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**PAPERS.**  
 Progressive Farmer, State Organ, Raleigh, N. C.  
 Caucasian, Raleigh, N. C.  
 Mercantile, Raleigh, N. C.  
 Register, Raleigh, N. C.  
 Our Home, Beaver Dam, N. C.  
 The Puller, Lumberton, N. C.  
 The Progress, Farm, Charlotte, N. C.  
 The Vestibule, Concord, N. C.  
 The Plow-Boy, Wadesboro, N. C.  
 Carolina Watchman, Salisbury, N. C.

Each of the above-named papers are requested to keep the list standing on its 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.

Weeds never ought to be suffered to get any size, either in field or garden, and especially in the latter.

Good husbandry dictates that not a pound of ashes should be wasted, but all should be saved and applied to the land.

A mere accidental "spurt" or momentary should never be given the dignity of a premium at our annual fairs, for it is not in any way an agricultural triumph. Let all the premiums be given as a reward for earnest, intelligent toward raising the standard of our products. There would follow greater interest and better results.

Cedar oil is not a small item among the New England industries. It is profitably produced in some regions by distillation from the small branches of the trees, which is a much more convenient and productive method than to distill from the shavings, as formerly practiced, and may be made a profitable industry wherever cedar grows.

The world moves. Old methods have passed away. We do not stop now to count the grains. We do not plant in the moon any more. We are not satisfied with a full pail of milk, if it contains but little butter. Two blades of grass must now grow where but one formerly grew. Improved machinery and advanced methods now hold sway over the agricultural world.

There is no business or profession which requires so bright an intellect and so deep study to fully comprehend as that of agriculture. This fact is really now beginning to be realized. So many conditions and circumstances confront the farmer from day to day that scores of points must be considered before a step can be judiciously taken.

The industry of collecting and curing the leaves of the wild sumac occupies the summer months of hundreds of women and children in Virginia and the Carolinas, and some of the stations have been testing the advisability of cultivating the plant. Sumac is used in dyeing cloth and in the tanning of fine leather. Nearly 200 tons are yearly imported from southern Europe.

## GIVING MEDICINE.

It is very easy indeed to administer medicine to a cow, says Prof. McIntosh. After mixing your medicine or gruel, let one man stand on the left side of the cow and hold her by the horn, if any, if not, hold her the best way he can, and then the man that is going to give the medicine stands on the right side of the cow, take his left hand and with his thumb and two fingers and put that into the nostrils of the animal, and the animal throws its head up, and then put a little medicine down with the bottle, and a little more, until you have given it all. The cow is not like the horse. The medicine will go down by gravitation, and it is very easy to administer medicine to a cow in that way. But you ought to be careful not to pour too quickly, so as not to choke her.

The majority does not appreciate what vegetable matter in the soil does for us, in the way of moisture, in the time of drouth. If one or two crops of vegetable matter are plowed under during the summer and fall, the succeeding crops are much surer if the year is a dry one. We know that success in growing any plant depends much upon the amount of moisture in the ground.

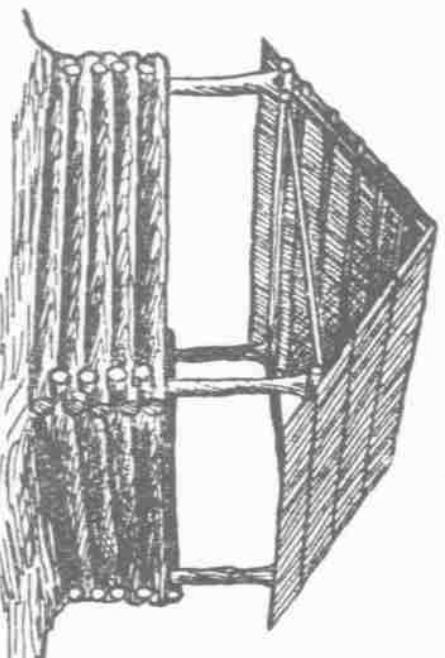
## HOW TO SAVE HOME-MADE MANURE.

