# THE PROGRESSIVE FARMER.



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. |
| Battler, | 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 established in their interest.*

## AGRICULTURE.

Plant less and fertilize and cultivate more.

A fruit diet makes a healthy family and poverty stricken doctors.

Resolve now that your dairy cows shall not drink mud gruel next summer.

Cherish the compost heap. It is a fertility savings bank. Don't allow the rain to collect your interest.

The country is the great reservoir from which the material and brains to build up towns and cities are drawn.

Begin farming all over again when the grass starts in the spring; you have something to learn. Don't let the past spoil the future.

The profits from good lands are often wasted in the cultivation of poor land. That is the farm version of "Robbing Peter to pay Paul."

If the farmer who makes two blades of grass grow in place of one is a public benefactor, it follows that the farmer who grows weeds is a bad citizen.

Find out how much it costs you to live this year. Then use the financial saw, chisel and plane. Book-keeping shows just where the tools need to be applied.

Read the catalogues. They are interesting. But keep the saltseller handy and take a pinch occasionally when you come across descriptions of the wonderful new varieties.

It pays to have a sufficient amount of the most useful and improved farming machinery and tools, that the work on the farm may be accomplished with the least possible labor and cost.

For cabbage maggot, mix half a pint of kerosene with wood ashes and sprinkle along the rows twice a week during the season when the fly lays its eggs—latter part of April and May in extreme North and earlier toward the South.

Experiments in spraying pear trees for scale with Bordeaux mixture show that summer spraying alone is as effective as both summer and winter spraying. This treatment prevents scale and also frees the trees of moss and lichens.

### RIGHT TIME TO CUT TOBACCO

Correspondence of The Progressive Farmer.

FORK CHURCH N. C.

I have been raising tobacco 35 years, and have been studying the nature of the weed all the way along, and have recently discovered that there is a certain time to cut tobacco better than others. Twenty two years ago I discovered this theory, but to find the exact dates for each year it has taken twenty two years. There is sap in tobacco as in a tree. When the sap rises in tobacco it runs the oil out and is very sorry. When the sap is cut of tobacco there is nothing in the plant but oil; it seems to be fat, and if then cut would be very profitable. Tobacco continues to make these changes as long as it stands on the hill. Tobacco raisers of any experience at all will agree with me on these matters. You have experienced cutting tobacco one week when it may cure up all right and then cut off the same piece next week and it will cure up sorry; or may be to the reverse; one week bad and the next good.

For the benefit of tobacco raisers of North Carolina, I will offer to correspond with any of them on this subject, providing they inclose sufficient postage for reply. Very truly,

D. V. DAVIS.

The main objection to orchard grass is that it is ready to cut just at hoeing time, when the corn and potato crops need most of the farmer's attention. If allowed to pass its bloom the hay is tough and woody. No more land should be seeded to orchard grass than the farmer can find time to harvest at the proper season.

### SHEEP HUSBANDRY IN THE SOUTH.

[Special Cor. Home and Farm.]

The following series of questions are asked by a gentleman of Cullman, Ala: As they are comprehensive enough to embrace about all there is of sheep husbandry in the South, I will reply fully, hoping thereby not only to answer the inquirer properly, but to benefit thousands of other readers:

"I think of going into the business of raising Merino sheep or Angora or other breeds of goats for the wool. I have 200 acres of land of fair quality, of which 150 is in natural grass or forest, which affords pasture five months of the year. I desire information and advice on the following points: First—How would the climate of North Alabama suit the business? Second—What is the wool worth, and in what markets? Third—Where can a small stock be obtained, and how far from the North should they be brought? Fourth—How should they be cared for as to feed, shelter, etc? Fifth—How fast do they breed? Sixth—What varieties would you advise? Would it be well to cross the breeds? If so, which? Seventh—What foods are best adapted to them? Eighth—Give address of journal, devoting special attention to the business."

First of all the inquirer may as well get the goat question out of his mind at once if he proposes to go into the business for the money there is in it, for he would hardly find any. There is no general demand for goats as breeders, and not a particle of demand for their flesh as food. It is probably as palatable and wholesome as the flesh of sheep; but people are not used to it. They are prejudiced against it, probably from having seen goats about stables as pets. Many would as soon eat a piece of a dog.

A goat or two around one's premises as pets and "horses" for children, is the extent of their usefulness. It would be poor policy to grow anything to sell, for which there is no market. Let it become generally known that a real butcher dealt in the meat of goats, and it would drive away his mutton customers. There is so little mohair (goat's wool) grown in this country, I hear that firm in Connecticut manufactures about all of it. There being no competition, of course they will pay little as possible. But if you will keep goats, Angoras are the best, and they are handled about like sheep except they require better sheltering.

