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# 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.

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| Progressive Farmer, State Organ, | Raleigh, N. C. |
| Caucasian, | Raleigh, N. C. |
| Mercury, | Hickory, N. C. |
| Rattler, | Whitakers, N. C. |
| Our Home, | Beaver Dam, N. C. |
| The Populist, | Lumberton, N. C. |
| The People's Paper, | 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 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 outlished in their interest.*

## AGRICULTURE.

A little grain feed to young growing stock will give big returns. Oats or bran are better than corn, yet we would feed a little of the latter if we had it and did not have oats or bran.

Canadian rutabagas are sent across the border to American markets in liberal quantities, and due to their superior quality are meeting with much favor at low prices ruling. This in turn has served to cause some firmness in Canada.

In drying off the young heifer care should be taken not to dry her off too soon in her first year of milking. Early drying off, formed early in life, will cling to her in after years. She should continuously have a ration to develop muscle and the milk organs—a diluted or extended grain ration, instead of concentrated foods.

Practical experience proves that the light wooden silo holds ensilage in its place perfectly, and robs it neither of heat nor moisture to such an extent as do solid, heavy masonry or concrete walls. A single thickness of boards will dry out rapidly when the silo is empty, and remain sound for years. The cheapest silo is the best.

Shelter is a substitute for food, as the amount of food required to resist the attacks of inclement weather is quite large if there is much exposure, and it is all needless waste. Under a good shelter, rations can be reduced if fattening is desired. If fattening is desired, so much less food will be required there will be a margin of profit even when provender is high in price.

Cattle feeding experiments at the Maryland Experiment Station with selected Short horn steers, coming three years old, show advantages in favor of a balanced ration, consisting of corn and cob meal, cotton seed meal and bran, with corn fodder for roughage, as against corn and cob meal and fodder, the advantage more than compensating for any difference in the cost of the rations. During the 12 weeks reported the average daily gain per head was 1 40 pounds for three steers fed on the balanced ration and 88 pounds for the lot fed on corn and cob meal and fodder.

### A HOME-MADE FERTILIZER FOR CORN.

My 200 acre farm is composed of limestone, sandy and clay soils. I prepare my corn land in the following manner: Cover the ground with coarse manure, which is plowed under, then after harrowing and marking, I prepare a compost in the following manmanner: For a 15 acre field I take 15 barrels wood ashes, 12 of hen manure and 8 of fine manure scraped from the barnyard and mix thoroughly together. This compost is then dropped in the hills before planting. I have been using this compost for the last 15 years, producing an excellent yield of corn and a good growth of stalks, except for the last two years I have had a poor yield of corn with the usual good growth of stalks. Will you kindly give an explanation for this?—H. W. D., Columbia Co., N. Y.

The good culture and the application of nitrogenous manures have tended to stimulate the vegetative system of the corn, and the potash also has tended in the same direction. This stimulation (of course the word is used in its better sense) has tended to multiply the roots in the early stages of growth, which is beneficial. The potash has also helped to set free the phosphoric acid. The result has been to deplete the land of its mineral elements, especially phosphoric acid. It will be readily seen that the ration fed to the plants unbalanced and the result was what might have been expected unless the soil was unusually fertile in phosphoric acid and other minerals. A good crop of clover would bring, without cost, large quantities of mineral matter from the subsoil and an application of the same manures that have been used with a liberal per cent. of available phosphoric acid would, without doubt, overcome the difficulty. A little lime might also be added and the results noted, but after all the cheapest way would be to utilize the plant food in the subsoil by means of a clover crop.—I P. Roberts, Director Cornell Experiment Station.

### FEED THE SOIL.

We feed the mule because we have to; no feed, no work. We feed the pig because we want meat and lard. We eat so that we can live and work, and—we feed for the end in view such foods as will bring the best results at the least cost, the right kind of food. This is more of a necessity than wisdom. Yet it is wisdom. You admit this, don't you? Can't help it. It may look like a foolish question. But—how about your grains, fruits, vegetables, &c? Are you feeding those on the same principle? Think about it.

The Southern States have been devoted to the planting business, producing almost exclusively the great staple crops for a century or two, there has not been that attention given here to the production of other crops that should have been given thereto, and that attention that seems imperatively necessary for us to give to them in the future, if we desire to obtain agricultural success.

