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PAPERS.

Progressive Farmer, State Organ, Raleigh, N. C.
The Southern Farmer, Raleigh, N. C.
The People's Paper, Charlotte, N. C.
The Vestibule, Concord, N. C.
The Plow-Boy, Wadesboro, N. C.
The Rollins 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 published in their interest.

AGRICULTURE.

The silo is gradually gaining a foothold in Iowa, and as it becomes better known this method of preserving green food for winter use will be more generally adopted, especially in those sections where dairying is a prominent feature of the farm work.

The proper season for turkey is the fall and winter. In spring and summer the meat is no longer juicy nor good flavor; though sometimes served at that time, they are much inferior to the winter bird for a roast. Have yours fattened at the right time.

For a ready cash business you cannot discount the cow and the hen. One variety of the fowls is sufficient for the farm, and do your best to keep that one pure. In any event, when a first-class cockerel can be bought for \$10 or less it is an easy matter to grade the poultry.

The simplest and cheapest method of making sure of a good fence post, is to use the tree while in full leaf in the summer, and let it season with leaves and branches on until the fall, and then cut up and use. Made in this way, posts will greatly outlast those made from winter felled trees.

Much has been said to urge the best feeding and liberal and wise feeding. The horses cannot be produced if either element is lacking, but let not the necessity of the proper training of the colt be kept in the background. In fact, usefulness will depend very much upon the training he receives.

The demand for lean meat is directly the interest of the farmer, as it is more profitable to sell at moderate prices than to make the hog heavy. A older a hog gets the more it costs to make a pound of gain; it costs twice as much at nine months as at four, therefore sell at five or six.

Shorten the side branches of a farm yard to pay because carried on slightly. A dozen hives of bees will bring the farmer as much revenue as a 10-acre wheat field. The result of the care of his chickens would be underrated, and even the child are not trained to a proper interest in them.

THE ENORMOUS YIELD OF POTATOES.

The potato crop of 1895 is a record breaker, and according to an exhaustive report in American Agriculturist, approximates 282,000,000 bushels. This is about 100,000,000 bushels greater than a year ago. Total acreage 3,204,000 with an average yield per acre of 88 bushels for the entire country, and in many of the big potato States materially in excess of this. The acreage was suddenly increased out of all proportion to demand for consumption, and as a result there is a heavy surplus above food requirements in many States. This is particularly true in the Northwest, which has no adequate outlet at present. In parts of the Northwest growers have abandoned the results of their year's work and will not dig their crop, prices not paying the cost of digging and hauling. But for this enormous increase the total crop of the country would not be excessive. New England has only a fair crop, New York a good yield, in the Ohio valley drouth did considerable damage and in the Southern States the yield proved liberal. Canada's crop, according to this, is about 57,000,000 bushels against 45,000,000 one year ago. The U. K. and continent of Europe have harvested a good crop following good weather conditions abroad.

Prices are almost unprecedentedly low in every direction, but may do better. The crop is only 12 per cent larger than that of 1891, when the December farm price was 37c. per bushel, or perhaps 10c. higher than now. The distribution is unfortunate, the surplus being confined chiefly to a few States far from consuming centers, but wielding an influence on the moderate crop grown elsewhere. With the early offerings out of the way and an appreciation of the fact that aside from the excessive supplies in the West, the crop is not especially burdensome, there is a chance of improvement in the market before winter is over.

Rotation enables us to use the element stored in the soil to better advantage, but adds nothing to fertility; and, although it is said that cultivation is manure, it adds nothing to the soil, merely making the plant food more available. Crops remove fertility, and we must supply it. Even clover is not a cure all, with all its virtues.

HOP GROWING IN CENTRAL NEW YORK.

Eds. Country Gentleman:—It is believed that this section produces better hops, year in and year out, than any other locality in America, if not the world. James F. Clark, the largest individual grower hereabouts, who cultivated this season 125 acres, which aggregated 200,000 pounds of the cured product, often sends his hops to England, where they not infrequently command the highest prices and net the grower nice profits. Hop culture having been pursued here so many years, experience has made the growers wise in the science of the cultivation of the vine, so that most of them know pretty nearly what to do in order to produce a marketable article. Then, in most parts the soil is perfectly adaptable for the growth of this particular product.

The present season having been an admirably good one for the proper growth and development of hops, last spring's series of hard frosts being taken into consideration, the crop here—about three fourths—was of excellent quality. The English Cluster turned out well, this being the kind universally grown. The Baravian Red vine, introduced into these parts several years ago, did remarkably well, too, in some instances yielding far better than the English Cluster. Scarcely any lice were observed, and, except for a few wind storms, good weather prevailed throughout the harvesting period. Owing to the cleanliness of the hops, even the best and slowest picked ones, in cases where they have been pressed, weigh rather light to the box. This is a good sign, however. It shows what the quality is, for a hop may be well seeded and flowered and if free from vermin, it will always weigh lighter than an affected one.

