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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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Progressive Farmer, State Organ,	Raleigh, N. C.
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Our Home,	Beaver Dam, N. C.
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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 published in their interest.

AGRICULTURE.

The more pork, the more beef, the more mutton and wool, the more butter, the more eggs and poultry produced on the farm the less the farm contributes to holders of watered railroad stock.

Every experiment along the line of feeding at the experiment stations corroborates the experience of every intelligent feeder that loss follows keeping animals after they are finished or ready for the block.

Keep all gates where animals are likely to get through and breed indiscriminately tied with ropes or chains Some animals become very "cute" in opening latches on gates, A chain is a combination beyond their intelligence.

All through the South you will find corn fields with rows of cow peas growing between the rows of corn. The pea vines do not interfere with the corn, and when plowed under after making their growth, furnish fertility for the next corn crop.

I have always found it profitable to have the best of seed. It does not pay to risk poor seed when so much of success depends upon it. Foul seeds multiply very rapidly, and sprouted grains and grains with weak vitality always prove a loss to one who does not eliminate them from the seed.

The best way I have found to keep clippings from papers that I value, is to put them in a Favorite Letter File, which is arranged alphaphatically The clippings may be filed in it without paste, and when it is necessary to look for anything, it is in alphabetical order, and can easily be found. The file costs about thirty-five cents.

It is not always the crop that brings the most money that is the most profitable to the farmer who owns his land. The one that brings the most money may be the most exhaustive of fertility, and in the long run it will not pay to farm upon lines by which the fertility of the land constantly runs down. There are paying crops that will not exhaust fertility, and there are others that will. Farmers are not always intent enough on this line.

WEEKLY WEATHER CROP BULLETIN.

For the Week Ending Saturday, April 25, 1896.

CENTRAL OFFICE, Raleigh, N. C.

The reports of correspondents of the Weekly Weather Crop Bulletin, issued by the North Carolina State Weather Service, for the week ending Saturday, April 25th, 1896, indicate very favorable conditions. The temperature continued very high until Wednesday, when cooler weather set in, but the temperature has not been below the normal. Showers occurred on the 21st, and pretty heavy rains on Friday, 24th, with some hail, but only slight damage in two or three counties. The rain-fall, greatest in the east, has been of incalculable benefit, and has broken the drought everywhere, except in a few western counties. There was more than the normal amount of sunshine during the week.

EASTERN DISTRICT.—Reports this week are generally very favorable The breaking of the drought just in time, greatly benefiting all crops, has put farmers in good spirits, and they are working with energy. Seeds already planted will now sprout. Farmers are now planting cotton as rapidly as possible. Corn where up is looking well, and some young corn has been plowed for the first time. Transplanting to bacco has begun. Gardens and vegetables, which were injured most by drought, are backward, but rain will bring them out considerably. Setting out cabbage, collards, tomato plants, etc., is progressing. Planting rice has just begun. Much complaint about potato bugs, which are very numerous.

CENTRAL DISTRICT.—Rain on two days ended the drought, which continued almost unabated up to the 24th, and, though many places did not receive sufficient rain, there was enough to put new life into vegetation and to cause seeds to germinate. Some damage by hail was reported in Anson and Rockingham counties. Cotton planting now making more rapid progress; in south cotton is being chopped; stand irregular. Some young corn has been worked, and planting of remaining crop is being pushed. Winter oats are thin; spring oats have improved. Tobacco plants are plentiful, though damage is reported by insects; a few farmers took advantage of good season to commence transplanting. The appearance of potato bugs, cut-worms and chinch bugs is reported.

WESTERN DISTRICT.—The showers which occurred in this district were less in amount than in other portions of the State, and a few counties are still suffering from drought, but as a whole crops have been greatly benefited. A good stand of both cotton and corn is reported at many places, and planting is making good progress. Potatoes are up and bugs beginning their destructive work. Clover is doing well. In the northwest counties breaking land and preparations for corn is making good headway. On the high plateaus in the mountain section the woods are just showing green. Planting oats, Irish potatoes, garden stuff, etc is progressing, while the condition of fruit seems exceptionally good.