### KEEP THE LAND BUSY.

If one hires a farm hand by the month, and keeps him idle three or four months in the year, people would make uncomplimentary remarks about "a fool and his money," etc, and if he should explain that a long rest would do the laborer good; that he would thereby produce more when he did work; that his general health required rest for at least one-third of his time, and that he only hired him to plow corn, and did not know whether he could feed pigs, or dig potatoes, would that mend the matter any? Would not his neighbors seriously consider the propriety of an inquirendo de lunatico? And yet these same neighbors—or some of them—do the same thing by substituting their land for the farm hand. They have fertile fields, but they lay idle for four or five months during the year. They do not reflect that it is just as bad economy to keep idle land, on which taxes must be paid, as to keep idle men whose wages must be paid. True, both the land and the man may be the better for a little rest. But the man does not take his bed to rest, but goes hunting and fishing, and thus by the stimulus of recreation prepares himself for more productive labor. The field, when not producing, should be preparing for production by the recreation of being plowed, harrowed, drained, or fertilized, as occasion may require. Why should a piece of good, healthy ground lay idle all winter and spring for the purpose of raising a crop of sweet potatoes in the summer and fall, any more than the laborer should lazy around all the first part of the year waiting to dig them? While the laborer is idle his wages but be paid; while the land is idle taxes are not. Why not keep both man and land busy? It is poor economy to keep them otherwise.

The bucket shop evil is not confined to the large cities, but is too often encouraged by the support it gets in country towns. Nor are the farming classes themselves invulnerable to the temptation to speculate through this easy going channel. Let it alone.

### GOOD LITERATURE FOR FARMERS.

*Editor Plowman:*—Many a hard working farmer, in the worry of making a livelihood, forgets the mental needs, not only of himself, but of those entrusted to his care. A good living is all very well, but our boys and girls on the farm will grow up very poorly developed if only their physical wants are supplied. If we fail to supply our children with good reading they will supply the want themselves to some extent, but the class of reading matter they obtain is exceedingly apt to be harmful rather than helpful. There is no excuse for the average farmer, in this age of cheap literature, who fails to provide for himself and family books and papers that will surely benefit and uplift.

We often hear farmers complain of their sons and daughters leaving the farm to engage in other occupations. A little money spent in books, both instructive and entertaining, which would give the coming farmers an insight in their business not obtainable in the ordinary channels of life, would prove a splendid investment. Respect for their calling would grow into an ever increasing interest, until the young farmer falls in love with his business. Farming rightly understood is not only much more profitable but more fascinating, and this can only be brought about by a judicious supply of literature. We, of course, must not be confined to one class of literature, for it is our privilege to drink deep at the fountain of knowledge. Let us see that the fountain is full.

S A DYKE

Pomeroy, Ohio.

### EXTRA EARLY POTATOES.

The potato is a hardy plant when it is protected from actual freezing. Indeed the tubers will survive without injury when the ground in which they lie is actually frozen. This immunity is due to the fact that the water in the potatoes holds some matters in solution, and solutions do not freeze at the actual freezing point of pure water. Thus in the South potatoes may be planted during February or early March, when the ground is free from frost and dry enough to turn a good furrow. The seed is put in in the usual manner, but covered with a double ridge as a protection against the possible freezing of the soil. As soon as the risk of frost is over, the ridge is leveled down with the Acme harrow, leaving the surface in the finest condition; a light, sloping tooth harrow is used after that and until the potatoes are too large. If danger of a late frost is imminent, a furrow is thrown over the young plants, or this may be done anyhow, as it encourages root growth and certainly increases the product. This method is used only for the early crop, the main planting being made in May and up to first of July for succession. The seed may be kept in the very best condition and quite dormant until July, by putting the tubers two feet in the ground and covering them to exclude air. Where the ground is deeply covered with snow and never frozen during the winter, as in northern Wisconsin and Michigan, the planting may be done as soon as the crop is harvested, the seed being perfectly safe in the ground. The yield is increased 50 per cent. by this method. —Henry Stewart, North Carolina, in American Agriculturist.

### THE CARE OF WOODLAND.

There have been several severe wind storms during the summer and early fall, and an unusual number of trees have been blown down. Even a casual observer must have noticed two things about these trees: First, that they were almost entirely our red and black oaks, and second, that they were more or less rotten at the heart. The red and black oaks are much more subject to disease, and hence to early failure and destruction, than are any others, but in large measure the difficulty arises from the fact that, in our valley woodlands especially, the oaks are almost all from sprout growth. Very few are from seed. Sprouts are of deceptive value because they grow very rapidly for a few years and overtop or crowd out everything else. But they soon change in growth rate and will never make trees of full size. They not only fail to develop a strong, independent root system, but are peculiarly liable to become diseased. This comes primarily from the old stump, and naturally is exerted along and up the center of the trunk, slowly destroying the heart wood. Owing to greater ease and quickness of the early growth of the red and black oaks, and the frequent culling out of the white oaks for various purposes, our valley woodlands are, unconsciously, undergoing a marked change in varieties of trees; the poorer kinds being left in very large proportions.—W. A. Buckout, Philadelphia Experiment Station.

