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THE PROGRESSIVE FARMER.

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THE INDUSTRIAL AND EDUCATIONAL INTERESTS OF OUR PEOPLE PARAMOUNT TO ALL OTHER CONSIDERATIONS OF STATE POLICY.

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THE NATIONAL FARMERS' ALLIANCE AND INDUSTRIAL UNION.

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PAPERS.

Progressive Farmer, State Organ, Raleigh, N. C.
Caucasian, Raleigh, N. C.
Mercury, Hickory, N. C.
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Our Home, Reaver Dam, N. C.
The Populist, Lumberton, N. C.
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The Vestibule, Concord, N. C.
The Flow-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.

Liquid manure is always used as a top dressing. It is one of the most valuable in the whole category of manures, and prompt in its action.

It is not only for corn that the recent spell of hot weather has been beneficial. Grapes need heat to make them push forward rapidly. The merely moderate temperatures that other fruits require are of no benefit to them. There probably never was a season too hot or dry for the grape. Vine roots run deeply, and we never saw the leaves suffering from lack of moisture.

Cows at pasture are greatly helped by feeding a bran mash morning and night when giving milk. Good as grass is it does not furnish the full proportion of nitrogenous and mineral substance that the cow requires to give the largest quantity of milk, and bran is a better food for this than is grain or grain meal. Cows that will not eat corn meal when at pasture will eat and relish a bran mash made with water heated to blood temperature.

There is always profit in breeding pigs, providing the breeder is not too greedy, and is willing to sell his stock at reasonable rates. Live and let live should always be the rule. Is nothing is truer than in the breeding and sale of stock. It is very easy to get a surplus of stock greater than can be either kept or fattened with profit. As the pigs grow older it costs more to produce a pound additional growth, and what is worse, this extra weight is not worth so much per pound as is that of the smaller pig.

The best way to manure the growing corn is by keeping the cultivator at work among it as much as possible. If the field has been manured over the whole surface no extra manure can be applied to much advantage in midsummer. Of course no bulky manure could be drawn on the field. The most that can be done is to apply a little commercial nitrate where the corn was poorest, in order to bring it up to the average. If this is done and the cultivator is used freely, it will mix the fertilizer with the soil and add greatly to its efficiency.

EXPERIENCE WITH ALFALFA.

W. Hight, in an Indiana paper, gives his experience with alfalfa as follows: The first alfalfa I sowed was fifteen years ago on limestone land in a creek bottom. I sowed only on the small gravelly patches that were so rocky you could not plow them very well. The water in the creek would all sink in the gravel by the 10th of June. I have sowed several patches since on the same kind of land. They all did well. I sowed some on clay upland and it did not do well. Bottom land underlaid with water is the land for alfalfa. The water under my land is down eight to twelve feet, and the roots run to the water. I never sowed any on good bottom land. Drouth has no effect on the growth. When timothy will burn alfalfa will grow right along, green as can be. Then is the time to look at it. It would make an old cow's mouth water when timothy would parch her tongue.

Sow as soon in the spring as the ground gets warm and dry. Get your ground in as good fix as you can. I sow broadcast thirty pounds to the acre, and when it comes up I plow any spots where it did not come up well. If weedy land mow two or three times the first year, and rake it off clean. The second year it is all right and ahead of the weeds. But it don't get to its best till three or four years. It has to have time to send its roots down to water. I do not know how long it will live. My oldest is fifteen years old and just as good as it ever was. It never bloated any of my stock. I cut three times a year, and get about one and one half tons at each cutting. I think it would do well on sand land. Dairymen should try it. Don't sow anything with alfalfa

HORTICULTURE.

TREES FOR PLANTING.

Generally all things considered two-year old trees are best for planting, and this applies to nearly, or quite all kinds of fruit trees, especially. Select those with straight stems, smooth, healthy looking tops, with plenty of small fibrous roots. Be sure that they have entirely shed their leaves.