ONE HUNDRED AND FOUR BUSHELS OF CORN PER ACRE.

F. D. Coburn, Secretary Kansas Department of Agriculture, sends the following: Mr. J. A. Baxter, of Waveland, Shawnee county, Kansas, who raised as high as 104 bushels of shelled corn per acre in 1895 furnishes the State an account of it, together with some of his corn raising methods in general:

"The portion of my crop giving a yield of 104 bushels of husked, dried fifty six pounds shelled corn per acre was five acres of fifty seven I planted last year. My land is slightly rolling prairie and about a fair average of Kansas soil, with a hard, impervious subsoil. The five acres mentioned were at one end of a twenty five acre field, part of which had been in potatoes for two years and the last crop with a listing plow late in October, which was about the equivalent to a deep fall plowing.

"In spring the ground was much like a bed of ashes. It was then deeply plowed, made fine and smooth with a plank drag and drilled the first week in May with a Farmer's Friend planter of medium width, with a deep grained Dent corn; about the same quantity of seed was used as would have been if from three to somewhat less than four grains had been placed in hills the ordinary distance apart. This was cultivated four times with common gang cultivators and hoed three times—the last hoeing after after it had been finished with the cultivators.

"I am a strong believer in deep and thorough cultivation, and long since learned that a good crop of corn and a rank growth of cockle-burs, crab grass and similar weeds cannot occupy the same ground at the same time. I have not subsoiled for previous crops, but last fall invested in a Perine subsoiler and used it on fifteen acres. I intend planting 100 acres in corn this season and aim to have it all subsoiled. Am subsoiling my fields the narrow way first (they are from forty to eighty rods wide and 120 rods long) as deeply as four horses can do the work, at distances of two and a half feet. Will then throw up the ridges cross wise of this with a listing plow, following it in each furrow with the subsoiler as deep as three horses can pull it, and drill the seed immediately in the track of the subsoiler. This will leave the land subsoiled in both directions.

"My whole crop for 1895 averaged only fifty seven bushels per acre, yet would have made seventy five bushels but for an unfortunate invasion just at the critical time by an army of chinch bugs from an adjacent thirty acre field of oats. With proper treatment of our soils and thorough cultivation I am of the opinion that in all favorable seasons such as last we should raise from seventy five to 100 bushels of corn per acre instead of the more common twenty-five to fifty bushels. I am always careful to avoid cultivating when the land is very wet, and think many farmers make a serious mistake by working their corn when the soil cleaves from the shovels in chunks. The sun is likely to then bake the ground and the growth loses its bright, healthy green and turns a sickly yellow."—Western Rural.

SUBSOILING AND MOISTURE.

As to the effect that subsoiling has upon moisture, it may be stated that the water retaining power or humidity of a soil will be greatly influenced by the depth and nature of the subsoil. The greater the depth of a soil, the greater its power of retaining water A shallow soil will allow the rain to pass through it rapidly, and should great heat and drouth ensue, it will dry up and all vegetation upon it perish. A deep subsoil, on the other hand, will retain a store of moisture, which capillary attraction will bring to the surface soil as required. Hence the humidity of a soil and its other physical properties depend partly upon the sub soil. In times of excessive rain, if the subsoil be sand or limestone rock, both of which have large absorbing power for water, the soil is not likely to be flooded; but if the subsoil be clay the water will accumulate upon it, and though it may not flood the surface soil, yet it will remain below exerting detrimental qualities. The soil, then, in dry weather gives up its water to the air by evaporation, the surface soil becomes dry, and then the capillary power of the soil comes into play, and the water in the subsoil rises to the surface. If, on the other hand, rain falls, the water passes from the surface soil into the subsoil. Thus in every soil there is more or less continuous movement of water. This water is never pure, but contains some substances in solution.—Farmers' Voice.

