

"The Progressive Farmer is a good paper—far above the average—and possibly the best advertising medium in N. C." Printers' Ink.

# THE PROGRESSIVE FARMER.

"The Progressive Farmer is a good paper—far above the average—and possibly the best advertising medium in N. C." Printers' Ink.

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

Vol. 11.

RALEIGH, N. C., JULY 21, 1896.

No. 24

## THE NATIONAL FARMERS' ALLIANCE AND INDUSTRIAL UNION.

President—Mann Page, Brandon, Va.  
Vice-President—H. C. Snively, Lebanon, Pa.  
Secretary-Treasurer—R. A. Southworth, Denver, Col.

### EXECUTIVE BOARD.

H. L. Loucks, Huron, S. D.; W. P. Bricker, Cogan Station, Pa.; J. F. Willets, Kansas; W. L. Peeke, Ga.

### JUDICIARY.

R. A. Southworth, Denver, Colo.  
B. W. Beck, Alabama.  
M. D. Davie, Kentucky.

## NORTH CAROLINA FARMERS' STATE ALLIANCE.

President—Dr. Cyrus Thompson, Richlands, N. C.  
Vice-President—Jno. Graham, Ridge way, N. C.  
Secretary-Treasurer—W. S. Barnes, Hillsboro, N. C.  
Lecturer—J. T. B. Hoover, Elm City, N. C.

Steward—Dr. V. N. Seawell, Villanow, N. C.  
Chaplain—Rev. P. H. Massey, Durham, N. C.  
Door-keeper—Geo. T. Lane, Greensboro, N. C.  
Assistant Door-keeper—Jas. E. Lyon, Durham, N. C.

Sergeant-at-Arms—A. D. K. Wallace, Rutherfordton, N. C.  
State Business Agent—T. Ivey, Hillsboro, N. C.  
Trustee Business Agency Fund—W. A. Graham, Macpelah, N. C.

## EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE OF THE NORTH CAROLINA FARMERS' STATE ALLIANCE.

A. F. Hileman, Concord, N. C.; N. C. English, Trinity, N. C.; James M. Mewborne, Kins on, N. C.

## STATE ALLIANCE JUDICIARY COMMITTEE.

John Brady, Gatesville, N. C.; Dr. J. F. Harrell, Whiteville, N. C.; T. J. Candler, Acton, N. C.

## North Carolina Reform Press Association.

Officers—J. L. Ramsey, President; Marion Butler, Vice-President; W. S. Barnes, Secretary.

### PAPERS.

Progressive Farmer, State Organ, Raleigh, N. C.  
Caucasian, Raleigh, N. C.  
Mercury, Hickory, N. C.  
Battler, Whiteakers, 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 published in their interest.

## AGRICULTURE.

No farm is complete without a good garden and numerous truck patches.

The cherry is one of the few fruit trees which will flourish in almost any kind of soil.

Shallow and often is the rule for summer cultivation. Kill the small weeds and keep the surface loose; that is the idea.

The tendency to smaller farms is shown at the South, where the old plantations are being divided into farms of from forty to two hundred acres.

But few farmers fully appreciate what a large amount of conscientious, impartial work is being performed for their benefit by the experiment stations.

Late cabbages should be set on good strong soil and hoed frequently. A small handful of phosphate around each plant will push them along rapidly. The wheel hoe is a handy tool in the cabbage patch.

Some say book farming or science in agriculture will lead a man to ruin; but does any farmer have too much knowledge for his calling? We should use every effort to get all we can pertaining to methods of agriculture.

For the orchard, a good crop to sow at this time is common red clover. It will cover the ground, improve the condition of the soil and store up nitrogen from the air. Do not cut it, but let it remain to be ploughed under next spring.

A practical knowledge of botany is of great value to the horticulturist. Botany tells how plants feed, grow and propagate; it describes the habits of fungi and the diseases they cause, and shows the fruit grower how to produce new varieties. Botany explains the why and wherefore of many kinds of work and enables the grower better to think for himself.

Low prices are not merely confined to farm products. All the manufacturers of iron, steel, woolen, cotton, glass and wood have probably fallen in equal proportion to wheat, corn and cotton. Everything the farmer has to sell or buy is much lower than formerly. It is only taxes that have stayed the high-water mark and continue to rise above it.

