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.
Hickory,	Hickory, N. C.
Settler,	Whitakers, N. C.
The Home,	Beaver Dam, N. C.
Populist,	Lumberton, N. C.
People's Paper,	Charlotte, N. C.
The Vestibule,	Concord, N. C.
Plow-Boy,	Wadesboro, N. C.
Carolina Watchman,	Salisbury, N. C.

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 established in their interest.

AGRICULTURE.

The preparation of the soil for fruit trees should be similar to that for other crops, except that it should be plowed deeper and be thoroughly pulverized.

Go among your orchard trees often enough to perceive their wants. There is work to be done peculiar to each month This is the season to gather the brush, briars, large weeds and robber sprouts for a bonfire.

To keep the fruit clean, the ground from baking, and to lengthen the fruiting season, before strawberries begin to ripen mulch the ground around the plants with cut straw or hay or lawn clippings. Thus managed, a bed should produce two full crops.

No breeder or farmer who has ever used any of the improved stock will say that the old native was just as good. The introduction of the draft and coach breeds and thoroughbred sires more than double the value of our native horses, and so can we say of our sheep and hogs.

Mix salt with the food of the growing pigs and give him a box of ashes into which a little sulphur is thrown. This prevents the loss of power in the hind legs so common in highly fed swine. Feed just right, they should reach their 200 pounds in six months, and be sold, as it will then pay better to give your room to younger pigs.

No young horse which has but little to recommend him, may be made a more serviceable animal than one which is naturally brighter and more active, but has been never properly handled. Education cannot supply qualities which are wanting, but it can develop and strengthen wonderfully that which is.

The day will come when the farmer at the close of the year, may take account of his soil and the true value of his farm will be found by adding the value of the plant food furnished and deducting that carried off. He will look upon his farm as a factory where the raw material, chemicals and other fertilizers are made into finished products in the shape of grain and vegetables.

CLOVER AFTER CLOVER.

It is a curious fact about clover that when a clover sod is plowed late in the fall and sown with winter grain it is impossible to get a good clover catch on this land the following season. We have seen this tried a great many times. If a seeding is desired, timothy should be sown heavily in the fall, as no matter how much clover seed is sown in spring, very little will be found by harvest time. The trouble is that the soil on the late turned sod cannot be got into proper mechanical condition. The sod holds the furrow up, leaving a vacant place under the surface, until its rotting in the spring causes the furrow to collapse. This occurs just about the time the young clover germinates. As it catches hold of the soil the latter falls back and leaves the young clover plant exposed to the air, and a hot sun in April or May soon finishes it. Possibly a liberal use of the roller to compress the soil in the fall might make the clover seeding better, but there is sure to be a falling down of the furrow as turned in the fall when the sod begins to rot the following spring.—American Cultivator.

Manure has not of the same worth at at all times. When lean beasts are put up to fatten they at first exhaust the food much more completely than when they are nearly fattened, consequently the manure is very inferior at first, but it increases in quality as the animal increases in flesh.

GUARD AGAINST SINGLE CROPS.

Diversified farming may seem to some farmers too much of a hobby in certain quarters, but experiments in that direction this season are certainly meeting reasonable anticipations. It would be a misfortune if wheat should pay so well this year as to induce any to look to it as the sole dependence in the future. It will need but few such seasons to forever dispel the delusion that any part of this northwest is a one crop country. The gospel of a "little farm well tilled" is full of promise for the future of this region. We know of farmers in Minnesota who have made more off of eight acres, with a score of different products than many big wheat farms have netted. As suggestive of the benefits of irrigation, in a strongly diversified sense, as now successful in South Dakota, a farmer in Utah gave Joel Shoemaker, a census enumerator, these figures: He had 80 acres; 10 of orchard and vineyard produced $2,250; 10 acres in beans, potatoes and corn yielded $750; 20 acres in alfalfa produced hay and seed to the value of $1,000; 20 acres in pasture furnished feed for cows and hogs, and yielding in butter, pork and wool, $1,500; 10 acres in wheat and oats, $250; 5 acres in root crops produced $500; the other five acres were occupied by dwelling house, farm lawn, and stockyards, on which 110 stands of bees produced an average of $750. Total annual receipts from 80 acres, $8,000. His land is irrigated, of course. Mr. Shoemaker says this is but one of many farms scattered through the Western States, showing what can be done by diversified farming. — Northwestern Farmer.

Avoid letting the manure lie all winter, but put it upon the land now if the ground be level, where it will lie and soak during the autumn rains and winter's freezing and thawing; its virtues will be ready to enter and be incorporated with the soil, with but a minimum loss from evaporation.

TOBACCO CULTURE AND FERTILIZATION.

Correspondence of the Progressive Farmer.

