

THE PROGRESSIVE FARMER.

Largest Circulation of any Paper in the South Atlantic States.

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.
The Farmer, Hickory, N. C.
The Ruralist, Beaufort, N. C.
The Agriculturist, Lumberton, N. C.
The Ruralist, Charlotte, N. C.
The Ruralist, Concord, N. C.
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AGRICULTURE.

Current comes into market at a price when there is scarcely any substitute, and it is one of the best canning fruits that is grown. The current attracts more attention than it generates.

It is hardly any question but that it is as much in the care of the trees as in the selection of the best trees will not stand, while poor trees will respond to good treatment.

It is no farmer favored with who cannot find hours of leisure to enclose a little space around the well, and if he can do no more, such trees, shrubs and vines as find in the nearest valley.

Reports received from Kansas, Oklahoma and western Missouri regarding the crop show an unusually bright yield. It promises to be the year in Indian Territory in the production of all kinds of grain. The planting is now out of all danger.

Tobacco crop requires very rich soil and it is very exhaustive of ground. Many farmers who go to grow tobacco thinking that it is all profit, at it takes most of the manure in a large farm, with some mineral besides, to produce a crop. Whether this manure used in growing would not produce profit is a question that tobacco growers the last year or two have been asking.

Turnips get into the rough leaf stage to be troubled with the high, eats the leaves and will destroy a species while they are in the ground. The best remedy for this is frequent stirring of the soil while the leaves are dry. This dries the leaves by filling up the spaces in its body through which it breathes. In a wet time the plants sprout and soon come into rough leaf if the fly begins to become numerous, dusting the leaves with ashes or lime will kill the insect. Each of these will also act as a fertilizer for the young plants and in their more vigorous growth.

ON CURING AND CARING FOR TOBACCO.

Correspondence of the Progressive Farmer.

When I wrote my last communication I did not contemplate writing another article upon curing and caring for tobacco, but there is so much more that should be written that is profitable to the inexperienced, I will add another article. Much stress is laid upon "Cut no tobacco while wet with dew or rain." I admit that it is unpleasant to be drabbed with wet tobacco. Outside of that, it matters but little. I would prefer to undertake to cure a barn of tobacco cut when it is wet with dew or rain, than one cut on a very hot day; especially so if it is suffered to wilt before being carried to the barn.

The types make me say the "stem and fibers with a little in ripening." I should have said whiten. Hired hands often cut a green plant just to fill out the stick, or because they do not care. The cutters should be closely watched and guarded against breaking off leaves, breaking the stems, or fibers, and the stick holders against trailing the tobacco on the ground, and against laying the stick when filled out upon the sharp ends of the stubble. Remember that every leaf with a hole punched into it, or with a broken stem is unfitted for a fine wrapper. A stout person only should place the tobacco on the bulks in hauling to the barn and hauling it off from the wagon. He should not let go his hold on the stick until the receiver has gotten a firm hold to the other end. Care must be taken not to let the tobacco drop on the ends, as the stems and fiber may thereby be broken. If the tobacco is wilted, which will often be the case on hot sunshiny days, guard particularly against trailing the tobacco over the door sill or tier-poles, as it will ruin the leaf for a fine wrapper. The door of a properly-constructed barn should have the door four feet wide by seven high without a door sill. This will render it convenient in putting tobacco into the barn, or taking it out, and will afford light in curing. The curer should caution those who enter his barn during the process of curing not to touch his tobacco, as by that means much of the tobacco on the lower tiers is ruined by those who come in "just to see how you are getting along curing." Such persons go into the barn, catch hold of three or four plants and squeeze them to see if it is sweating. Good curers do not, as a rule, talk much while curing, nor do they like to be bothered much by visitors at the barn.