Trees on which the leaves remain after the first frosts set in and stick to the branches in the spring may be safely regarded as unhealthy.

In taking up it is quite an item to secure all of the roots possible, and not to bruise or injure in any way.

The roots are of more importance than the top, as with plenty of good healthy roots a strong vigorous top can readily be grown. But in all cases the tops must be cut back in proportion to the roots.

All of the bruised or injured roots should be cut off with a long sloping cut. Then the tops can be cut back in the same proportion. In cutting back the top all crossing and crooked limbs should be cut out.

The best tree is a straight stem with the limbs branching off at regular intervals. Cut back so as to secure a low spreading head. With fruit trees, at least, it is of no possible advantage to have them tall. A tall tree gives more purchase to the wind and the fruit is more easily blown off and harder to harvest, while a low spreading head protects the stem from the sun, shades the ground more thoroughly, so that the tree suffers less from drouth.

It is important to use care in the selection of the trees, as when set out and properly cared for they will remain a long time and when the work and trouble necessary until they come into bearing is considered, it is worth taking considerable trouble to secure good trees. N. J. SHEPHERD.

CLEAN CULTURE INDISPENSABLE TO SUCCESSFUL STRAWBERRY GROWING.

Correspondence of the Progressive Farmer.

There are few if any plants to which clean culture is as essential as it is to the strawberry. Its peculiar nature, habits and time of ripening make this the case. It grows blooms and bears its fruit down on the ground just where weeds and grass can choke and smother it. It bears and ripens its fruit just when the warm weather of spring is coaxing weeds into such rampant growth as to deprive the berry of sun light, without which it cannot mature and color.

Being about 90 per cent. water, the strawberry of course needs an abundant and constant supply of moisture and the yield can easily be lessened one half or more by the presence of

weeds, voracious of moisture for their own needs.

The fact that the wild strawberry attains some degree of excellence in a wild and uncultivated state, has led some people to question the necessity, or even wisdom, of giving this fruit too much culture. But observers of nature know that the wild strawberry plant is productive in proportion as it chances to grow it a spot free from weeds and grass. When its lot is cast amid grass and weeds, it makes only a slender spindling growth, and bears sorry and few berries, or, often none at all.

It is the highest economy to give the crop which precedes the strawberries scrupulously clean culture, allowing no grass or weed seed to infest the soil. I have fields which have had such close attention in this respect that they are almost free from these pests. When one does appear it is killed before seed can be produced.

Just as a young cuckoo in a sparrow's nest appropriates all the food intended for the lawful occupants of the nest and soon gets strong enough to destroy the young sparrows, so weeds will appropriate the manure you intend for the strawberry till they get strong enough to overpower your crop.

The richer the soil the harder, but all the more necessary it is to give the weeds and grass short thrif. This care should extend not only through the summer, but begin as early the following spring as weather will permit; never forgetting that a weed puny and insignificant amid the cold of March and April, may spring up into all the vigor of Jonah's gourd when the sun waxes warm. On fields once cleared of these, strawberries can be grown with comparatively little hoe work.

Take the advice of one who makes the strawberry his life business and gives this king of berries shallow cultivation frequent enough to keep the above truceless enemies from ever getting a foothold. An ounce of prevention is worth not only a pound, but a ton of cure. O. W. BELMONT.

Kittrell, N. C.

The agricultural returns for Great Britain during 1895 show that the cultivated area is 32,578,000 acres. The shrinkage of lands under the plow increased during the past year by the weather. There were 510 acres less of wheat grown and 57,000 acres less of rye, beans and peas, but the barley increased 72,000 acres, and the increase of the oats acreage was also larger. The actual loss in the arable area during the last two decades, which cover the period of depression, amounts to 2,137,000 acres. The reduction in wheat alone is 1,900,000 acres.

POULTRY YARD.

RICH COLORED EGGS.