1. The climate of North Alabama is as suitable for sheep as any in the world.

2 The price of wool varies from week to week. It would be no guide for the future to state what it is to day. There are always wool merchants in localities where considerable wool is grown. But Boston is the great wool market of the United States. Some growers ship there direct. There are probably woolen mills in the South where one could market his wool.

3 Stock sheep of some kinds can be obtained anywhere in the North. It makes no odds how far North one gets them.

4 As a rule, sheep in the South receive very little care or shelter, and generally "grub for their living" the year round. A few feed a little cotton seed in spells of cold, stormy weather; but it would pay abundantly to take proper care of them. Unless they can get a sufficiency of green feed winters, they should be fed some dry feed, with a little grain, and be sheltered from bad storms. They suffer more from bad storms than any other domestic animals. Open sheds are the thing for them in the South.

5 They breed once a year as a rule. The Dorsets may be pushed to breed twice a year; but it is said in England, whence they came, that this does not pay. They require more grain feed and care, and the ewes wear out quicker. Some ewes drop twins; but in general sheep husbandry in this country the flockmaster does well to average raising annually as many lambs as he has ewes.

6 For conditions prevailing in the South I must emphatically advise the large French Merinos, known as the Rambouillets. They are large, hardy and grow a large amount of wool. Their coats are fine, thick and oily, and will shed rains that would soak to the skin thinner wooled sheep.

A wet sheep is a sorry picture. A wet coat entails a cough, and the animal is likely to dwindle away and finally die. Thick, heavy, greasy coats are needed to endure rains of the South. I have been advised by a good many sheep men in the South that all English breeds do poorly under the conditions prevailing there. They would probably do well if they had English feed and care; but that is entirely out of the question at present. It must be understood that to get good flocks in the South they must be got by breeding up from native ewes, crossed by the best males from the North, brought there at the time their services are needed, and then the lambs will be acclimated.

If the males cannot endure the climate then the next season get more from the North. Lambs of the fourth cross will be as good as pure-bloods for all purposes, probably; but I would be likely to extend the process a little further. This is all the kind of "crossing breeds" that I can recommend. This cross will produce double the wool that the cross of any English breed would; which is one great object of raising sheep in the South. This cross is so superior to others that there can be no comparison.

7. I am asked what foods are best adapted to sheep. The answer is, a variety of green garbage and browse. If they can get enough of these by running at large they will do well, but flocks should be seen every day and be protected from the worst storms, and other harmful things. Irresponsible hunters and the half starved dogs of "Samboy" may have an illegitimate hankering for mutton once in a while. These need to be looked after. A gentleman of Walker county, Ala., who went there from Ohio several years ago and knows what a good sheep section Alabama is, and who owns 6,000 acres, told me the other day in a letter that he should stock his land with sheep and how he will manage.

He will breed up from native ewes and Rambouillet males. He will fence his land into 40 acre fields, and divide the sheep into comparatively small flocks, and thus be enabled to change pastures frequently. This is just what sheep need. He says Japan clover forms a perfect carpet in many places. He will have some of the fields in Bermuda grass for summer; some in fall meadow oat grass, Texas blue grass and arctic grass for winter and early spring; and in addition he will grow rape-rye and barley for pasturage. He should add crimson clover. These, together will furnish pasturage the year around, and the sheep will need neither hay nor grain.

Fencing will be quite expensive at first; but both fencing material and labor are very cheap. He will fence 1 700 acres at once. I have corresponded with this gentleman several years. He was a skilled sheep man in Ohio. I am glad to have him confirm my views of the South as a sheep country, and my advice as to how it is best to breed up. He is correct in fencing his land, and keeping his sheep and their manure at home. In five years' time he will have the most fertile land in all that section, and will make money while doing it. Then it will be ready to grow cotton, corn or most anything else. I wish to utter a word of caution to those who contemplate sending North for sheep to be delivered by express. Have the seller either prepay the charges or make a contract with the express company as to cost; otherwise the receiver of the animals may find himself charged with a sum that will make him wince.

8. The address of a journal specially devoted to sheep husbandry is wanted. Barring its politics, the Sheep Breeder, of Chicago, is a good one; but I suppose it must reflect the political opinions of a large majority of its subscribers.

DR GALEN WILSON.

Willow Creek, N. Y.

Recent experiments in Germany seem to prove that growing legumes (clover, peas etc) on the same land year after year fills the soil with those bacteria concerned in gathering nitrogen from the air, to the entire exclusion of all other bacteria. If this be true soils infected with bacterial fungus diseases may be freed therefrom and the soil enriched by giving them up for a few years to clover, peas or other legumes.