The methods of tobacco culture and curing are so various that it will be impossible in a short article to give any directions that will be of general use. The preparation of the soil for the crop, and its subsequent cultivation and the curing of the crop all vary with the region and the kind of tobacco that is grown. And to some extent the fertilization will also vary with these different conditions. For the growing of the heavy dark leaf, a soil abounding in humus, and on which a growth of legumes has been buried, is essential, while for the golden leaf tobacco a smaller amount of nitrogenous matter is needed. But no matter what kind of tobacco is grown, there is one requisite for all and this is potash in an available form. All growers understand the need for an abundance of potash for this crop, but it is not so generally known that the form in which the potash is supplied is more important than the potash itself. Farmers are too ready to assume that a low price per ton means cheap potash, and hence when they want potash, and see that kainit in the crude state is offered at about one fourth the price of the muriate and high grade sulphate, that it is the cheaper form, not reflecting that the market price is based upon the amount of actual potash which the article contains. As the potash salts are all imported from Germany, the price at the seaboard is nearly uniform for the potash contained in each. But when the salts are shipped to the interior the cost of the potash in each form rapidly changes by reason of freight charges. It costs just as much to freight a ton of kainit, containing 12 per cent. of potash, as it does to freight a ton of muriate or sulphate containing 50 per cent. of potash. Any one then can see that the potash in the kainit rapidly becomes more costly than that in the more concentrated forms. But this increase in price is not the chief reason why tobacco growers especially should avoid the use of the crude salts of potash. Kainit has associatiated with it a very large percentage of the chloride of sodium (common salt). If this is applied to the tobacco crop it will result in serious damage to the market value of the leaf, as it is well known that the chlorides are injurious to tobacco, particularly to that which is to be burned. This will be noticed to a less extent when the muriate is used, but the muriate is still a chloride, and to be safe the chlorides should be entirely avoided, and potash should be applied to the tobacco crop only in the shape of the sulphate. There are two forms too of the sulphate, one of which has about 30 per cent. of potash, while the other or high grade has 50 per cent. It is always a matter of economy to buy the high grade sulphate, and if any one offers sulphate of potash at a particularly low price you may be sure that it is the low grade, and that if far in the interior the low price is only apparent, and that the actual potash costs more than in the higher priced high grade. The most complete fertilizer experiments on record are those of the late Maj. Ragland for the Virginia station, and those made at the N. C. station. In the Virginia experiments it was found that the form in which the nitrogen was applied had as important a bearing upon the profit of the crop as the form of the potash, and that the organic nitrogen from dried blood gave by far the best results. The greatest profit per acre was where the soil was fertilized with the following mixture per acre:

Dried blood 160 pounds.
Sulphate of potash 120 pounds.
Acid phosphate 114 pounds

This gave an increased value in the crop over an unfertilized plat of $60.62 per acre, while the actual cost of the application was but $8.25. Where nitrate of soda was used to the same value as the dried blood as a source of nitrogen, the profit of the crop was not more than two-thirds as much as from the application of the dried blood, showing that the sodium salts even when not in the shape of a chloride may have an injurious effect, and refuting the notion that some are persistently advocating that soda can take the place of potash in any of our cultivated plants. The soda in the nitrate did not help out the potash at all, but really retarded its effects when it was applied in connection with it as a nitrate, possibly by checking the nitrification of the organic nitrogen already in the soil, while the ammonia in the blood simply promoted the complete nitrification of all at hand. In the fertilization of the tobacco crop it is important not only to avoid the chlorides, but the chloride of sodium in particular, and to use potash, which is the most important element for this crop, only in the form of a high grade sulphate. W. F. MASSEY.

HORTICULTURE

METHOD OF CULTIVATING RASPBERRIES.

I grow my raspberries, writes a correspondent, in hills eight feet apart, I would advise them to be 10 feet apart. They should be hoed, manured, and cultivated well. In each hill there should be four or six canes, and if you grow them to any extent you should run the cultivator through to keep down the suckers, and all useless canes, except the ones you intend for next year's fruit. Leave only the strong, healthy, new canes; I think it is a good thing to keep them about six feet high. Don't let them come up as high as eight or 10 feet. You will have a better crop by keeping them lower. I don't protect them at all in the winter, but some of the tender ones I have laid down under the snow, that is, laid them down and let the snow cover them. I have my raspberries eight feet apart each way. I plant them that distance apart for the purpose of being able to run the cultivator through them.

PLANTING OUT EVERGREENS.