It is a well known fact in the feeding of dairy stock that foods poor in fats or oils cause cows to give milk the cream of which is especially light in color, and will produce very light colored or white butter. It is also a matter of common knowledge among dairymen that the light colored foods will increase the color of butter, as when carrots are used.

The same principle would probably hold true with regard to the feeding of fowls. Too much bran, oats, and especially buckwheat, would have a tendency to produce eggs with very light colored yolks. Confinement without much variety of food is also known to cause hens to lay eggs with very light yolks, and when such fowls are given their freedom, plenty of green food and a variety of grain food, the color of the yolks will change in a few days so as to be quite noticeable. Some varieties of fowls naturally lay eggs with lighter colored yolks than others. Dark colored eggs are esteemed for their richer quality more than white shelled eggs, and frequently bring a higher price in the market, so that all the difference in the color of the yolk may not be due to the single item of food or confinement.

Feeders are agreed that Leghorns and other Mediterranean breeds will bear feeding with much more corn than the Asiatic and American breeds, and a richer diet, consisting of considerable corn, with plenty of green food and range would, no doubt, give eggs from the Mediterranean breeds richer yolks than if confined and fed a diet lacking in corn and green food. Ample variety in the food and plenty of range would probably prove an antidote for the white yolks.—American Agriculturist.

A pound of poultry can be produced more cheaply than a pound of mutton, beef or pork.

LIVE STOCK.

VALUABLE PURCHASE OF HIGH-CLASS JERSEYS.

Last week a special train containing 41 head of registered Jerseys from the Rockwell Park Stock Farm, owned by Mr. E. B. C. Hambley, of Rockwell, N. C., arrived at the Biltmore Farms, a part of the palatial estate of Mr. G. W. Vanderbilt, situated near Asheville, N. C. This herd of Jerseys is becoming one of the most important and largest in America. It contains at present some 130 head of animals, selected for the foundation of a high class Jersey breeding establishment, and for the production of fancy cream, butter and milk, to satisfy the demands of the citizens and visitors of this noted resort.

The farms, containing some 2,000 acres, together with the Jerseys, dairy, sheep, swine, market gardens and poultry departments, are under the skillful supervision of G. F. Weston.

The Jersey barns and dairy will be on a scale consistent with the enormity of the other features of the estate.

This purchase of cattle consists of 28 cows, and 13 heifers, royally bred, and distinguished for their persistent work at the churn and pail, including 7 cows with tests of from 14 to 18½ pounds of butter per week, and from 7,000 to 8,000 pounds of milk per year. Representatives of the most noted lines of breeding are included in this purchase.

The Rockwell Park herd of registered Jerseys has been recognized for some time as among the finest in the country, combining great individual merit, large yields, uniformity of type, and rich breeding; this condition induced Mr. Vanderbilt to draw largely from this herd for the foundation animals of Biltmore.

There is no doubt that this section of America possesses many natural advantages for the successful breeding and development of the highest type of Jerseys. This fact is demonstrated by the many fine and valuable herds that are now to be seen throughout the State.

THE AMERICAN HOG.

[Extracts from a paper read by Geo. W. Franklin at the late meeting of the Iowa State Breeders' Association at Des Moines.]

The American hog is divided into two classes, bipeds and quadrupeds. Both kinds are found on the farms of the West, and occasionally both are found on the same farm. The biped American hog is fond of usurping two seats in a passenger coach; the quadruped is content with standing room for one in an ordinary stock yard. The biped American hog is often a very potent factor in the management of financial and political affairs; the four footed kind is not much of a politician, and herein again he differs from the sheep, which is pretty much always in politics.