Correspondence of the Progressive Farmer.

RALEIGH, N. C.  
 We remember having once heard a practical man make a remark about the use of concentrated chemical fertilizers which appeared to have considerable common sense in it. He said that if we undertake to make a crop with such manures only, it would be like a laboring man trying to do a good day's work on one drink of whiskey. The liquor would stimulate his stomach and fire up his energies for a short time, but his system would soon feel the need of good, sustaining food. It is much the same way in fertilizing land with chemical mixtures.

Every practical farmer knows that good stable manure and home made composts are infinitely superior and more lasting than many of the chemical fertilizers on the market, therefore any contrivance to help the farmer to accumulate and save such materials, in good condition and at the least expense, is desirable.

Many of our farmers allow enough material about the barn yard and stables to waste and wash away by rains, to make a large quantity of excellent manure. They do this mainly for the lack of a convenient place for the reception of the waste material of the household and barnyard. The sketch is intended to show an efficient and cheaply built manure pen which can be made by any one at the cost of a few pounds of nails.



As shown in the cut, it consists of a rough roof of split boards, supported by four posts and surrounded by a pen of legs four or five feet high. The corner posts are set in the ground and support the plates and rafters. The log pen is built up around the outside of the four posts and are notched in the style of a log cabin. All the frame work may be round poles and the roof of split boards or slabs. Plank may be used for the roof but cost more. A shallow trench should be dug on all sides, for drainage, and the dirt from the trench heaped up around the bottom logs, to prevent the entrance of rain water.

Into this pen should be thrown all the stable manure, litter and droppings of the barn yard, ashes and night soil from the dwellings, slops, old bones, dead animals, oak leaves, sweepings, etc. Occasionally throw on some land plaster or dry earth, especially if the pen becomes offensive. The fact of having a handy place to deposit all such things will insure its being used for that purpose and result in much

cleaner and more healthful premises, besides saving a large amount of excellent manure.

In the course of a year an astounding quantity of manure will be accumulated, at almost no cost whatever, and its qualities are far more lasting than commercial fertilizers. The pen should be conveniently located near the barn yard or stables, but not near the well. It should be the duty of some one on the farm, at frequent intervals, to clean up and deposit in the manure pen every available pound of material about the barn yard and stables, allowing nothing to go to waste. Occasionally mix and stir the materials with a shovel or fork, and if too dry, throw on some water from time to time so that the whole mass may become a well rotted compost.

Such a pen, 12x16 feet, will contain 960 cubic feet, if piled five feet deep. That quantity of loose earth will weigh over forty-five tons, but a compost will not weigh quite so much. A pen of that size would probably be of sufficient size for a two horse farm.

Those who have no better method of saving manure will do well to try this cheap, home made farm pen. It will save many dollars, even on the smallest farm, in a year's time.

THOS. C. HARRIS.

Plant broom corn seed when the ground is dry and warm, and on good land which is free from weeds. Let the rows be three and a half feet apart, and the hills two feet; if in drills, leave the plants three or four inches apart. Too close planting will not allow full development of the plants, while too much room makes the brush coarse and of inferior quality. Give clean cultivation.

## THE CAUSE OF POTATO SCAB AND THE REMEDY.

It is now generally believed by our scientists that the chief cause of the scab in potatoes is the bacteroid fungus discovered by Thaxter. Hence, if the germs of the disease upon the seed tubers are destroyed, by so much will liability to scab on the new crop be reduced. This is easily done by soaking the cut tubers 1 1/2 to 3 hours in a solution of 2 to 2 1/2 ozs. of corrosive sublimate to 15 gallons of water, but even after this is most carefully done, scab will appear on the tubers grown in certain soils and on stable manure.