Yet, up to the present time, fewer hops have been purchased here by dealers than during any preceding year for a score back. The prevailing dry weather has had much to do with this, since hops cannot be very well sold and delivered until they are baled; and they are best baled when the atmosphere is laden with a certain quantity of moisture. Then the prices still continue poor in the local markets, not higher than 10c. per pound being

paid, and in the majority of cases not more than 7c. or 8c.

Following is what it costs the average grower to produce a crop and get it ready for market: 1 cent per pound for wear and tear of plow and hop house, 1/2 cent for use of land, 6c. for harvesting, including everything, 1/2 cent for phosphate, 1/2 cent for twine, nails, &c. for baling; total, 9 cents for every pound raised; and these are the lowest figures at which it can possibly be done. I made no mention of the labor of tilling, of tying the vines up in the spring, training them to the strings, &c.; and outside of phosphate, I have omitted to say anything concerning the application of fertilizers. Then there is a large quantity of team work to be done. Beside all this, there is other labor required which I have not spoke of. Therefore, to repay the grower for his labor, he must obtain at least 15 or 16 cents for every pound of hops raised. This is looking at the matter in a broad light, of course, for there are instances where the expenditures are greatly reduced especially at picking time.

Unless there is a picking up in prices soon to induce greater activity in the local markets, this year's crop will fail to be disposed of in due time. The buyers, being anxious to buy, have their offices full of samples (loose ones), and are picking up all the best hops for shipping that they can get hold of. If this course continues, all the poor hops will be left till the last. Perhaps this is the proper way to do, but as it has never been tried before, it seems strange. Unfavorable as the prospects are, though, most of the growers are cleaning up their yards and stacking or setting the poles preparatory to running them another year.

TEB HARKE
Otsego county.

FARMING AS A BUSINESS.

The life of a farmer has often been called a life of drudgery. There is no occupation that has a larger ratio of inspiring labor to one whose tastes are in harmony with rural life. The weak point in American farming has been the lack of appreciation of the equipments necessary to a successful career. Too many men have been willing to be thieves of the soil's resources that they might swell their bank accounts. To the young man or woman, fairly well educated, who will add some technical knowledge of our special schools of agriculture to their requirements, there is no more promising field of enterprise than farming; but to insure that satisfaction in its prosecution which makes any occupation enjoyable, business spirit must be put into it, and toil must be sweetened by an appreciation of the attributes which makes rural life attractive.—Charles W. Garfield, in American Cheese Maker.

You cannot grow a paying crop in a mass of clods in which a large share of the plant food is locked up beyond the reach of the plants you are growing; neither will clods hold moisture. Each rootlet should have its own little feeding spot, and its food to its liking. To this they are as sensitive as young animals.

CLOVER FARMING.

The clover question is of vast importance now, for virgin fertility has gone from most of our lands, and we must depend upon artificial manure and rotation of crops to keep things going on the farm. There are thousands of acres that formerly produced large crops, but are now crying aloud for a good baitment of clover, says the Farm and Home. It would be well if the land could be turned over to clover for a year or two, and then this crop to be kept growing in a rotation right along.

But further than this, we have lands that cannot be built up by clover alone. They have been "clovered" for years past, and this very clover farming has been killing them. Not that the clover is bad for the soil, but the exclusive use of clover is gradually subtracting from the soil all the potash and phosphoric acid.

The clover simply supplies us with the nitrogen that the soil needs, and will not add one ounce of either potash or phosphoric acid. Consequently in each successive crop these two mineral elements diminish until the land gets so poor that no crops will grow on it, and yet is being liberally supplied with clover. The old lands in this condition need clover, and they need applications of potash and phosphoric acid. Even clover declines to grow on soil that is entirely robbed of these two elements. In the east, especially, do we find lands

all but robbed of all the potash and phosphoric acid, and yet the owners continue to grow clover and wonder at their poor success. But there are still countless farms in the West where clover can get all the mineral elements it needs, and clover farming there in its primitive stages is attended with good results. But where the crop refuses to grow, look out for mineral elements. They are lacking generally in the soil.

Nine tenths, and probably the other tenth, have the gilt edge taken off them by successive cropping and through sheer waste. In order to make farming pay on them now and in the future, it is necessary that clover should come in and do its work. By a judicious cultivation of clover unproductive lands can be brought into as good a state of fertility as it ever was. Drain the land where needed, avoid all wastes of manure, and make a good system of cultivation where clover comes in. All crop take away its mineral elements from the soil, and these must be supplied artificially. We are getting to the condition where we must recognize the value of mineral fertilizers, and understand that green manure and barnyard manure do not supply these sufficient for the crops. Mineral elements must be purchased and applied in the cheapest form, and then be supplemented by green and barnyard manure, and chief among these is clover.