While the American hog is not at ways free from disease, it is surprising how many different kinds of diseases a ship load of him consigned to Germany can contract while in transit. The American hog may be any one of several breeds or may be of no clearly defined one, and yet like the money of the country, he always goes, and for the purpose of passing, it makes but little difference what is the color; whether it be dead or living, or even in point of fact, whether it really exists at all or not, for on board of trade he can be sold as mossa pork without having any actual existence. He is a vigorous and omnivorous feeder, not perhaps as cultivated as might be, and yet he will bear a great deal more cultivation than he often receives, and there are often some men who could profit by a little better acquaintance with him.

The ham and lard hog is giving way to the bacon hog. The bacon hog is often the result of accident, but skill and science are being devoted to his production until we may in time make him with the same certainty that we make the lard hog. It is quite the fashion to have breakfast bacon for breakfast, and while this is the fashion, the bacon hog must be produced to meet the demand. The changes which fashion prescribes in the hog, as well as in other meat animals, make it not improbable that the pig's tail will in time become as popular as breakfast bacon, in which case there will be universal regret felt that our American hogs have but one tail. The pressure for the bacon hog is becoming so marked that some breeders are introducing the blood of the "razor back" from Florida, in order to secure the

much desired streak of fat. Some of them are so pleased with the results already secured that they are hopeful of breeding a hog presently that will have two streaks of lean to one of fat.

As a rule, the American hog is a well fed animal, and his diet is almost exclusively corn. The four footed hog does not object to corn, whether it be raw, ground or cooked. The biped hog prefers the juice. Corn juice is said to make the two-footed class greatly resemble the four footed ones, and on good authority it is declared that a heavy ration of corn juice will make the biped hog wallow in the mire just as the quadruped does on a hot day. Wheat has lately been trying to capture some of the laurels won by King Corn as a feed for hogs, but it finds favor only to a limited extent and most feeders prefer one of its by-products. Corn as a diet for the American hog is without a successful rival, and the farmer who knows how to breed good hogs and grow plenty of corn and grass for them possesses the key to the situation, and no foreigner need expect to get the combination without first becoming naturalized and learning to eat his pork well cooked.

In the management of the American hog we have as many different methods as we have breeds and breeders. There is management and mismanagement—"Male and female created he them," and the latter seems to be in the majority. It is a waste of time and good money to keep anything but the right sort. Whether their ears be pricked or drooping, whether the hair be black, white or red, makes but little difference, so that they grow rapidly, mature early, have vigorous health, produce good litters and then take good care of them when they are produced. They will get to market in time to pay the interest on the mortgage, the taxes on the farm, and have a little left over for a rainy day.

With all the expenditure of money and all the application of skill that has been devoted to making the hog healthy and happy, he has not yet been rendered proof against cholera. If the American hog in Iowa was not subject to occasional attacks of this dread disease, it is a mystery beyond solving where the products of hogs in the State would stop. With absolute immunity against attacks of cholera, Iowa would feed the world. Then a loud wail would go up from the breeders. Perhaps it is on the whole no bad thing that we have this safety valve arranged to adjust the swine industry, but yet I have observed that we are all willing that the safety valve shall be permitted to operate the other fellow's hogs in cholera time.

There was a time when the American hog received very little care or attention. His snout was long and his legs as long as his snout. For actual rasicality, inborn cussedness, activity and storage power, the American hog of that age had no equal. With his trunk-like proboscis he could root out the third row of potatoes through a crack in a rail fence, and with very little effort he could drink every drop of cream from an old fashioned churn without tipping the churn over or spilling the cream. There were American hogs because they loved liberty and the pursuit of happiness, and they seemed to get more happiness out of their pursuits than any other animal on earth. They would hold mass() conventions and they usually convened where there was the greatest abundance of mass(). The sky was brought into use as a shelter for them during inclement weather, and when hog killing time came around the old fashioned squirrel rifle was an absolute necessity. The boar was never selected and was seldom seen except at unexpected moments, and then it was best to view him from long range or the top of a fence. Considering the herd from the standpoint of its fighting qualities, the boar was then more than half the herd.