One can only lay down general directions for curing. Conditions vary all through the season. A difference in the size of the barn, its situation, the flues, the wood, the weather, the tobacco, its size, its ripeness; all these things make a difference in the time it takes to yellow and cure out a cutting; and I may be safe in saying that no two barns or cuttings will cure exactly alike, nor will any two curers run the heat exactly alike. Certain principles must be adhered to, not too slow nor too fast. Heat not too little nor too great, and all will be well.

As to how much tobacco should be put into a barn of a given size, curers differ greatly. A successful raiser of fine tobacco placed his sticks 8 to 10 inches apart on the tiers; another, a near neighbor, placed his from 4 to 5 inches apart and succeeded equally as well. The one cured his crop with 15 to seventeen curings, the other 5 to 7 curings. The latter told me that the variation in curing was that he commenced steaming low and gradually went up to 105 degrees and remained at that point a longer time than if he had a less quantity in the barn; then killed or rather dried the lugs at 110 degrees, going up slowly, guarding against sponging on the one hand and reddening on the other, occupying about five days in curing a barn. Then I will remark: In curing a full or crowded barn, commence raising the heat sooner than if it contained a less quantity and go up slower; give plenty of air or ventilation. As the season advances the air becomes cool and dry. The barn will bear crowding then better than early in the season. Tobacco will then yellow more readily than when open; that is, with less in the barn. Late in the season, in yellowing, keep the barn close, dampen the floor and run a low heat. In fact, if one has a steamer, it is no bad plan to use it in the yellowing process.

A few words more of caution to the inexperienced: In filling your barn, fill your middle lower tier half way; here place your thermometer at the height of the tails of your tobacco; just

above the door on the next two tiers, leave out a stick or two. This enables one to see how the tobacco is curing on three tiers. And here let me say that if the tobacco is curing right on the three lower tiers the balance of the barn will follow suit. The curer should keep in the barn a small wand or stick with which to open the leaves above him. Handle or feel the tobacco but little, and then only by catching the edge of the leaf with thumb and forefinger to test; if sweating use the back of the hand by pushing it up gently between the leaves. It is always best to so steam a barn as to be able to run the heat and kill the leaf in the day time. Then run the heat between 125 and 130 till the next morning. It will not injure the tobacco at that stage for the heat to fall or lower a little. It is difficult to properly judge of the color of tobacco by lamp or torch light, but of the two I prefer a torch of good pine, as the tobacco shows more natural.

When a curing is done draw out the fire and cool the flues by throwing water under them; leave the door open, and if the weather is damp the tobacco will soon become soft enough to move out. Some slip two sticks onto a third so that in a barn of six hundred sticks there will be two hundred of rehung tobacco. If the weather is dry, put green bushes in the barn, or cover the floor with straw, pine straw will do; then wet with water. If the curing is finished in wet weather, keep fire under it till dry weather sets in.

I have been asked my opinion about priming off and curing on wire sticks, and in patent barns. My opinion then was, and still is, the whole thing was a humbug. It took twelve hands to fill a barn in a day. The tobacco, when put on the market floor, had the appearance of being pulled through an augur hole. A person could not class, sort and tie up one half as much as when it was cured on the stalk. The practice has been abandoned in all this section, and those who were loudest in its praises have gone back to curing on the stalk. Five hands can fill two barns when the tobacco is convenient to the barn by cutting and putting on sticks. Five hands can remove to the pack-house a curing and then refill the barn, when the patch is a mile distant. So anyone can readily see that in the economy of labor the advantage is in favor of the old way. Besides, tobacco left on the stalk through the winter is tougher, richer and better and heavier.

At no time of the year is the value of the fruit evaporator better appreciated than hot weather. The early fruit keeps poorly, and unless marketed somewhat green cannot be disposed of before it decays. But with an evaporator on the farm the fruit can be evaporated when it is at its best, and it will then be worth more than can be got for it by sending to sell on commission in the city. The cost of an evaporator can easily be saved by the saving of fruit in a single season that would be wasted if it were not used.