If pure milk only was sold in London, it is estimated that from 30,000 to 50,000 more cows would be wanted to keep up the supply. Every form of food adulteration knocks out the farmer somewhere or somehow, and the consumer is not benefited, but rather swindled. And still there are farmers who sneer at all the efforts that are put forth to stop this swindle of adulteration.

CULTIVATING THE ORCHARD.

Bearing orchards often lose their vigor and give small and poor fruit when allowed to grow in grass land, without any cultivation. If the soil is naturally rich, a shallow plowing and an occasional harrowing will restore their vigor. Or, if plowing cannot conveniently be given, they may be much improved by being converted to pasture for sheep, adding occasionally a top dressing of manure in autumn. These animals will serve in part to enrich the land, keep the grass grazed short, and pick up the prematurely fallen fruit, infested with worms or insects. The amount of cultivation or top dressing to be given to such orchards must be determined by the annual growth of shoots. If less than a foot in length, more vigor must be imparted to them. If more than a foot and a half, they are quite thrifty enough.—Farmers' Voice.

HORTICULTURE

SMALL FRUITS ON THE FARM

There are three reasons why farmers do not have a succession of small fruit from the time the first strawberries appear until the Concord grape is gone: First, the high price asked by many dealers; second, the prevalent opinion that setting and caring for fruit is mysterious business; third, the thought that it will be many years, or a short lifetime, before any fruit is obtained. I believe we are mistaken in all three reasons. Plants are quite cheap if we go to the right place to buy them. Setting is no mystery, and any farmer can do it. Instead of having to wait a long time for returns, some small fruits will bear in one year. How many farmers have a strawberry bed which will yield berries enough for home use for two weeks, and plenty to can?

Any land which will raise corn will raise strawberries. Plow up a strip 10 rods long and one rod wide. Put it in good condition, and with a small plow lay off three rows the entire length of the strip. Send to one of your reliable nurserymen and get 300 plants. Select 100 Crescents, 100 Bubachs, and 100 Captain Jacks These varieties are quoted at $1 per hundred, or $3 to $5 per thousand. If over a hundred are ordered, the plants are secured at the thousand rates. Put one hundred plants in a row, spreading the roots out well, and pressing the earth firmly about them. Ten days after they are set, cultivate them with a two horse cultivator, and continue this every week for eight weeks. You may have to go over the patch once or twice with a hoe, and be sure to pick off all the buds and flower stems, for it will not do to let them fruit the first season. In the fall cover with rye straw, and in the spring rake the straw between the rows, and my word for it, you will have all the berries a farmer's family can eat, at a cost of less than three cents per quart.

Currants and gooseberries can be raised as easily as corn. I have tried some six or eight varieties of currants, and find the Red Dutch the only kind which gives a good crop every year. I would plant 90 two year old Red Dutch, and 10 two year old White Dutch. Set in one long row, and cultivate as you would corn. The second year from planting, a fair crop will be obtained. Mulch well in summer. They will then retain the leaves, which protect the fruit and give it a chance to get well ripened. Plant 100 gooseberries in a row, selecting 50 Houghton and 50 Downing. If well cultivated, they will give a half crop the first year after planting. Red Dutch currants can be had for three cents a piece, and gooseberries five to eight cents. With a little trimming each spring, 100 gooseberries and 100 currants will be all one family can use, with some to sell.

Grapes can be produced at less than a cent a pound. Put out two rows in some lot or field near by, 50 vines in each row, six feet apart in the row, and the rows eight to ten feet apart. Buy 20 Moore's Early at 8 cents apiece, 30 Worden at 6 cents apiece, and 50 Concord at 3 cents apiece. You can hardly make a mistake if you buy all Concords, but the Moore's Early comes first, then the Worden fills in the space between the early grapes and the Concords, and you will have grapes for six weeks. As support, set good oak posts, and attach to them three good wires. Sometime in February, cut back the new growth to four or six buds, plow and cultivate well.