NOVEMBER WORK IN THE APIARY.

The last work of the season in the apiary should be done in late November according to the season and locality. Remove the hives to the cellar before freezing weather sets in. See that all brood is hatched before removal inside, as bees will not winter satisfactorily in too long confinement. Bees will stand cold in the fall when young and healthy better than during spring when old and weak from long confinement. A neighbor winters 350 colonies and does not place in the cellar until snow flies; his loss is seldom over 5 per cent. Placed in the cellar, loosen bottom board, slide the hive 1/2 in over the bottom, set first row on scantling and tier up. If the cover does not rest properly, lay on a board to keep in the heat. Jar the bees as little as possible. For out-of-door wintering, my hives have three slots in the honey boards 1 1/2 by 1 1/2 in. They are covered with one thickness of hop sacking. On that lay a 1/2 by 1/2 in stick parallel with the slots, 1 in from each end. Then lay a covering of boards 1/2 in smaller all round, fill the upper story tightly with chaff and the hives will be in condition to winter. If snow usually banks against the hives tight, fill the outer case rather light. Clean the apiary of all litter.—[C. R. Morts, Herkimer Co. N. Y.]

CHANGES IN TOBACCO ACREAGE.

The average tobacco acreage this year was approximately 660,000 acres against 695,000 acres in the census year 1889, and 443,000,000 pounds total crop against 458,000,000 pounds in 1889, according to a final report just published in American Agriculturist. This review demonstrates that the heavy decline in acreage and production which has been claimed for the crops of 1893 and 1894 have little in fact except in the cigar leaf sections. Decreased interest in one section has been offset by increased importance of the crop in the others. The decline has been most marked in the cigar leaf section. New England has a crop of superb quality and size. The New York crop is fair and much of it fine, Pennsylvania has a considerable quantity of poor leaf and the same is true of Wisconsin.

In the heavy leaf sections yield distinctly unsatisfactory in Maryland, Virginia and North Carolina. In Tennessee and Kentucky the crop suffered through frost. In the cigar leaf sections New England is credited with 11,000 acres, average yield 1,744 pounds, New York 5,712 acres, average 1,272 pounds, Pennsylvania 19,439 acres, average 966 pounds, Wisconsin 14,400 acres, average 825 pounds, total cigar leaf 50,551 acres, average yield 1,169 pounds. In heavy leaf sections Kentucky naturally has the biggest acreage, 288,116, Virginia following with 97,650 and North Carolina 85,840, aggregate all heavy leaf States 608,522 acres.

Potatoes for the winter should remain in the ground until thoroughly matured, and then be well dried before being stored away. They will do best in a cool, dry, dark cellar. If put in pits, they should be furnished with ventilators to admit the air, after placing supports for the earth which is thrown over the heap.

HORTICULTURE

SELECTION OF APPLES FOR PLANTING.

In the selection of varieties of apples for planting a commercial orchard, the wants of the market where the fruit is to be sold requires consideration. In localities near to large towns, where usually a quick and steady market can be found for summer and autumn apples, early varieties will be found most profitable for the reason that early varieties come into bearing young, are more productive, and are handled with less trouble and expense. Early sorts are quickly perishable and cannot be held over for future sales as readily as winter varieties, in case of a glut in the market.

Few varieties of apples have a wide general adaptation for commercial planting. The intending planter of an orchard can do no better than consult his neighbors who are practical fruit growers and find out what varieties succeed best and pay the most dollars with them. Sometimes a variety with only a local reputation, known only within a limited range of territory, succeeds far better within its range than any of the standard sorts. Where such varieties have been well tested and can be obtained, plant a fair proportion of them. As a rule, it is better to purchase nursery stock propagated as near as possible (other conditions being equal) to the place where it is to be finally planted. It sometimes requires a number of years for young trees to recover, if they ever do fully, from abrupt changes in climate and soil. If trees are to be procured from a distance it is better to buy those grown farthest to the North in preference to those grown to the South.

Buy nursery stock direct from the grower when possible, as there is less likelihood of getting varieties not true to name. Varieties sometimes get unaccountably mixed and mistakes often occur with the most careful nurserymen. When stock passes through the hands of one or more dealers who generally know little and care less about names, the danger is still greater. Insist on receiving the varieties ordered and do not let the nurseryman substitute some other variety "equally as good" that you know nothing about, for nine times out of ten it will be a sort that nobody cares to know anything about.—A. O. Bayley, in American Agriculturist.

UNFRUITFUL APPLE ORCHARDS.

