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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

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THE NATIONAL FARMERS' ALLIANCE AND INDUSTRIAL UNION.

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PAPERS. Progressive Farmer, State Organ, Raleigh, N. C. Carolina, Raleigh, N. C. Mercury, Hickory, N. C. Banner, Whitakers, N. C. Our Home, Beaver Dam, N. C. The Populist, Lumberton, N. C. The People's Paper, Charlotte, N. C. The Free Boy, Concord, N. C. The Postville, Wadesboro, N. C. The Flow, Salisbury, N. C. Carolina Watchman.

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 best paying crops are grown, not by the farmer with the richest soil, but by the one with the longest head.

When the land is too rough or broken to be cultivated to advantage, it will be found a good plan to set to trees.

Unless there is danger from the disease of potato rot, the potatoes will keep as well as anywhere if left in the ground until cool weather.

No work about the farm gives more solid and lasting satisfaction than a day or two spent in fixing up the grounds around the building.

The main object in pruning is to take out branches which interfere with other branches, and to remove those that are dead or that mar the symmetry of the tree.

In these times of low priced butter, it requires a pretty fair cow to more than pay for her board. The cheaper the butter, the better must be the cow to return a profit.

During the rush of haying there was little time for reading, but during this month there will be more leisure to think ahead. Work not well planned is labor partly wasted.

It is a good plan now to go over the apple trees and destroy all of the nests of the tent caterpillars that can be found. The sooner they are destroyed after they get started the better.

There is hardly any question but that the use of arsenical poisons in the orchard, applying with the spray pump, has perceptibly reduced the ravages of the codlin moth and other insect pests.

One of the best ways of manuring strawberries or other small fruits is to scatter broadcast between the rows, and then work into the soil with a cultivator, taking care always to have it reasonably well fined.

Plenty of clover will go a long way toward making a farm profitable. Think how many ways it can be utilized—for pasture, for hay, for feeding the stock, of feeding the land, some times serving the double purpose of feeding the stock and then going back to the soil in the manurial product. Fear not raising too much; it will always find a market.

WEEKLY WEATHER CROP BULLETIN

For the Week Ending Saturday, Aug 1, 1896.

CENTRAL OFFICE, Raleigh, N. C. The past week was the hottest of the present summer; every day was considerably above the normal in temperature and the maximum reached as high as 102 degrees. It was also very dry, though a few favorable local showers occurred. There was a large amount of sunshine. On the whole these conditions have been very unfavorable, except in the northeastern and western portions of the State. Corn and tobacco are firing and cotton is shedding bolls, besides being forced to maturity; it is beginning to open rapidly.

EASTERN DISTRICT.—The past week has been extremely hot and dry; beneficial showers occurred at a few points. In the north portion of the district crops are generally reported as improved; elsewhere all crops are suffering for want of rain. Cotton may still be considered fine; it is now opening and picking is not far off. There were more reports of shedding bolls and leaves than last week, caused by heat and drought; the crop is now maturing very rapidly. Old corn was ripe before the drought set in, but late corn is needing rain badly and has fired considerably. Fodder is now being pulled and stacked. Tobacco is being cured rapidly; much of it becoming parched. Farmers are planting turnip seed now. Peanuts, sweet potatoes, peas and rice promise abundant yields.

CENTRAL DISTRICT.—Extreme heat and great dryness prevailed this week, with decidedly unfavorable influence on all crops. Good rains occurred in portions of Alamance, Randolph, Richmond and Rockingham on Thursday, and a damaging local wind storm in Chatham and Orange; elsewhere rain is badly required. A great decline in the condition of cotton is taking place; some rust and much shedding of bolls and leaves reported; plants look wilted; opening fast in south. Corn crop good; much fodder pulled. Late corn needs rain badly, and is firing. Tobacco also firing, and curing is forced in some sections nearly a month earlier than usual. Sowing turnip seed interrupted. Some cabbage bursting open. Sweet potatoes and peas not injured.