The best and cheapest fruit of all is the Early Richmond cherry. The trees are cheap and they will grow and bear well with but little care. The fruit sells readily if more is produced than is desired for home use. Good trees four to six feet high can be had at large nurseries for $10 to $12 per hundred. If you have only six or eight bearing trees, the birds and boys will annoy you so much that you will have to pick them before they are ripe. But get 50 trees, set them along the garden fence and in some fence corner where nothing but weeds have been growing for years. We do not realize that every square rod of land on our farm has eight or ten tons of choice soil capable of raising a fine cherry tree. Look around your farm, and see how many square rods are going to waste which might grow a cherry, a peach, or plum tree. When the trees arrive, cut off the ends of the roots, making a clean cut. Pack the earth firmly about the roots. Keep the ground about the tree mellow by cultivating or hoeing. If this cannot be done, mulch the tree with half-rotted manure. After two or three years the cherry tree will take care of itself, and you will then have enough fruit for the birds, the boys, and your own family use. One of the drawbacks of farm life is securing help in the house when a little extra work is required in picking and putting up small fruit. It is, however, nearly always possible to find some poor women or children in your neighborhood who will be glad to do a few days' work, and take fruit as pay. Start some small fruit on your farm this spring, set in long rows so that it can be cultivated. Buy at wholesale rates, of any good reliable firm, and in the end you will find more pleasure and profit than in anything on the farm.—E. S. Furman, in American Agriculturist.

THE DAIRY.

GIVE THE COWS A CHANCE.

Correspondence of the Progressive Farmer.

Now that butter brings a lower price than a few years ago, though even now higher than most farm products, it behooves the keeper of cows to remember it will pay him to give all details of the dairy careful attention and intelligent thought, from the selection of his cows to the marketing of his product.

One of the writer's correspondents, Mr. W. T. Hotaling, South Bethlehem, Albany county, New York, is a progressive dairyman and is enthusiastic on the subject of farm dairy butter. He uses improved cream raising apparatus, has kept up with the times and has made a success of butter making—has made it pay. In one of his letters occurs the following: "The greatest trouble in way of inducing farmers to adopt better methods is that many of them make dairying a side issue."

The above is not only the case in Mr Hotaling's section of the country, but also in many sections. It is especially true in sections where farmers keep but few cows, This comes as a result of its not being fully understood by farmers that even in a small dairy it will pay to have certain improvements and apply the best methods. Then, even if butter-making is a side issue, it can be made a paying one.

The first step towards success in butter making in a small or large dairy is to secure good cows. The next step is good feed and good care.

Now, so far as selecting cows, it is of course easier to find a few cows of extra quality than to find a larger number of them Then again, a small number of cows can easier be given better attention than it is possible to give a larger number—this because when the number if limited the owner can himself give them all needed attention and such care as a hired man cannot always be trusted to give. It is easier to work a dairy of five or ten cows up to an average of three hundred pounds than one of thirty cows.

When we remember that there are many dairies kept that do not produce an average of one hundred and fifty pounds of butter per cow, it will be seen that a farmer who keeps ten cows that produce during the year an average of three hundred pounds of butter has a pretty good thing, even if he calls it a side issue.

In addition to the return from the butter, which one year with another should not be less than $600, or 20 cents per pound, the by-products such as skim milk, butter milk, etc., are important items.

Go where you will, you will find that it is the progressive farmer that is making dairying pay. In all butter making farm dairies, where the yield per cow is good and the price the highest, will be found modern improvements for cream raising and correct methods for manipulating the product.

F. W. MOSELEY.

Clinton, Iowa.

THE SUMMER DAIRY COW.