When orchards remain for years without bearing fruit, as a rule the cause is lack of mineral plant food. This kind of fertilizer is necessary to maintain the healthfulness of foliage, without which the blossom either fails to set fruit or it drops off before it begins to form seeds. Seeds and fruit both require potash. A dressing of 400 to 500 pounds potash salts or their equivalent in hard wood ashes per acre will restore productiveness to many orchards that without it will never produce a crop worth harvesting. Another source of fruit failure is the non fertility of blossoms of some varieties. Where fertilizers are in sufficient quantity and the fruit yield small, try grafting with pollen-bearing varieties or set young trees in the orchard that will produce an abundance of pollen.

WHERE CUT FLOWERS ARE GROWN.

Many localities are devoted to roses exclusively, others to carnations, violets, snailax and lillies of the valley. Flatbush and Long Island City send to the New York market thousands of carnations every day the year round and during November will send in chrysanthemums by the car load and as many of the establishments contain from 35,000 to 80,000 square feet of glass, some idea of the output of these establishments may be had. Then up the Hudson are vast establishments that send their product to New York markets. Poughkeepsie has over 100,000 feet of florists' glass, Tarrytown as much more and Yonkers, Sing Sing and many other towns contribute daily to the great head center. It is with flowers as with many other lines of trade—send the product to New York and when you want to buy go to New York. The most extensive floral establishment in the world is the New York cut flower company; they deal exclusively with the trade. There is no city in the world where so many cut flowers are handled as in New York, and no country that uses the cut flowers that America uses.

Boston is also a great center for flowers; the glass houses within the

greater Boston, Brighton, Auburndale, Natick, Beverly, Brookline, Cambridge, Dedham, Hyde Park, Malden and other nearby cities include many thousand feet. Formerly "Boston roses" in a New York florist's window indicated the best stock known; that was when Marechal Neil was in its glory. Now the leading society rose is the American Beauty, and Clifton, New York, is where it is grown to perfection, yet Malden and Dedham send to the Hub, roses of wonderful beauty. Philadelphia is third in production and sale of cut flowers, Chester county, known as the carnation belt, sending in the greater part of these flowers. Roses are abundant here, chrysanthemums in their season magnificent in quality and quantity. Washington from its social nature requires flowers in great quantities; in the district are over 30 florists' establishments, many of them on an extensive scale. Yet on State occasions the Washington florists draw heavily on Eastern cities to help them out.

Of late Chicago has become a great consumer of flowers, the towns round about, Rockford, Western Springs, Summerdale, Springfield and Niles Center, being the principal supply. There are in the United States over 4,000 florists' establishments making upward of 38,000,000 square feet of glass, requiring 12,000 acres of land. The total value of the establishments is over \$38,355,000. The Massachusetts portion is \$2,000,000, New York \$9,000,000, Connecticut less than \$1,000,000, Pennsylvania \$5,000,000, New Jersey \$3,000,000. The cut flower sales for a year in this State are about \$1,000,000, New York \$3,600,000, New Jersey \$1,200,000, Pennsylvania \$1,800,000. What New York sells is not all grown in the State, as New Jersey contributes much to the New York market.—W. F. Gale.

POULTRY YARD

BRIEF POULTRY POINTS.

Put tincture of iron, a teaspoonful to the gallon, in the drinking water of the fowls. It is an excellent tonic for weak chicks, fowls in moult or out of condition.

If you are going to pack eggs for winter use, select those from hens with which the cocks have not run. Eggs containing no germs keep much better than others.

Corn is cheap, corn is easily handled, the hens like corn, therefore corn, and nothing but corn, is fed. Why not consider what it is, and what it will do if fed liberally to any flock.

Are your hens laying? If so, the dollars are flowing into your pockets. If not, it will well pay to look into their condition, the manner of feeding, and amount of work they are doing.

If the hens are not laying it is not their fault. Easy as this is to say, difficult as are the conditions to control, the fact is as stated, and the remedy lies with and in the breeder and owner.

Those who will want fresh blood in February or March should purchase now before the flocks are reduced to winter quarters. Better birds and better terms will be secured.

Kill every male not intended for breeding next year, and such as are to be kept remove from the hens and coop by themselves. If males are kept solely to use as breeders in early spring, they should be cared for during the winter when fertile eggs are not wanted.

Cooked turnips should form at least 60 per cent. of the rations fed the ducks. They are voracious feeders, and if given much solid food will become so fat that all possibility of their breeding when desired will be destroyed. Keep all breeding stock under rather than over fat.

Whatever is produced at home adds to the gross income of the farm and therefore the net balance, provided the crop be adapted to climate and soil and is rightly grown. The man who keeps 1,000 hens can very materially reduce the feed bill by the use of home grown grains and vegetables.—Fanciers' Review.

There is some nutriment in corn husks, but they are worth more for making into beds and mattresses than their feeding value. When well dried they make a comfortable though rather noisy bed. It is a good plan also to make some into mats, which can be used at the door to remove the mud which in fall and winter adheres to the shoes. This is work that can be done in the winter, and in some places there is a fair sale for the mats at fair prices for all not needed for home use.