## ON FARMERS' INSTITUTES.

Correspondence of the Progressive Farmer.

An article in a recent government report contains the following paragraph: "The amounts appropriated for institutes vary greatly from \$500 per annum (which the State Treasurer refuses to pay) in North Carolina, to \$15,000 in New York."

We are glad to say that although that was the situation at one time, the State Board of Agriculture, at their meeting in June, 1896, took steps to hold more and better institutes than have ever before been held in North Carolina.

It is a notable fact that the States which are leading off in progressive agriculture are the ones which have a direct legislative appropriation for Farmers' Institutes with a live man at the head to hold them. The meetings are mainly conducted by two or three men who are good speakers themselves and who have made a success of some branch of farming at home and have first started out to tell how and why at their own local institute, but the local interest and local speaker often constitute the leading features and make the most impression on those who go to take part and exchange experience gained for the best practice and philosophy of neighbors. We are forging ahead, but not so fast as we ought in this respect. Eight farmers' institutes might be held every month in the year in this State and get to each county seat but once a year, and then not stop at many places where they would pay better.

Farmers ought to wake up and show that their country and this State is not suffering and falling behind from sloth and Rip Van Winkleism. It is plain that where the energy and stir is there the best practices abide, there the money comes to the farmers and prosperity follows fast on the heels of conditions made by the community. Are we drifting behind our time? Shall we continue to drift? As farmers, we must live on what we arise to use at home and depend on what we sell for ready money to make such purchases as are needed outside of home production. If by making some stir a better market can be found for what we have, or we can learn to put it in better shape to sell so it will be worth more to the consumer, or be more pleasing to him, then will the effort be well repaid. Farmers' institutes aim and help in these directions; they cheer and brighten up a man and the vicinity, giving new thoughts and new talk, and lead to better farm practices. Shall we have one in our county? If so how soon?

FARMER.

In gathering quinces and pears, writes an extensive New York State grower, we send all the packing force to the orchard during the latter part of the day, and by spreading the fruit thinly, on a little clean straw on the ground under the open shed, they become cooled during the night, and are in good condition for packing up the next morning; when, if left on the trees, they would be so wet from the dew that we could rarely pack them until they had become warmed by the sun and in an undesirable condition for packing.

## ADULTERATED PRODUCTS INJURE THE FARMER.

Food adulteration is not simply a question concerning the consumer, manufacturer and dealer, but it also affects the farmer. All food products come from the soil. Meat is nourished by grasses and grains, fruit comes direct from the ground, butter and cheese are soil products. Everything eaten is derived directly or indirectly from the ground. When these foods are adulterated or imitated, the farmer is injured to the extent that his market is destroyed. Every ounce of adulterated food destroys the demand for just so much of the pure article, and in some cases more.

Every gallon of maple syrup adulterated reduces the value of the pure product to the farmer who owns the maple grove. In the case of adulterated dairy products every pound of oleomargarine displaces a pound of real butter. Filled cheese has been fraudulently sold until many people have refused to buy it at all. A good article will be consumed to a much larger extent than a poor one. The tendency in legislation of late has been to secure to the consumer and producer protection for honest dealing in fruit products. Legislation is relegated entirely to the States and the State legislatures are all our hope for accom-

plishing anything in the near future. It is the opportunity of the farmers at the coming elections to place their votes for men who will not betray their trust when asked to enact proper laws.—D. W. Wilson, Illinois, in American Agriculturist.

## WEEKLY WEATHER CROP BULLETIN

For the Week Ending Saturday, July 11, 1896.

CENTRAL OFFICE, Raleigh, N. C.

The reports of correspondents of the Weekly Crop Bulletin, issued by the North Carolina Climate and Crop Service, for the week ending Saturday, July 4th, 1896, are very unfavorable. The chief feature for the week was the excessive rain fall, which averaged for the State more than 4.00 inches above the normal for the week, and in the Central district more than 6.00 above the normal. The streams overflowed their banks from the French Broad to the Cape Fear and the Roanoke, and did an amount of damage to lowland crops, which is difficult to estimate, though it is hoped the extent of injury has been exaggerated. The temperature was slightly below the normal; the amount of sunshine very much so.