WEEKLY WEATHER CROP BULLETIN

For the Week Ending Monday, Aug 17, 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, Aug. 17, 1895, are generally favorable. The week opened and ended very warm, with maximum temperatures above 90 degrees; the 15th and 16th were below the normal. The amount of sunshine was slightly less than usual. The drought prevailing at the beginning of the week in Central and Western districts was broken by the general rains on the 16th and 17th, which practically assures a splendid corn crop. Too much rain occurred at a few stations.

The next week will be dryer and cooler.

Eastern District.—The weather this week has been generally favorable, except in southeast portion. The week opened and ended very warm, with but two days, the 15th and 16th, below the normal in temperature. General rains prevailed on the 17th. In the southern part of the district, where there has been no drought, the rain-fall this week has been rather injurious, but in all other portions it has broken the drought prevailing and been highly beneficial to all crops except tobacco. Special reports as to corn indicate that as a whole the crop in this district is not as good as in others, and is generally be-

low the average; but as the acreage is larger than usual a big crop will be gathered. Early corn is now safe, and the late general rains will do much toward making late corn, which, however, will not be safe before from September 1st to 15th. Fodder pulling is now in progress. Cotton is still growing and blooming; has improved, but fruit still scarce. There has been too much rain for tobacco. Rains reported: Fayetteville, 3.54 inches; Wilmington, 2.86; Rocky Point, 1.75; Falkland, 8.70; Mt. Olive, 4.80; Nashville, 3.10; Jacksonville, 2.75; Weldon, 1.89; Goldsboro, 5.00; Lumberton, 1.59; Newbern, 1.57.

Central District.—A fine, gentle and very beneficial general rain occurred the latter part of the week. A few reports indicate too much rain for cotton and lowland crops in the central and south portions of the district. Some damage was done to corn by high winds on the 13th, but only over very limited areas. The week has been generally most favorable. Special reports as to corn indicate a most flat turning outlook in this district; very few unfavorable reports received. The condition is fine and acreage above average. Late rains assure the making of most of the crop. Early planted and upland corn is safe now, but the greater portion will not be out of danger from unfavorable weather conditions before September 1st to 15th. Next week will see a large portion of the fodder pulled. Tobacco doing well; curers going on generally with fair success. Some damage to tobacco by flugs is reported. Cotton is getting a little grassy and some rust is reported; this crop cannot yield more than half an average. Rains enabled farmers to plow fallow lands. Rains reported: Moncure, 4.39 inches; Greensboro, 3.99; Osborne, 1.80; Selma, 4.22; Pee Dee, 3.50; Worthville, 3.74; Soapstone Mt., 1.72; Laurinburg, 2.75; Chapel Hill, 1.21; Raleigh, 2.12.

Western District.—Rains, which occurred on two or three days of the week, were very beneficial. Corn had suffered in many places for want of rain, but the showers of this week greatly revived it. The present condition of corn is excellent; there will be a fine crop. Some of the early planted corn is safe now, but generally the crop is not considered safe in this district before about September 10th to 20th, while in many places along streams liable to overflow it is not safe until gathered, in October. The rains were just what was needed to put lands in condition to break for wheat; this work is now begun. Tobacco is generally good; tobacco farmers are busy with topping and drying. Some complaints of worms eating tobacco. Fruit is plentiful, and large quantities of vinegar are being made in Yadkin. Rains reported: Charlotte, 2.26 inches; Mt. Airy, 2.31; Conrads, 2.45; Salisbury, 1.14; Davidson, 2.75; Lynn, 5.68; Rutherfordton, 1.75; Mt. Pleasant, 2.38; Mocksville, 1.53; Hudson, 2.50; Rutherford College, 1.45; Cana, 1.75; Hendersonville, 2.50; Maiden, 2.50; Startown, 3.87.

