organs and lays the foundation for vigorous, healthy fowls: Sulphur, one pound; sulphate of iron, one and one-half pounds; capsicum, one and one-half pounds; fine salt, one-half pound; powdered charcoal, two pounds; ground ginger, one-half pound; fine ground oyster shell, 20 pounds; fine ground raw bone, 25 pounds. Directions: Mix a teaspoonful to every two quarts of meal for chicks; for fowls, a teaspoonful to four quarts of meal.

## THE DUCK AND THE HEN.

The question is repeatedly asked, "which is the more profitable, the duck or the hen?" in order to decide this matter, an enterprising poultryman, P. H. Jacobs, Hammon, N. J., made a test. The result is reported as follows:

At a week old the duckling weighed four ounces, while the chick only reached two ounces. At two weeks old the duckling reached nine ounces, and the chick got up to four ounces. At three weeks, duckling one pound; chick, six and a quarter ounces. At four weeks, duckling, one pound and nine ounces; chick, ten ounces. At five weeks, duckling, two pounds and two ounces; chick, fourteen ounces. At six weeks old, duckling, two pounds and eleven ounces; chick, one pound and two and a half ounces. At seven weeks old, duckling, three pounds and five ounces; chick, one pound and seven and a half ounces. At eight weeks old, duckling, four pounds; chick, one pound and seven ounces. At nine weeks old, duckling, four pounds and eight ounces; chick, two pounds.

So it can be seen that in the same time the weight of the chick was doubled by that of the duck. The prices for dressed carcasses run very close to each other, so that the increased price per pound makes the profits on the duck greater, although it takes about twice the amount of food to grow them.—The Poultry Keeper.

## CLOVER FOR POULTRY.

Clover is most valuable for poultry. A writer in the American Poultry Advocate says that poultry likes clover better than all other grasses or vegetables, and he is right. He reminds us that it contains elements for growth of bone, feathers and muscle in young stock, and production of eggs with hens. For poultry that is moulting it is most excellent; inducing them to moult early and to go through their moult vigorous and strong. It is an established fact that poultry need green food at times, especially in summer. Clover grown second crop should be cut, when just in bloom, or just before this time when there is a profusion of tender green leaves and the stalks have not become woody. In curing the clover a great deal of care and attention should be given. It should not be spread out in the hot sun too long, but dried so the leaves shrink up some, but not dried enough so they will crumble and fall off. In handling, the clover should be put in a pile or cocks and left to go through a curing or sweating process. These piles should be opened a little every day and the whole pile lightened up and turned completely over, to get the bottom hay which gathers moisture from the ground up, where the air can circulate through it. The piles or cocks should be covered at night and during any shower, with a hay cap. After the piles have been up a day or two and have been cured some, the caps should be kept on all the time.

Of course a great deal depends upon the weather. In hot sunny weather, clover can be cured in a few days, at other times it would take much longer. When cured, clover can be stored in barn or other dry place. To feed clover to get the best results, it is best to cut it up very fine, the finer the better, then take twice the bulk of cut clover to bulk of grain, corn meal, bran and wheat middlings, the whole to be thoroughly cooked for the morning mash. The clover should be boiled for an hour or more to make it soft. The grain should be thoroughly mixed with the clover, and the whole left in the boiler to stand over night for the morning mash, and when cooked in a boiler or set kettle, the whole mess slowly cooks all night and comes out in the morning a nice hot steaming mash, smelling sweetly of clover and is greedily eaten by poultry, large and small, enough water should be used in cooking the mash to have it come out quite moist in the morning, when a paddle full is thrown into the feed trough it should spat a little when it strikes. If the mash should be stiff, so as to crumble it is not eaten so well, the poultry are apt to scratch it out of trough, and waste it. The stiff crumbly mash does not press on to the gizzard readily and time is lost, and for the time the poultry are crop bound. When fed moist enough, there is no trouble and it is all eaten up. Chickens grow fast on such a mash, but do not fatten, hens fed in this way will have red combs, keep healthy and lay plenty of eggs.

Those who keep bees, as every farmer should know that the most valuable swarms come early, and after June it is better wherever possible to prevent swarming. It is hard calculating just how many bee hives will be needed for the season's increase. Some swarms are much more prolific than others, and we have known three and even four swarms from one colony during the summer. Every beekeeper should have ladders of various kinds, and a rough, light table on which to set the hive while the limb of the tree on which the swarm has settled is cut off and shaken beside it.

## AVOID FALSE ISSUES.

Since the Memphis meeting there has been no tidal wave of conversion to its platform.

Secretary Carlisle argued for the gold standard and the resolutions of the Convention echoed his sentiments, says the St. Louis Republic.

Instead of making progress for conservative sentiment on the money question, the Secretary's address and the resolutions which followed have had the contrary effect. They have aroused the most extreme silver men to increased activity. By making it appear that the struggle is for and against the gold standard, they have given to 16 to 1 leaders a plain advantage in appealing to the overwhelming sentiment of the West and South in favor of silver money.

Ever since the opening of the special session of Congress in 1893, there has been a concerted effort to effect a political division between gold monometallism and silver monometallism. It may be said that there have been two concerted efforts. One has been an agitation to make the gold standard the platform of all that class which looks first at the maintenance of inviolable public and private credit. The other has been a widespread activity in persuading the agricultural class, which is compelled by its own interests to look first at the prices of agricultural staples, that a monometallic silver unit of value is the only platform on which the opponents of the single gold standard can place themselves.

It is a false issue. When that issue is drawn, both sides must indulge in casuistry. Both must ignore or misrepresent facts of finance and trade. The gold standard is not indissolubly connected with the maintenance of credit. A silver standard would be a tremendous revolution whose effects upon the welfare of producing classes no man can foresee.

Free coinage men of the old school adhere to their principles. What they want is that the Government of the United States return to the free coinage of both metals and in returning use the usual methods of enlightened nations. Their platform is: Fix a date for opening the mints and meanwhile study carefully the conditions of trade, industry and finance, so that no rash blunder will oppress the labor of the land for years before a remedy can be applied.