EASTERN DISTRICT.—The past week has been very unfavorable nearly throughout the whole district. Rain occurred on every day of the week, and on the 8th in conjunction with high winds. The precipitation was very excessive; all low ground was covered with water, and streams overflowed banks, destroying many low crops. Grass is gaining again very rapidly as no work could be done during the week. So far cotton has not been greatly damaged, a little shedding of forms is reported, some turning yellow and some little damage occurred by wind. The crop is running up fast; in south portion of district there are plenty of half grown bolls. Corn suffered more severely. Considerable corn was reported blown down by high wind on the 8th, and many lowland crops destroyed along streams. Corn and cotton were in good rows which helped water to run off. Damage is probably overestimated at present. Tobacco curing progressing very well. Sweet potatoes fine. Peanuts being killed. In northern counties of the district where this is third or fourth week of too much rain, farmers are much discouraged. Elsewhere general conditions still very favorable.

CENTRAL DISTRICT.—The crop prospects have retrograded considerably. The area of heaviest rain fall centered over the counties of Anson, Raulolph, Alamance, Guilford and Stokes. Storms and floods did much damage, particularly on the 8th; lands were badly washed; many bridges swept away and some crops damaged by winds. Cotton is running up very fast and shedding some lower leaves and fruit, but generally outlook continues fine; picking will probably begin early in August. Corn in bottom lands flooded to top of stalk and difficult to estimate damage; much of it may be completely destroyed. Outside of slight additional damage by wind, the rain has benefited crops. Early corn practically made and yield will be above average. Sweet potatoes best for several years. Some oats and wheat in shock washed away, and oats uncut beaten down and tangled in north portion. Tobacco also damaged to some extent by excessive rain; running up too tall, looks fine, however. Grapes doing well.

WESTERN DISTRICT.—Rain occurred on every day this week except one (9th) the total amount being very large. Freshets did great damage to crops in lowlands and many upland farms were badly washed. The ground had been so softened by previous rains that corn was loose and much was blown down and uprooted by the gale on the 8th, but some is straightening up again. The chief damage was caused by the overflow of the streams, and the injury can hardly as yet be estimated, but will probably be less than expected. Cotton is growing up rapidly and continues to look exceptionally fine, but needs more sunshine. Some oats, wheat and rye in shock carried away in bottom lands, and what was not is sprouting badly. Hay considerably damaged. Farm work was stopped during the week. A period of fair weather and sunshine is badly needed.

Stand up for poor clothes, and vote for the degradation of your own children that you may have the pleasure of saying "you never scratched a ticket." That is "yellow dog" politics. Are you a yellow dog?—Advocate Newark, Ark.

## HORTICULTURE

### CULTIVATING THE GARDEN.

The main points to be gained by cultivation are: To prevent the evaporation of moisture, to kill weeds, to set plant food free, and allow free access of the air. To get the benefit of all these we have only to keep the soil fine and mellow by stirring it as soon after every rain as can be without packing, and once in a week or ten days any how, in case of dry weather. It is now a well known fact that there is no better mulch to prevent the escape of moisture than a freshly stirred surface. And with this regular stirring at short intervals no weed can even start.

After a heavy rain, when the surface dries we are apt to think it dry enough to cultivate, when beneath it is perhaps too wet and clammy. It is ruinous to take a horse on any heavy soil while in this condition. I have often made this mistake and know the bad results. When the soil is dry enough to work free and light, there is no danger in working the close planted crops with the wheel hoe. While this is going on the part tended by horse power will be getting in proper condition to cultivate. Then if it be early in the season, and plants on this part are still small, we usually run along each side of the rows with the wheel hoe and afterward plow out the middles with the cultivator.

While it may be true that the cultivation during the fore part of the season is the more important, we are too apt to become careless as the season advances. At least I am. We ought to try and remember that as long as a plant continues in vigorous growth it requires plenty of moisture for full development. The weather usually becomes drier as the growing season advances, and cultivation should be kept up that as much moisture may be saved as is possible. Neglect on this point often makes the difference between success and failure in the garden.—J. A. L. Dobie, in Ohio Farmer.

The pecan tree has proved hardy as far north as Pennsylvania, but does not bear freely.

## LIVE STOCK.

### HORSE NOTES.

"Please sir," said the Hackney, in the ring with a lot of trotting bred horses, to the judges, please tell them that you saw me, even if you didn't give me a ribbon."