It used always to be the practice of farmers who kept sheep to turn the buck into the corn field during the summer months to keep him from the ewes before the proper time for mating. The sheep will not eat the leaves or stalks of corn while growing, nor will it eat potato leaves in the same field. The sheep will get a good living by eating down the small weeds which start up after the corn has grown too big to cultivate. These weeds exhaust the moisture in the soil, and by chopping them close to the ground the crop is benefited.

HORTICULTURE TO APPLE GROWERS.

The National Apple Shippers' Association desires to acquaint apple growers of the country with the aims of the Association and to ask their aid in the reforms proposed. Dealers, shippers and growers must prosper together or not at all. In this view of mutual interest the following suggestions are submitted to orchardists, representing the result of careful thought and discussion.

1st. It will be to the advantage of all interested in apples, growers, dealers and consumers, if there is a recognized size and quality of package as well as for size and quality of fruit, both in what is now known as No. 1 and No. 2 apples. A good size of package is easily suggested, one that has been in use for some years by the best class of Western dealers and large orchardists. A full size flour barrel that is a barrel with 17 1/2 inch diameter of head and 29 1/2

inch length of stave will meet all requirements, giving a good generous looking barrel and when well shaken down and pressed holding three bushels of apples. In some sections of the West the barrel now in use is smaller than this in size, but these barrels are invariably discriminated against in price by the better class of traders. In fact they are generally spoken of as "the snide barrels." In a good apple year like the present the difference of a peck of apples in a barrel will mean to the grower not more than five cents in the orchard, but when the apple comes to sell in the market the small barrel will bring on an average at least 25 cents less. Besides the trade is so generally convinced that a package "snide" in size generally contains fruit "snide" in quality that they avoid it as far as possible, even at a fair difference in price and as a consequence in times of over supply they are the ones neglected while the more honest looking, if not really more honest package are given more prominence and consequently better sale.

2nd. It is not so easy to arrive at a proper standard for size and quality of fruit for the reason that sizes and qualities of the same varieties vary considerably in different sections and in different seasons. The standard adopted by the Association will come as near to properly covering the ground as is possible without naming all varieties of apples and it is recommended to your favorable attention. "That the grade No. 1 shall be divided into two classes A and B. That the standard for size for class A shall be not less than 2 1/2 inches in diameter and shall include such varieties as the Ben Davis, Willow Twig, Baldwin, Greening and other varieties kindred in size. That the standard for class B shall be not less than 2 inches in diameter and shall include such varieties as R. Manitt, Russets, Winesap, Jonathan, Missouri, Pippin and other varieties kindred in size. And further, that No. 1 apples shall be at time of packing practically free from the action of worms, or defacement of surface or breaking of skin, and shall be hand picked from the tree.

This standard does not prevent any grower who may have good apples below the standard of size in either class from marketing them for what they are. Occasionally, some really choice fruit might run below this standard, but the exceptions are so rare that there can be little objection to the standard as fixed.

These suggestions are to the interest of every intelligent, capable apple grower. It may not suit his shiftless neighbor when he finds that his neglected fruit will not grade as No. 1. But that class has no legitimate place in the industry. To increase the consumption of apples, the consumer must be pleased, and nothing will tend to that end so much as to furnish him with a better, rather than a poorer apple than he expected when he made his purchase. Let the barrel branded No. 1 be not only No. 1, but fine; and let the purchaser find the barrel branded No. 2, not cider apples, but good fruit. Each barrel sold under this plan will make a customer for two more, and a crop of apples cannot be raised in this country too large to sell at fair prices, and that without going to Europe for a market for the surplus.

It may be too much to hope that all that is outlined can be accomplished this year, but by co-operation a long step can be made toward it. One thing is sure in this big crop year, the grower who most closely follows the suggestions will be the man best satisfied with the results of his year's work.

The Association is especially anxious to have growers understand that the prosperity of both growers and legitimate dealers are bound up together. Anything advancing the interests of one is for the benefit of the other, and for that reason it urges hearty co-operation between the two interests, to the end that the apple trade may be further ended upon a sound basis with a reasonable profit to all concerned. The apple is the king of fruits, and its use can be greatly enlarged by honesty in all dealings and intelligent organized effort upon the part of growers and dealers.