As a rule it is more difficult to transplant evergreens than deciduous trees, just because the foliage is always present in the evergreens, whereas you can plant the others when it is not. But by taking evergreens just in the beginning of the spring, before they start into growth, if the season is not exceptionally dry, they are easily transplanted. The secret of transplanting them successfully is to transplant them when they are quite young, then let them stand for two years, take them up and set them further apart, give them two years more and then transplant them again. If evergreens were transplanted four times before they came into the hands of the purchaser they would hardly meet with a death. But most men would sooner pay a few cents apiece for trees which have been transplanted once than pay a higher price for trees which have been frequently transplanted. Our people have not yet been educated into a knowledge of the difference as they have been in Europe.

My advice, says a farmer, would be, unless the ground is in extraordinary good condition, to take the young trees as they are received from the nursery and make nursery rows of them. give them a little care until they arrive at the height of 18 inches or two feet, and then put them into permanent position. They would require from two to three years to grow to this height, and would then be a good size to transplant. After that their ordinary growth is two to three feet per year in good soil, and fully two feet in any soil, so that in six or seven years the farmer would have a good shelter.—Farmers' Voice.

Horses doing ordinary work drink from seven to nine gallons of water a day, oxen nearly as much, but cows warmly housed and deeply milked require more. Very injurious to animal health is organic filth dissolved or suspended in the water, and cattle should have none but the freshest and purest. This is no idle statement.

LETTERS BY TELEGRAPH.

A System by Which, It Is Said, Two Hundred Words Are Printed a Minute.

After laboring for fifteen years on the problem of rapid telegraphy by means of the typewriter, a St. Louis inventor claims to have solved it. The system is said to print telegraphic messages at the rate of 200 words a minute.

The message is dictated straight to the typewriting operator. By a device attached to the typewriter a paper ribbon about an inch wide, is perforated by a series of holes varying in position and number according to the character represented. The actual perforation of the tape is not done directly by the operator. If the right letter is struck on the key board the machine automatically does the rest. When the message is finished the ribbon is fed into another machine. In its passage over a roller small metallic fingers press upon it, and as different holes come under the fingers electrical connection is made with the metal roller beneath, which produces the necessary letters.

This machine is in synchronism with another machine at the other end of the line, and whatever letters are produced on one machine, say in New York, are instantly reproduced on the other machine, say in Washington. The invention can be applied to any standard typewriter. In the case of large business firms, newspaper correspondents or others using the telegraph extensively, punchers and ribbons would be attached to the typewriters in their offices, and the message would be delivered to the telegraph office on spools ready for instant dispatch. By the new method all possibility of tapping or rubbing the message is obviated. The system is ten times swifter than the Morse, and has the additional advantage of turning out the message on page form ready for delivery. The cost of transmission is brought very low, and the possibilities of the system are suggested by the fact that business men, instead of sending their letters by mail, can have them sent by wire at the same cost as special delivery.

POULTRY YARD

FEEDING CAPONS.

The question is often asked: "How are capons to be fed?" The answer is easily given. After caponizing give the bird all he will eat of soft feed, and let him have plenty of water. Caponized fowls begin to eat almost immediately after the operation is performed, and no one would think for a moment that a radical change had been made in their nature. Now leave the bird to himself, as for the time being he is his own doctor. It is well to look him over two or three days after the operation, as in breathing, the air some times gets in under the skin, causing "wind puff," or a slight swelling, in other words. Simply prick through the skin at the sides with a sharp needle, gently pressing at the same time, when the air will be expelled and the capon relieved. Within 10 days from the operation it would be difficult to find where the incisions were made. A day or so after caponizing the bird should be allowed to run at large, treating him just the same as any growing poultry would be treated.

EGG INSPECTION.

By holding an egg up between the eye and the light an expert can at once tell the purpose for which it is particularly intended and promptly pronounce as to its destiny.

There is the egg which exhibits a small cloud floating in an orange sea. This egg finds its way to an humble saloon and is beaten up into a "golden fizz" to soothe the weary palate of the retired politician.

Again there is the egg which shows a galaxy of crimson stars, intimating that the industrious hen that laid it is suffering from the heat and needs rest.

This egg finds its way to the quiet restaurant, whither the sign, "Meals, 5 cents," beguiles the hungry wanderer.

A third egg shows a dark, solid body surrounded by vapory liquid. It abounds in the generous barrel houses, whose motto is, "An egg or a clam with every drink," and where the gay and careless reveler says, "You spoke late," when the hapless chicken squeaks at the moment of deglutition.

A fourth egg, light in weight and of a sickly green complexion, sprinkled with dark blotches, is popular at political meetings where the audience is not quite in harmony with the speaker.

But above all, there is the honest, flawless, unexceptionable egg proudly laid upon fresh straw by a kind and wholesome hen. This is the legitimate egg of commerce that makes the whole world happy every morning.—Southern Farm.

BREEDING.