It takes lots of genuine grit to be a farmer, says the Rural World. Legislatures and trusts combine to rob him and he finds many classes of his fellowmen flourishing at his expense. He sees his real estate shrink and his taxes increase. He very often has to market his choicest products below cost, deprive himself and his family of social advantages, work 16 hours a day, and all through it is obliged to be a man of grit. For genuine manliness of this kind the American farmer stands without a peer.

Fresh stable manure contains some 70 per cent. of water, 25 per cent. of vegetable and animal matter, and five per cent. of salts and mineral matter.

THE DAIRY.

SUMMER DAIRYING.

To make the summer dairy successful may look very simple to one on the outside of the business. Unfortunately the outside view is shared by many on the inside, and they are conducting summer dairying solely on the manual labor idea. Now it is a fact that summer dairying requires just as much practical knowledge, skill and care as winter dairying, and the man who ignores these points never has made cows pay, and never will.

The dairyman who draws a monthly check from his factory, a portion of which is profit, is not enabled to do so simply because he owns cows, but because he knows how to handle them. For instance, turning cows out to pasture may be the worst thing you can do for them. You must be sure that there is plenty of grass for them to eat, or they will be worse off than if tied to a straw stack. The foundation of successful dairying is to keep the cows constantly furnished with all they can digest of milk forming food. Under this rule good cows are a mint of money, and poor ones will show surprising results. Either bring the amount of pasturage up to the number of your cows, or else reduce the number of your cows to the amount of your pasturage. Anticipate the need of feed several months ahead, and plant plenty of fodder corn now. Better plant too much than too little, as the surplus will come in play next winter as silage or cured fodder. I never saw a dairyman yet who put in more fodder corn than he could make use of. He generally has too little.

Another important point is to take care of the milk after you get it. A dairyman must possess an earnest desire to preserve the milk quality, or I would not give much for his success in that direction. A half hearted policy, or indifference, will almost surely result in spoiled milk. Nearly every dairyman now understands the routine work that it is necessary to follow in preserving milk quality on the farm. The trouble is that only a proportion of them as yet put it thoroughly into practice. Thoroughness! How much that means in dairy management. If there are 25 thorough dairymen in a township, that is equivalent to 25 successful ones. No man can expect to always have good milk unless he goes through a routine practice of aerating and cooling it every night during the summer. Even if he has plenty of cold running water, he must not depend entirely on it to the neglect of aeration. By submerging hot milk in cold water, I have known it to develop the most dangerous taint. Thus a blessing is easily turned into a curse.

Don't despise regularity in the dairy unless you despise money. Be regular in turning the cows to pasture, in milking them, and in drawing the milk to the factory. It takes no longer than to be irregular, besides insuring profit. Never attempt to hold butter in the summer unless you have a suitable place to store it. That means a refrigerator. If all farm made butter went into cold storage as soon as produced, there would be less sale for oleomargarine.—Geo. E. Newell, in American Agriculturist.

The Nebraska Farmer well says: Community effort might succeed in keeping the chinch bug pest so thoroughly within bounds the present year as to materially reduce the chances of a similar recurrence of the trouble in so violent a form another year. It is worth working for. Awaken your neighbors to an appreciation of the situation, and be ready to do something effectual toward mitigating the evil.

EXPLAINING IT.

"Say, Mame," said Maud, as she bit off a tiny piece of chewing gum, "I've been improving my mind again."

"Go 'way! You haven't!"

"Yes, I have. I have been reading all about the convention. It's perfectly fascinating, too."

"Can you understand it?"

"Most of it. I used to think a convention was stupid, but it isn't a bit. It's just like a gymnasium, of riding a goat at an initiation, or something of that kind, you know."

"How do they do?"

"Why, they bring out a plank."

"Yes."

"And it's very wide; and the candidates try to straddle it, and other people try to keep them from doing so; and the side that wins gets the nomination. I don't know what it means, but that's the way it's done, for I saw it in the paper."—Wilmington Star.