All things considered, the summer dairy cow has a harder time of it than the winter dairy cow. It is true that she has more natural pasture and feed in the fields if her owner is in the habit of economizing to the points of stinginess; but, on the other hand, she is generally tormented to death by flies, heat, and very often by scanty pasturage. The majority of our dairy cows suffer martyrdom in summer, and it is no wonder that the milk flow decreases and the dairy men talk about small profits. Fortunately we have practical dairymen who are looking at the matter in the right light. It has been an appeal to their self interest more than to their sympathy that has made thousands treat their cows better. One might talk about the sufferings of the animals until doomsday, and no improvement in the majority of cases would be made. This is not because the farmer or dairyman is lacking in human sympathy, but because man is naturally slothful and opposed to labor that does not pay him. But when you point out to a farmer, or any person, that he is deliberately wasting money and profits by letting his cows suffer, you touch him in a way that will get some practical response. When all dairymen can be convinced that they are losing a great deal of money by not giving their cows better treatment in hot weather we will have a great improvement in this respect.

A noted dairyman, says a writer in the American Cultivator, calculated that the farmer who neglected his cows in the summer time lost on an average enough to bring down his profits for the whole year to 20 per cent. of what they should be. The loss was in two ways. One in the permanent injury to the cow's health and the other to the unnatural shrinkage of the milk flow. The flies, heat and lack of proper food frequently bring the cows into the fall in a condition that totally unfits them for winter or even fall dairying. They require the cold weather of the fall to recuperate and get back their normal condition. We can make life pleasant for the cows if we but supply a few shade trees for them to lie under in the middle of the day. If these trees are not in the pasture plant them, and meanwhile erect a cheap shade with poles and grass or straw or any litter. While lying down in the shade the cows remasticate their food. Cool, fresh water in the middle of the day will be a great thing for them. If given shade and cool water in abundance the cows will need less food to make the same quantity of milk and flesh.—Farmers' Voice.

COMMON PURPOSE COW.

The following is a good description of the common purpose cow. We do not know who gave it: Suppose a farmer desired to raise some small grain and some corn and some truck, such as onions, cabbage, etc., and in providing the necessary tools he would conclude he would not fill up his tool house with a variety of implements adapted to each crop, but would just buy one eight inch plow. He knows it is too small for field plowing and too large to cultivate cabbage and onions, but it is about half way between—and kind of a happy medium—a common purpose tool. You would hardly give that man credit for real good judgment. Cows are the dairymen's tools in a certain sense and should be specially adapted to their work.

LIVE STOCK.

PURE-BRED SWINE.

A notable feature of the season is the handsome prices commanded by the pure bred swine of first rate quality. We have already noted some of the events in Poland China circles that are genuine record breakers, surpassing in prices obtained anything that has ever occurred in the annals of the breed. It is not among Poland Chinas alone, however, that this strong demand at strong prices exists. Secretary Mills, of the American Berkshire Association, reports a greater demand for this breed than ever before. The sales last year by members of the association were 34 per cent. greater than 1894, and in 1894 were 46 per cent greater than they had ever been before. The Southern demand is good—almost beyond the ability of the breeders to meet it. The condition indicates confidence in the well-bred hog. It shows, too, that the ravages of cholera have annihilated many herds, and that feeders have sold off unfinished stock rather than run the risk of keeping them until disease carried them away. This has not only made mature stock comparatively scarce, but has stripped the country pretty bare of young stuff as well. The farmers and breeders have unabated confidence in the "mortgage lifter," however, and are actively engaged in replenishing their stocks, which naturally produces a hardening effect upon prices, and the better stuff is going at high figures.—Western Farm Journal.

Clover varies less than the grasses in its composition, the variation depends more upon the time the hay is cut, than upon the nature of the soil, but it is greatly helped by a dressing of phosphate. As for nitrogen, its roots will decompose air in the soil, and get what it wants more cheaply than it can be given in any kind of manure.