### GROWING CELERY.

The successful culture of celery, says R. M. Kellogg in Prairie Farmer, requires deep, black muck soil. It will not take on its rich, aromatic flavor when grown on upland, and is almost sure to rust. The land should be heavily manured the year previous, and thoroughly subdued. Sow the seed in a hotbed quite thickly early in April, and plants will be ready to transplant about May 15th. Make rows five feet part and set plants six inches apart in a trench about six inches deep. Cultivation should be frequent, to kill weeds and conserve moisture. When plants are about ten inches high commence hilling up, taking care to keep stalks well together, and a week or so before it is to be dug, it should be hilled almost to the top, when bleaching will be perfect.

Boards and other devices for bleaching have been tried, but the heat of the sun has a tendency to blister and make it tough, as well as to destroy its flavor. For winter use the transplanting may be delayed until July or even August, and allowed to stand in the ground until danger of hard freezing, when it should be taken up and the roots buried in a dark cellar. Cauliflower culture is similar to cabbage. Plants are set 30x30 inches, and given thorough culture.

### NEW ONION CULTURE.

The new culture consists simply in sowing the seed in greenhouse, hotbeds or elsewhere and then transplanting to the open ground, as cabbage or other plants. By selecting the right varieties, there is claimed for this method a larger yield of better quality and with less labor than any other method. There are several varieties of foreign origin that take well to this method of culture, but the Spanish King or Prize Taker is by far the best and most attractive of any of the varieties we have tested. This varieties resembles the large Bermudas.

The seed may be sown from the middle of February to the middle of March, and the transplanting done when the soil will permit. The plants are taken up by loosening the soil under them first with a trowel or stick. By trimming off parts of the tops and roots we are enabled to set plants more rapidly and better. Do not trim severely, but with a bunch of plants in one hand and with a single stroke of the knife we take off just enough of the top so that the plant will stand erect when set, and at another stroke enough sprangly roots are taken off so that we can do much better work. To set the plants a round stick about an inch in diameter, sharpened to a point, answers the purpose very well. With this make two or three strokes to each plant. First, a straight hole, into which the plant is placed and held with the left hand. A second time the dibble is inserted, about an inch from the plant, pointed toward the plant at an angle, and then pushed toward the plant, thus compacting the soil about the roots; then another light stroke to fill up the hole. When properly set, plants cannot be pulled out by the tops. Aim to set the plants when the soil is moist.

By this new method, says an Eastern paper, of cultivating is avoided the most tedious part of the cultivation, that of the first two weedings, and most of the cultivating is done with the wheel hoe. Aim to cultivate with this every week or ten days. One thorough weeding by hand ought to suffice. One of the best tools for this work is an old table knife. What hoeing is necessary after this is usually done with a narrow bladed hoe.

## POULTRY YARD

### POULTRY POINTS.

The farmer of to day while, perhaps not as well contented or happy, has manifold more comforts and luxuries than his grandfather ever dreamed of.

If it pays the farmer to get the best hog to improve his stock, or the dairy man the best cow to increase the milk and butter supply, why will it not pay him to get the best thoroughbred poultry to increase the receipts in that line?

It is claimed by writers in the East that it costs one cent to produce an egg. On the farm in the West, a writer says, it is not believed that it costs more than half as much, which would afford a profit at the lowest market figures.

### RAISING EARLY BROILERS.

Those who have incubators and brooding houses should have both under full swing now. The most important thing to the thrift and growth of the chicks in the brooding house, and the hardest to secure, is exercise. The food is an important matter to look after carefully, but on the same food, one lot which is induced to take liberal exercise and plenty of fresh air will do well and make satisfactory growth, while another lot which does not take the exercise will suffer from indigestion, bowel troubles, take cold easily and many die, and those which live will make poor growth and never make prime broilers or roasters. February and March chicks will be ready to turn off at the time broilers are at the top notch in price, and chickens of one and one-half to two pounds each at $1 to $1 50 a pair, pay well if the conditions of feed and care have been such as to bring them to that weight quickly.

But, as the majority of farmers have no incubators and brooding houses, they are compelled to depend upon the "old hen" or incubation. It is rather early to have many hens broody, but some of the older ones which begun to lay reasonably early in the fall will have laid out by this time and want to raise a family. If one has a shed open to the South, with a reasonably tight side and roof to protect the mother and chicks, the coops for them can be placed under this and the chicks given the run of the ground. Do not overstock the place; two or three clutches, not crowded, will be worth more money than four or five, if the space is only large enough for the two or three. The hens may be set in the cellar or in a warm corner of the barn; don't put more than 9 under a large hen or 6 or 7 under a small one, as the outside eggs will get chilled and not hatch. Put a generous sprinkling of some good insect powder in the material when making the nest for the sitter. The moisture question will take care of itself at this time of the year. Note daily the condition of the eggs, and if they get soiled wash them in warm water.—B Holmes, in American Agriculturist.