The finely pulverized soil attracts and holds the highest percentage of moisture. The roots of plants seek the moist places, therefore, to secure deep rooting, the soil must first be made fine and then turned under by deep plowing. To secure shallow rooting the fine soil should be retained near the surface.

PROPORTIONAL REPRESENTATION.

Correspondence of the Progressive Farmer.

Did you know it was possible for a political party in the United States having 51 per cent. of the voters thereof to elect every member of the House of Representatives, and secure every electoral vote which the Constitution of the United States provides for, provided its voters are rightly situated geographically? Did you know that it is possible for a political party in the United States having 49 per cent. of the voters thereof, if they have the misfortune to be unfavorably situated geographically, to fail to elect a single Congressman or presidential elector, even after they had done their best? Such a possibility is hardly credible to one who has not taken the trouble to investigate. But such is the case, as can be satisfactorily proven. If the Republicans had 51 per cent. of the voters in each State and in each Congressional district, and the Democrats 49 per cent., would not the Republicans beat in every instance and the Democrats get defeated in every instance? If in each and every voting precinct in the whole United States there were 51 Republicans to 49 Democrats, then the Democrats with 49 per cent. of the voters of the whole country would fail to elect a single candidate, and the Republicans would elect every single one of theirs. Just think of a single political party having control of every office in this great country, extending more than 3,000 miles from the Atlantic towards the setting sun. If the numerical proportions of the two parties and their advantages were reversed, the result of an election would be reversed.

No political party in the United States has ever reaped the full benefits of such a possibility as I have just spoken of, but they have sometimes gained undue advantages thereby.

In 1892 the Democrats, with less than 50 per cent. of the voters of the United States, gained an overwhelming majority in the House of Representatives; and in 1894 the Republicans, by increasing their number from 5,031,360 (their number in 1892) to 5,461,208, an increase of 529,842, succeeded in gaining their present ponderous majority in the House of Representatives.

If we had proportional representation, which could be attained in a manner similar to the Butler cumulative proposition, each and every party would always have in every legislative body and electoral college members in proportion to its members.

Neither party would suffer in consequence of it either. Neither party sometimes be invested with all power, and again trampled in the very dust. The Republicans would not have exclusive control of Kansas, nor the Democrats of Alabama.

WALTER GARDNER.

Gardnerville, N. C.

If you have not yet made provision for raising additional forage crops, don't neglect a day in doing so. The hay crop throughout the North and West is largely a failure. The Hay Trade Journal says that it will not be a half crop. Hay is going to be worth money. Dealers are even now asking \$20 per ton for it in car load lots in this city. Grow all the fodder, millet and peas you can in order to be able to spare your hay for the market. At anything over \$15 per ton it will pay better than any crop you can market when the cost of production and the abstraction of fertility from the soil is taken into account.

GREED VS. OWNERSHIP.

The newspapers chronicle the fact that the sugar planter of Mississippi have 25,000,000 gallons of molasses that must be dumped into the swamps to breed foul smells and pestilence. On account of the cost of barreling and transportation the molasses cannot be marketed except at a loss. Hence it must be destroyed.

Our railroad system is certainly in nice shape when twenty five millions of gallons of good home made molasses has to be poured into the swamps because the freight rates are so high. Millions of melons rot in the fields every year for the same reason. Tons of fruit are lost to mankind for the same reason. Wheat is fed to the hogs in the West for the same reason. Timber is destroyed by the mile, both in the South and the Northwest, for the same reason.

Yet the persons who see the life taxed out of their property by freight rates are profoundly convinced that government ownership of the national highways would never do. Paternalism, you know. Bad thing, Paternalism is. Bite you before you know it.—T. E. W., in Peoples Party Paper.