The owner of the Australian champion trotter, Fritz, offers to match him against any horse in the United States for \$10,000 a side, and will allow the American, if defeated, \$750 toward his expenses.

"For three months during the war I occupied the most dangerous position in my company." "Indeed?" "Yes; every morning I carried eight mules belonging to our commissary."—Chicago Record.

It is reported by the Pekin, Ill., Times that Dr. Warren's Happy Medium mare ran away and broke the buggy to pieces because of fright at the unusual spectacle of a tramp sawing wood at a farm house.

As if cognizant of its duty in the premises, lightning killed four horses in one field near Dussal, La., last week. Idle brood mares, old age, storms, etc., will soon create a shortage in the supply of horses and send prices skyward.—Horse Review.

## CARE OF THE FARM TEAM IN SUMMER.

Sore shoulders, necks and backs are largely the result of carelessness and ignorance. When the harness or saddle presses heavily upon muscles not accustomed to such pressure, the walls of the blood vessels are compressed until the normal flow of blood is stopped, and the delicate vessel walls are bruised, along with the muscular fibers. When the pressure is removed, the blood rushes into the weakened vessels with such pressure that the blood serum is forced through them and we have the soft fluctuating swellings under the skin. If these accumulations are not removed, either by resorption or artificially, there results a callous enlargement that is ever afterward a point for inquiry. Such may be avoided. Whenever a team at heavy work, or a young horse not accustomed to work, is stopped to rest, and that should be frequently instead of long, raise the harness and collar and manipulate the flesh a little with the hand to restore the blood circulation. On removing the harness bathe the parts under pressure with cold water. This contracts

the muscles and prevents such a rapid rush of blood to the parts, and the consequent exudation of blood serum. Should swellings appear, bathe with cold water frequently or as long as any fever is perceptible; pads kept wet where possible, are beneficial. After the fever has subsided, warm water should be applied if any swelling remains. In case of large accumulations of blood serum upon the collar-rest, an opening should be made to give it free drainage. Whenever the skin is broken in any part bathe with a two to five per cent. solution of creolin or chloro-naphtholeum.—H. P. Miller, Ohio, in American Agriculturist.

## SHEEP HUSBANDRY IN THE SOUTH.

More than half the wool annually used by the people of the United States is imported from foreign countries in the form of wool and woollen manufactures, says Judge William Lawrence, of Ohio, in Crabtree's Farmer. There are in this country about 42,000,000 sheep. There should be 110,000,000, producing 650,000,000 pounds of wool on the unwashed basis. Sheep husbandry can be successfully carried on in every State in the whole Union. It is the only absolutely national industry. But the South, especially, should engage in this industry for abundant reasons:

1. Every one of these States has abundance of lands unused and with the best of grasses for the pasturage of sheep—the Bermuda grass and others. And sheep require but little winter feeding, a great advantage over the North.

2. By thus utilizing these lands, the value of all lands will be enhanced.

3. By diversifying the uses of lands, the acreage of the cotton crop can be reduced, and more money be realized for the cotton product than with a larger acreage.

4. Every Southern State can supply its own meat food, the most healthful of all, good mutton. Pork is less nutritious, less healthful, more expensive and in every way less desirable than mutton. At all events, some mutton should be supplied to promote health.

5. Mutton meat food has one advantage over beef, especially in the country, where in a warm climate a beef, killed, cannot be consumed by one family, or several, before being unfit for use. But one mutton sheep can be killed and consumed by one or two families while it yet remains good and untainted. Every family having the care of forty or sixty acres should keep a few sheep to supply meat food.

6. A State that supplies its own meat food will inevitably be richer than one that sends its money away to buy food elsewhere. This is especially so when, as is the case in every State, there are lands which can be devoted to the rearing of sheep and which will be unused if not so applied.

7. If every State will raise enough sheep to supply needed meat food of this kind, fresh meat, enough wool will also be supplied for all the needs of all our people, and our gold will not be sent abroad as now to foreign countries to buy wool, for the countries from which we buy wool are chiefly those which take from us nothing in return but gold.

8. With sheep husbandry properly developed, more manufacturing will soon follow. Chattanooga should have woollen factories enough to furnish all the woollen manufactures required by the people of Tennessee.