This subject has received exhaustive attention at the Rhode Island Station and the results are set forth in Bulletin 33. There, as well as elsewhere, the production of scab is two or three times as large when barn yard manure is used as on high grade commercial fertilizers. Wheeler and Tucker maintain that upon acid soil, the potato scab fungus is promoted by the presence of air-slaked lime, wood ashes (which, like air-slaked lime, consist largely of carbonate of lime), soda ash (soda carbonate), and double carbonates of potash and magnesia, as well as barn yard manure. Upon the acid soil of Rhode Island, practical immunity from scab has been secured upon three successive crops when none of the substances just named have been used, but when these articles were used the potatoes were scabby. Land plaster (gypsum or sulphate of lime) is the only form of lime employed which has not injured the growth of the crops or promoted development of scab. Sulphate of ammonia produced less scabby potatoes than nitrate of soda. Common salt (sodium chloride) reduced the percentage of scab, and since seaweed carries much salt, a satisfactory explanation is afforded for the opinion commonly held that less scab results from its use than without it.

It appears from these experiments that the character of the soil has a marked effect upon the degree of scab. Also that by the use of sulphate of ammonia, muriate or sulphate of potash, kainit and common salt, in connection with dissolved phosphate rock, bone or boneblack, soils which now tend to produce scabby tubers would become less favorable to the disease. It is possible that a rational system of rotation of crops, which would include no beets or other root crops and no cabbages (any or all of which may possibly contain or spread scab germs), would also help to alleviate the condition of such soils.—American Agriculturist.

The Boston Herald sees in a possible alliance of free silver Democrats and free silver Republicans all that is necessary to bring about Republican defeat. The eyesight of the Herald is improving, evidently.—Brockton Diamond.

## HORTICULTURE PREPARING STRAWBERRIES FOR FRUITING.

Correspondence of the Progressive Farmer.

Fine berries and large crops depend so much upon the treatment the plants receive the spring of fruiting, that no one can afford to neglect them then. Where the soil is free from weed seed the matter is vastly simplified. But such soil is not always to be had; and the richer the soil the more apt it is to be infested with weeds.

Subdue the weeds by running a shallow cultivator down the middles as early in spring as practicable. Scrape around and between the plants with small, well sharpened weeding hoes, which will remove all weeds and not cut deep enough to injure plants.

Then apply over the rows, plants and all about 500 pounds an acre of highly soluble commercial fertilizer rich in potash. Stable manure and unleached wood ashes if to be had in sufficient quantities, are excellent. Ten good loads of manure and 500 bushels of ashes an acre will do, scattered over and around the plants; the ashes on top, as they hasten the action of the manure.

Remember that almost anything can be safely scattered over and on strawberry plants while in a dormant state—while not growing. Should the application be unavoidably delayed till growth begins, it should be applied just before a rain, which will wash it off the leaves into the ground; or it can be scattered around and between the plants. Where the soil is not infested with weeds as to need much scraping, the manure and ashes are best applied late the previous fall.

If weeds appear after the fertilizer is applied they must be dug out, or removed by hand, so as not to draw the fertilizer or manure from the plants.

The weeds well overcome, apply mulch. It is best to scatter it over and let the plants grow up through it. The berries then form above the mulch and keep perfectly clean. Pine needles (ten loads an acre) are best. But any straw or hay chopped small enough not to blow off will answer. With plenty of manure no more mulching is needed.

Take the advice of an old grower of strawberries: Keep your fields clean, manure them well and, unless varieties are worthless, you will not fail of your reward. O. W. BLACKNALL, Kittrell, N. C.

## POULTRY YARD POULTRY RAISING IN THE SOUTH AND HOW TO MAKE IT PAY.

Correspondence of the Progressive Farmer.

Why devote so much space to the poultry industry? The industry exceeds in value that of the hog or cattle, aggregating near seven hundred million dollars annually, and is on the increase. The South, because of her genial climate, can produce poultry in the winter, when in the North it is far more expensive. The South could and should supply the United States with first class poultry and fresh eggs. This industry should aggregate four hundred million dollars, and when we have established a correct system of distribution, will aggregate one thousand million dollars. Biddy and the cow furnishes us with the means to produce more delicacies than from any other source.