### SMOKING AND STORING BACON.

Before it is hung up in the smoke house, the entire flesh surface of the hams and shoulders, and sometimes the middlings also, are sprinkled thickly with fine black pepper, using a large tin pepper box to apply it. Sometimes a mixture of about equal parts of black and red pepper helps very much to impart a good flavor. The meat is now hung upon sticks or hooks, close together without actually touching, and is ready for smoking. A few live coals are laid down and a small fire is made of some dry stuff. As it gets well to burning, the fire is smothered with green hickory or oak wood, and a basket of green chips from the oak or hickory woodpile is kept on hand, and used as required to keep the fire smothered, in order to produce a great smoke and but little blaze. If the chips are too dry, they are kept moist with water. Do not allow the fire to get too large and hot, thus endangering the meat hung nearest it. The fire requires constant care and nursing to keep up a good smoke and no blaze. Oak and hickory chips and wood impart the best color to meat, while some woods, such as pine, mulberry and persimmon, are very objectionable, imparting a disagreeable flavor to the bacon. Corn cobs make a good smoke, but they must be wet before laying on the fire. Smoking half a day at a time on several days a week for two or three weeks, will bring best results.

Bacon keeps nowhere so well as in the house where it is smoked. It needs air and a cool, dry, dark room for keeping well in summer. The least degree of dampness is detrimental, causing the bacon to mold. It has been noticed, however, that moldy bacon is seldom infested with the skipper. Some housekeepers preserve hams in close boxes or barrels, in a cool, dark room, and succeed well. Others pack in oat shells or bran, or wrap in old newspapers, and lay away on shelves or in boxes. Inclosing in cloth sacks and painting the cloth is also practiced. The bacon thus cared for must be constantly watched to prevent mice and ants from getting access to it.

### THE RAISING OF PEANUTS.

The Manufacturers' Record, of Baltimore, has frequently pointed out the possibility of developing the peanut oil business in the South, and Mr. Edward Atkinson, in a recent article in that paper, predicted that "not many years hence the development of this industry would surpass the cotton seed oil business." The same paper stated in a recent issue that "a company had been organized in Norfolk, Virginia, to build a peanut oil mill in that city, and that it expected to turn out four hundred gallons of oil a day."

It has been demonstrated beyond all question or doubt that there is no section of the whole South where the soil is better adapted to the raising of peanuts than in some portions of Wakulla and Leon counties, in western Florida.

The lands can be purchased there very cheaply, the facilities for transportation, both deep water and by railroad, are exceedingly good, and if the prediction of these eminent authorities can be relied upon, there is no agricultural product to which a young farmer could more profitably turn his attention than the raising of this well known product.

It may safely be stated that there is scarcely a single product of the soil that can be produced with so little trouble and expense as this simple article; and if parties who are desirous of purchasing land and cultivating the soil for subsistence and profit will give a little common sense attention to what is now being written and said on that subject, they may be able to embark in a business requiring very little capital, and which will have a very profitable outcome.

## HORTICULTURE

### IMPROVEMENT IN STRAWBERRY VARIETIES.

Correspondence of the Progressive Farmer.

In no fruit has the improvement been as great and as rapid as in the strawberry. The best new varieties excel the best old ones in size, attractiveness of color, and capacity to stand drought both during plant growth and in the ripening season. Excepting the old Crescent, they also excel in productiveness. But a drought at fruiting time which would cut off the Crescent, has little or no effect on the best new kinds, and year by year they will average as large a yield.

The most productive of these is the Parker Earle. But it succeeds only on very rich moist soil and lacks firmness for very distant shipment.

Lady Thompson has created the greatest stir owing to the high prices it commands in Northern markets and the money that has been made on it. Fruited on young plants, I found the berry to be round and large. It stood drought best of all the hundred varieties I grow. So far it is great.

Greenville is the largest productive berry. Woolverton is the firmest large berry.

Woolverton, Tennessee Prolific and and Gandy Belle are the best pollenizers for large pistillate varieties. Haverland is a grand pistillate, but too soft to ship far.

Enormous, Mary, Holland, Splendid and Beecher are reliably reported to be of the largest size. Not fruited here yet. Warfield will not pay South. Beder Wood is an excellent early variety.

O. W. BLACKNALL.

Kittrell, N. C.

### SOME NEW GOOSEBERRIES.

An article in an English paper recently giving almost fabulous reports concerning the productiveness of gooseberries in that far away island, led me to investigate the merits and success of certain new and large varieties now being tried in this country. That gooseberry culture here has been greatly stimulated and increased either by improved methods of culture, or by better and larger sorts recently brought out, is evinced by a recent order given by one man for 90,000 plants. The English article above referred to stated that 27 tons of fruit had been harvested from 10 acres and the following year 30 tons. But the variety there cultivated is the Industry and it does not generally succeed in this country. It is too productive and lacks vigor.