### CARE OF PIGEONS.

According to a writer in the American Poultry Advocate, pigeons are very fond of lime and salt, and to supply themselves peck out the mortar between the bricks. To prevent this it is best to make them what is called a "salt cat," which will be exceedingly grateful to them, as it will tend to keep them in good health. It is prepared cheaply by mixing some fine sifted gravel with old mortar rubbish, or pounded burnt shells, if this cannot be obtained; add a few handfuls of salt, and make the whole into a mass with water. Portions of this may be put in cans and placed in situations where the birds can get at them easily. Rock salt should at all times be kept in the pigeon loft, and a piece of salted cod fish hung up in a convenient place for the birds to pick at.

Pigeons are often sadly annoyed by vermin. To prevent the increase of these intruders the most scrupulous attention should be paid to cleanliness in every part of the houses, nest and places of resort, and the birds should be provided with shallow pans of water to bathe in. It is far more advantageous and profitable to keep pigeons in a spare room than to employ the dovecoats often placed on a pole, or those permanently fixed against the sides of a house, as double the number of young birds may be reared.

Pigeons are economical devourers of food, and will eat any kind of grain, such as wheat, small corn, barley, oats, buckwheat, rye, retches, tares, small beans, black eye peas, caraway and millet seed, small pears, called Canada grey peas, are the best general food for all pigeons during the breeding season. If possible, the peas, corn and other grain given to pigeons should be old, as new grain is apt to apt to disagree, and purge them. Hemp seed is very stimulating, and although pigeons are very fond of it, and become very tame when freely used, it should be sparingly given. As to the compartments, or nests, every one should be furnished with an earthenware nest pan, of a size adapted to the breeds of pigeons for which they are intended. Sand or gravel should be sprinkled over the shelves and on the floor, as small stones with which it abounds are useful to the birds in helping them to properly digest their food. Everything about them should be kept very clean, and the whole apparatus, of whatever kind it may be, should undergo a frequent and thorough purification, while the nest-pans or boxes should be well cleaned after each hatching.

### HENS FOR PROFIT IN WINTER.

Hens are perverse creatures. When eggs are no more than 12 or 14 cents per dozen in summer they lay well; but in winter, say about Christmas or New Year's, when fresh eggs are quite sure to bring three cents each, or perhaps more, they need considerable coaxing to induce them to lay eggs enough to pay for their keeping. In summer they have the bright, warm sunshine, plenty of dry dust to scratch and wallow in, bugs, worms and grasshoppers to satisfy their cravings for meat, and abundance of green grass and gravel. If they are allowed to run at large they frequently require but little supplementary feed and milk to pay quite well. It is almost certain that if one can have summer conditions for winter, summer results can be approximated. It is evidently out of the power of the farmer to furnish the bright, warm sunshine, but he can do something in the way of a room with a southern exposure, well lighted, and as near frost-proof as may be. The other requisites are not so difficult to obtain. One can buy of the butcher fat and clean scraps of fresh meat for one cent a pound. A very good article of whole wheat can be bought of the miller for $1 20 per hundred weight. Wheat bran and meal are but 85 cents per hundred weight. Shells are very cheap. The green bones should be saved by the housekeeper, and can be either cut up with a bone cutter or pounded up with a hammer at odd spells. Good new milk is not usually worth more to the farmer in winter than four or five cents a quart. The hens will certainly pay as much or more for it; at least, that is my experience. Some early cut hay for them to eat and scratch about is important. Give them an abundance of dry ashes to wallow in. Kerosene the roost poles thoroughly. Give the whole wheat and milk warm to them very early in the morning. Sprinkle in a liberal supply of the meat cut up in pieces small enough so that they can eat it readily. In the evening, some roasted corn, or some hot meal and wheat bran. Do not allow the milk and water provided to freeze. Warm them. Old hens are not profitable for winter layers, usually. Good, strong pullets, six months old, that have been well fed through the summer should lay well through the winter if fed as above directed. They need attention, however. A little frosty food, or being allowed to eat snow for drink may prove a very expensive luxury to the owner.

### WATCH THE STRANGERS.

Correspondence of the Progressive Farmer.

OAKLEY, N. C.

I would like to say to the people of North Carolina, or any other good people or State, to look out for a tramp or impostor. There is a man going from house to house, claiming to be an agent, sent out by the Domestic Machine Co., to repair their machines for five years, telling the people that he has any and all parts of the machines at Greenville or some other nearby town; that if they will give him the money for the missing or broken parts, he will send, bring, or deposit them with you or your friend, or at the postoffice, so you can get them at any time. He has got a tongue for anyone. He says his name is Mobely. He is full of deception. He is foiling the people out of lots of money, from ten cents to $3 and $5, and should be stopped. There was a young man with him calling himself Parker, from Goldsboro, N. C. People thought them to be honest parties. If they are honest, they have not shown it as yet, and it has been proven by their actions that they are not.

J. J. RAWLES.