The demand for first class poultry and fresh eggs to supply the demand of first class hotels and restaurants greatly exceeds the supply, and millions of dollars' worth could be sold every year. How can the South supply this demand while our farmers pursue a policy that makes it impossible to supply the demand from that source? Poultry, to bring first class prices, must be well fattened, tender, juicy and nutritious. The improved breeds well handled and fattened under right conditions, will supply this demand while the article from our farmers will not. A small capital at right points can establish this industry all over the South. The incubator must take the place of the hen for hatching chickens for the market.

The industry can be started at any point on the railroad where you can get cheap rates. Two or more farmers could start this industry who live on the line of railroad. One hundred and sixty acres would furnish room for an immense industry of hatching and keeping non setters to furnish the eggs. It would be better to form a company and put in a house in which to hatch chickens and contract with the surrounding farmers to furnish the eggs from full blooded stock. If the farmers have not the money to buy the poultry,

let the company furnish them the chicks and take the pay in eggs. The price of eggs should be such as to justify a first class man giving his attention to the poultry. Every arrangement should be first class as to feed, shelter and hygiene so the eggs will produce a vigorous chicken.

Increase the industry until you can ship a car load in a refrigerator car every three weeks. The reduction in freights over shipping by express will pay big dividends on the investment. Let all these local organizations cooperate and sell through their trusted agents in all the principal cities in the United States. Let them cooperate and sell under the name of the Southern Poultry Company. Adopt stringent rules so that nothing inferior will go on to the market, and expel members who furnish articles that do not come up to the standard. Let the association act as a whole. Have a head center and all poultry from different points consigned as directed. Do not throw your poultry on the market and depreciate prices. Hold and sell as there is a demand at fair prices.

This is the age of cooperation. Those who cooperate and control prices can live. Competition means low prices and financial ruin.

Houses for poultry can be built as warm as an ordinary cellar. Get the best breeds of non setters that will produce the most flesh in chicks at eight to ten weeks old.

This industry will be started here. We will hatch mostly ducklings from the Imperial Pekin ducks. Several of our farmers are ready to contract eggs the year around at 20 cents a dozen from hens and 25 cents a dozen from Pekio ducks.

Corn should not be fed to layers except in winter, and then very sparingly in conjunction with other feed. Young poultry must not be fed corn or any grain rich in carbon until the fattening process begins. Eight weeks should be devoted to a growth of bone and muscle, and two weeks to fattening, which should be on cracked corn.

Chickens raised by the incubator will put on a wonderful amount of fat in two weeks. Twenty pounds of fat can be secured for every bushel of corn fed and the flesh will be tender, juicy and nutritious. Each pound will be worth twice as much for the table as the usual poultry furnished. Ducklings can be sold the year around for 25 cents a pound raised and fattened in this way. The city of Chicago will take millions of dollars' worth every year.

There is money in this industry if conducted on business principles. There is no money in any industry conducted on the competition plan. It is the ignorant man who advocates the competition system. Co-operate and fix fair prices. Why compete for that which you produce?

The writer would not put a dollar in any industry where the promoters are too ignorant to cooperate. The farmers compete on the market of the world with capital that hires labor for 5 to 20 cents a day, and this competition is crushing the life out of them.

Ducklings can be made to average nine pounds a pair at ten months old, and will readily sell for \$2 to \$2.50 per pair to the rich. The rich and well-to-do demand the best, and they will pay good prices to a responsible company who guarantees all they sell to be first-class. There is a demand for millions of dollars annually of first class fattened poultry. There is always room on top, but it is wide awake men who get there, and they do it by cooperation. The class that refuses to cooperate and protect their interest, to say the least for them you can, is to call them stupid fools.

We have a class of theoretical politicians who are the advocates of competition. The farmers have followed the advice of these theorists until their industries are on the ragged edge of despair.