The subject of in-breeding, that is breeding fowls who are akin, is one upon which there is much to be said on both sides. Against the practice it may be said that the tendency of close breeding is always to reduce vigor and stamina, and nothing but uncommon strength of constitution in the stock can withstand this tendency towards deterioration. In favor of the practice, all breeders are aware that characteristic marks or traits may be fixed more rapidly and surely by in-breeding than out breeding, except such traits or qualities as great size or vigor, which are directly attached by close breeding. Close breeding has filled many a poultry yard with weakly, roupy fowls.

The advice of a writer, therefore, is that in-breeding should be avoided by the amateur. Change the cock every year and see that he is a robust, lively bird. When the amateur has a flock of pure breeds, and desires to keep them so, and it is impracticable to get a cock of a different strain, we would advise that you breed the old cock to the young pullets, or the young cock to the old hens. Never, under any circumstances allow breeding where the relationship is so close as brother and sister.

THE POULTRY QUARTERS.

The Farmers' Voice:—There is a great amount of material damage done if the greater part of the fowls on the farm roost out during the summer. In fact in a majority of cases roosting in trees or even on fences is preferable to roosting in a filthy, over-crowded poultry house as would usually be the case if all the poultry hatched during the spring and summer were compelled to roost in the average poultry house. But more or less of the fowls will be sold off during the summer and early fall and there should be quarters that are dry, comfortable and roomy for all the fowls that are to be kept through the winter. There should be room for the nests, for the roosts and a place to feed, and this should be sufficiently large to admit of the fowls having plenty of opportunity to exercise, as during the winter there will be more or less days that it will be necessary to keep confined. On the farm usually it is best to allow the fowls to run out every day that the weather will permit, but in doing this care must be taken not to needlessly expose. In locating the poultry house a dry place, one that is easily drained, should be selected; it is very important that the quarters be dry. When other things are as convenient, one of the best places to put the poultry house is in the orchard, as they will benefit the soil and the trees while the fowls will have the benefit of the shade and the fruit. There is no necessity for building a costly poultry house, in fact, in a majority of cases it is not good economy to do so. A rough board house with the cracks carefully stuffed and lined with tarred paper with a tight roof will answer. A shed roof with the low side to the South and plenty of light, arranged as convenient as possible will answer. Two by four inch scantlings planed smooth make good roosts and they should be arranged so that they can readily be taken down and cleaned. The nest boxes should be arranged in the same way. There should be a dust bath arranged in one corner and a small box that can be kept filled with sharp grit in another. It is quite an item to have convenient, and their comfort should be an important item. The shelter should be arranged now as soon as possible. N. J. SHEPHERD.

Miller Co., Mo.

MACHINE TELEGRAPHY—CRAIG SYSTEM.

In some way the ring within the Ring of telegraph monopolists has obtained its enormous wealth. One "way" has been by the purchase, or so called "consolidation" of competing lines. The Western Union paid $23,400,000 (twenty-four million four hundred thousand dollars) for property worth about $2,500,000. The innermost manipulators had the conduct of the negotiations which culminated in this immense aggregate transaction. The other "way" is by the exclusive advance possession of the market news of the world. This last named method of reaping colossal gains, with which the ordinary stockholder has nothing to do, is a continuing source of revenue to the Ring; and for the perpetuating of *this* income a high rate of charges for telegraphing must, if possible, be maintained. Reasonable rates for the people would destroy the bureau which plays with the price lists of staples in the principal markets of the globe. If any merchant, any farmer, could ascertain the market quotations of the world's great ports at any time on approximately equal terms by those possessed and enjoyed by the ring bureau of the telegraph monopoly, such opportunity would deprive the ring men of many millions of dollars of annual extortion.

It often happens that a knowledge of the last Exchange Board sale of *one* of the great staple articles of trade, for a period of ten minutes in advance of general press announcement, is worth millions of dollars to those ring-workers.

Do you now distinctly understand why telegraph tolls in this country are maintained at from three to ten times as high as they are in nations which own and operate a genuine postal telegraphy.

For several reasons the monopolists have their agents at Washington and elsewhere, opposing every movement that really has any importance, or promises or threatens to be of any consequence, in the direction of the establishment of a postal telegraph. But among these reasons, the greatest, the most operative in the minds of the managers of the monopoly, is this last named.

Yet it is the truth that our people are the victims of the most oppressive extortion in the matter of charges for telegraphing in this country. It is the truth, that by passing a genuine postal telegraph bill and adopting the Craig Machine method of telegraphing, our government could connect every post-office in the Union with all necessary wiring, and at a large profit to the national treasury send twenty-word messages between all points for ten cents per message, and impartially dispatch all press items between all points for twenty cents per hundred words.—S. F. Star.