An amateur has been testing nearly all of the new sorts as they have appeared and finds a ready market for all the fruit he can grow. Downing with him ranks high, but is small to medium in size; 20 points. Smith's Improved, small, quality best, has 30 points in its favor. Keepsake, medium too large, 27 points. Industry, large, is graded at 27 points. Red Jacket very productive, 32 points. Triumph, or Columbia, which is the same, is very large and scores 27 points. In freedom from mildew Downing ranks as best and Red Jacket as second. With me the report would be reversed, for I have not found a trace of mildew since I have had that variety and the Triumph has been equally free though not so vigorous a grower. If these large varieties should prove as productive and healthy as the Houghton, a great and valuable addition will have been made to the fruits of the temperate zone and especially to us in America.—J. W. Adams, Hampden Co., Mass.

### TO PREVENT THE PEACH ROT.

Rot is one of the worst enemies of early peaches, but it can be controlled by proper spraying, and at a cost of less than two cents per tree for each spraying. At the Delaware Experiment Station, five or six sprayings increased the yield three fold, and of this total yield the amount of sound fruit was increased from three to four fold, making a total increased yield of sound fruit at least ten fold on trees sprayed, at a cost of 10 or 12 cents per tree, compared to the unsprayed. The first application was made when the fruit buds opened; the third when the petals had fallen; the fourth when the fruit was the size of peas; the fifth when the fruit began to color, and the sixth about two weeks later. It is doubtful if the two last sprayings are really necessary in most seasons. The best success followed the use of a weakened Bordeaux mixture, made of six pounds bluestone or sulphate of copper and six pounds lime, to 45 gallons of water. After the first and second sprayings, add three ounces Paris green to this formula, as a protection against insects. Another equally good fungicide (but the Paris green should not be used with it) is copper acetate eight ounces to 45 gallons of water. There are twice as much rot with two sprayings as with four or six. Neither of these formulas will injure the foliage.

It is important that two of the sprayings be done before the bloom opens. Five applications made and begun after the bloom was nearly shed were considerably less effective than when two were made before the bloom opened. Four applications made after fruit had set were less effective than two made before the bloom opened. When two applications were made, better results were obtained when one of these was applied before the buds opened, and again when the fruit was about one-half size, than when both were made before the bloom opened.—American Agriculturist.

## THE DAIRY.

### WE MUST SUIT THE MARKET.

One of our consuls writes that it is absurd that American butter should go to England in very small quantities and at very moderate prices, while Denmark is sending England enormous quantities that bring high prices, and its only serious competitor is Australia, whose butter has to traverse the tropics and make the passage on the Red Sea. But the people of Denmark have taken pains to find out what can be sold in England and other foreign markets, and they have applied themselves with great energy and high intelligence to the task of producing those things. This has not been the work of the government or of the commercial classes more than it has been the work of the peasantry themselves, who have shown an enterprise and a business capacity that put the American farmer to shame.

### THE IDEAL COW BARN.

We find this description of what the writer calls an ideal cow barn: Take a building that will hold 50 cows, say 28 feet wide by 108 feet long and 14 feet high. The first story should be 10 feet for the cows, with a four foot loft for meal and cut litter. A building of this width and size can be built of light timbers, say 2x4 inch studding, balloon frame. As the roof is narrow the rafters can be light and need no purlins. Board it with neat siding and line it or plaster. With well arranged windows and air ducts you have light and ventilation as thoroughly under your control as in the living room of your house. Such a building as this can be put up for one third the cost of a 55x60 foot back yard and be infinitely better as a place to house cows. Two objections will probably be urged against this single purpose barn—first, that you will need a large barn anyhow, for the storage of hay and grain, and, secondly, that it will be inconvenient to get the coarse provender from the storage barn to the cow barn. In answer to the first objection I can say if new buildings are to be put up build them long and narrow, as in the case of the cow barn before described, for the same saving in the cost of the smaller sized lumber can be made. Lumber of what we call yard sizes costs $12 to $15 per thousand. Sawed sizes costs $18 to $20, and quite large sticks, which have to be of good pine, may cost $30. Such a building as above indicated can be built of yard sizes and would not cost over half as much as a square bank barn of the Chester county pattern of the same capacity. If your old barn is good, take out your basement stables, drop bays and so increase the storage capacity.

As to the second objection, every farmer with land enough to put on 40 or 50 cows to 100 acres will surely have a silo and cut his fodder and his hay, and with well arranged hanging tracks can take his cut feed across his barnyard into his cow barn with more satisfaction than in the old way of taking forkfuls of hay and sheaves of fodder through dark and narrow entries. A silo should be built near to, but not in connection with, the cow barn. The penetrating smell of the ensilage may be dangerous to the milk or cream. A round silo, 25 feet deep and 24 feet in diameter, made of lumber, can be built for $300. If judiciously placed, it can be fed from with sufficient convenience and safety. If this silo is filled with well grown and well matured corn, but little other coarse feed will be required and the feeding of the cows made easy and simple.