The farmers sell their staple products on the market of the world in competition with capital hiring labor at one-fourth to one twelfth the price paid the same class in this country and armed with improved machinery, they can produce as much, man for man, as the best American labor, and this competition is forcing prices down with a rapidity that is appalling. We want no competition in ours. Co-operation is the talisman that will bring success.

We want to correspond with co-operations all over the South who are ready to put a little money and land in this industry and have nerve enough to stand for their rights. We have no secret, though we have that knowledge

which, when put into practice will make money these hard times, and when a new industrial system is established will increase the poultry industry in the South to one thousand million dollars.

There is a large number of live farmers among the readers of THE PROGRESSIVE FARMER who are ready to cooperate and start an industry that will bring prosperity in every community where it is located. There is no impediment, but ignorance and lack of pride, to prevent every farmer from having an abundance of eggs and poultry of the finest quality. We are establishing an experimental farm in conjunction with our incubator farm. We expect to demonstrate that we can put on twenty pounds of fat in fattening the improved breeds of hogs and cattle. From time to time we will give the result of our experiments to the world. We have no use for any other kind than the best. It is the best that pays, and live, progressive men who are up with the times will have the best.

In our next we will write about the egg industry and how it can be made a success during these increasing hard times. Money you want these hard times, and if you are live, full blooded Americans, full of push and pride in your calling, you can get it. If you are one of these conservative mossbacks who think the old way is good enough, you need not apply. This is the age of progress. Nine tenths of the improvements since the dawn of civilization is the product of this century, and we have hardly started. Let us force the South to the front.

JAMES MUEBCK.

Bryson City, N. C.

## THE SITTING HENS AND THE EGGS.

The hen is seldom at fault if the eggs do not hatch. The fact that two or three chicks hatch show that the warmth is correct, and if one chicken hatches, all should hatch. This applies to incubators as well as to the use of hens for hatching. When a clutch of thirteen eggs is placed under a hen, and she performs her work faithfully for three weeks, she can do no more. She may bring out a single chick, but that lone chick will be her evidence that, so far as she is concerned, all the eggs should hatch. All failures of hatching, however, are charged to the hen, when the real cause is far back of her, and over which she has no control whatever.

If more attention could be given to the selection of the eggs used for the incubator, the losses in hatching would be reduced to a minimum. When a large number of eggs are used in an incubator, or by allowing a number of hens to sit, there are more chances in favor of a majority of the eggs failing to hatch than otherwise, especially if the eggs are procured from different yards. There are some farmers who keep their stock inbred, while some have no males with the hens, or perhaps the males have been frosted and are of no value for service. Fat hens, sick hens, immature pullets and exposed eggs all contribute their share to bad hatches, yet the sitting hen receives condemnation which she does not deserve.

A great many incubators fail because they cannot perform the impossible work of hatching eggs that will not hatch. When an incubator hatches a portion of the eggs, there is no reason why it should not hatch all of them, if the eggs are what they should be.

The early season is the time for making preparations. If good hatches are expected this spring, the selection of laying hens should be made when the yards are full and a better opportunity is presented for discarding those that are defective. It should be an imperative duty to select male birds from a distance, and so use only pure breeds on the male side. If this is done, the loss of vigor from inbreeding will be avoided, and right here it may be remarked that nearly all of the poor hatches are due to inbreeding or to the hens being fed heavily and made too fat. If eggs of a normal size—not too small or too large—and free from imperfection of the shells, are selected for hatching, the liability of loss would be greatly reduced.—Farm and Fireside.

Farmers who are most successful with poultry do not confine themselves to one kind, but often try their hand with hens, turkeys, ducks, geese, and even guineas. They can thus produce most at least cost. No enterprising poultryman will attempt to make it pay with other than the pure breeds. It costs no more to keep the best. Quality brings the best prices. Remember that feed will not make quality. There is nothing to prevent every farmer making a profit on poultry, if he takes advantage of variety and methods.