South Carolina is leading the way in cotton manufacturing. Four fifths of the cotton grown in that State is manufactured therein. Let all the cotton growing States go and do likewise.

Every State in which a State college or university is located should establish a department therein for instruction in the textile industries—the manufacture of wool, cotton, flax, hemp and silk. The cost of such department would be comparatively small, and some hundreds in each State could annually receive the necessary instruction.

The only obstacle now in the way of manufacturing in the great interior of the country is the want of persons having the requisite skill. The act of Congress of 1862 made a grant of land to aid each State in erecting an agricultural and mechanical college or university. The chief purpose of the law was to give much needed instruction for the advancement of agriculture and mechanic arts.

To the people of the South, indeed of the whole country, I commend sheep husbandry as worthy of consideration and favor.

## THE DAIRY.

### PROFITABLE DAIRYING.

Correspondence of the Progressive Farmer.

The depression in dairy prices has been such for the past two years that the cry has been turned against the cow, and we hear the oft repeated wail of "farming don't pay" in regard to butter and cheese making.

While it is undeniably true that the dairy industry is not so remunerative at the present time as it has been in the past, it is at the same time also true that the dairy, if rightly conducted, pays as well or better than any other line of farming.

Perhaps never before have the farmers of America been confronted with a more discouraging outlook than the present season presents. They are puzzling their brains to think of some crop which will do a little better for them than another. They are turning themselves this way and that to make both ends meet as never before. The old reliable money producer, wheat, is gone never more to return. Potatoes for several years considered a better paying crop than the average grain, has this year been retired beyond hope of recurrence. Beans, so variable both as to price and yield, are beginning to be considered as a doubtful crop as a money producer; in fact, run through the whole catalogue of the accessible resources of the farmer and you will find not one which can be depended upon year after year to be a profitable crop. So we say stick to the cows. Take the very best of care of them. Breed only the best, increasing the quality year after year by testing and culling out the poorer ones, keeping the breed which best suits your purpose. If for milk then Holsteins, if for cream or butter, Jerseys or Guernseys. The writer does not wish to be understood as laying down these rules as invariable as to the peculiar qualities of each distinctive breed, only as saying that as a rule these qualities may be looked for in the several breeds as named. As is well known, there are exceptions to all rules, and outside the distinct lines of breed for some particular trait may sometimes be found excellent animals for some other line, but as a rule the general lines as regards the different breeds hold true.

The number of cows in the country cannot be materially increased in a few months. It requires at least three years before the future cow can come into usefulness. If the dairy depression continues, as it will continue for some time yet, there will be a large number of cows, owned by farmers who are not making any money out of them, killed. The reaction is sure to come sooner or later. The pendulum swings slowly but surely in both directions. Cows will be in good demand and prices remunerative for dairy products before many years, so those who do not become discouraged will reap the reward.

W. C. ROCKWOOD.

Genesee Co., Mich.

## FEEDING MUST VARY.

Rations for dairy cows must vary with the animals fed, the stage of lactation, the system of farming followed, and many other conditions. It might therefore seem futile to speak of feeding standards and of fixed rations. This may safely be done, however, if we remember that the rations allow of considerable latitude, the quantities given are for good cows of medium weight in full flow of milk, and any dairy farmer will then know that a cow at the last stages of lactation, or a poorly yielding cow ought to receive less feed, while an extraordinarily rich milkster must have more to do her best. The grain feeding may amount to 8 to 10 pounds a day per cow; our best feeders give as much as 10 to 12 pounds. At the 90 day breed test at the World's Fair the Jersey and the Guernsey cows were fed 20 pounds of grain feeds a day, on an average, and the Short-horns 18½ pounds, but very few farmers have cows that will stand such intense feeding, and give returns for the same in the milk pail. Any good cow will stand up to 12 pounds or thereabout, however; and this must be remembered that by heavy feeding we increase not the cost of the maintenance of the cow, but only her productive capacity. Hence we find that the best dairymen are heavy feeders and are feeding each cow in their herds to her full capacity.

It is almost the unanimous testimony of our most successful dairymen, said Prof. Wall at a Wisconsin Institute, that heavy feeding pays, that nothing but liberal feeding pays, and that the farmer who does not feed his cows with a liberal hand will not obtain good results.