WESTERN DISTRICT.—The effect of the hot, dry weather has not been so injurious to crops in this district, and in the west has been quite favorable, but a good season is needed. Cotton on sandy land has been injured, but generally it is doing well and blooming freely; much less shedding is reported than from other districts. Early and late corn need rain; there is some firing; fodder pulling will begin next week. Curing tobacco has begun in only a few sections yet; the drought prevents spreading, and some damage by fleabugs is still reported. Sweet potatoes and peas doing well. Turnip seed being planted and land prepared for wheat. In extreme west saving oats and hay still progressing.

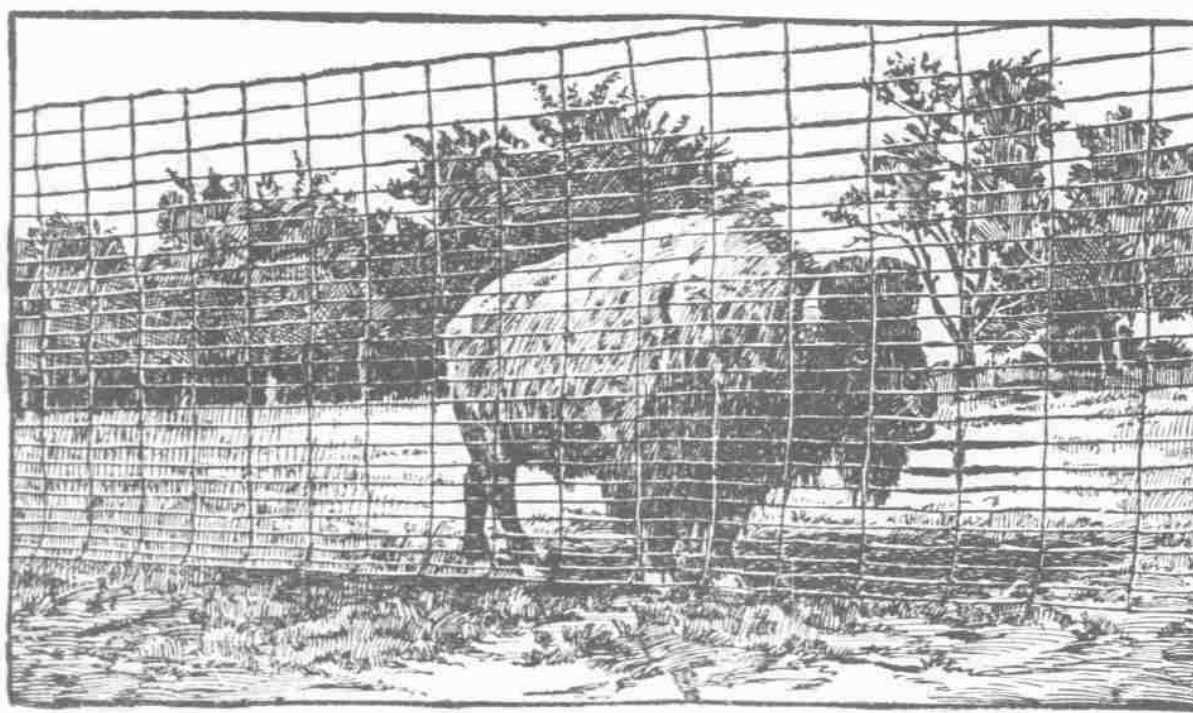
A Scotch newspaper has arranged for an expedition of Scottish farmers' daughters to visit Denmark, Holland, and Germany, in order to ascertain why these countries are able to compete so successfully against Great Britain in dairy and other produce.

THE FARMER IS "GETTING THERE."

Happily the impression is slowly gaining ground among the farming population "That the farmer is of more importance than the farm, and should be first improved." This growing desire has led to the formation of clubs, granges and farmers' institutes. It is a noticeable fact also that in a few States our legislatures are composed more largely of agriculturists than formerly, and that it is yearly becoming easier to secure such legislation as tends to the better development of our agricultural resources, for upon these depends our future natural advancement and welfare.—Farm and Home.

BEES ON THE FARM.

A man or woman who dislikes to handle bees had better let them alone, says F. H. Richardson in the American Agriculturist. However, it seems to me it might pay the farmer who has a lot of fruit to keep a few stands of bees, even though he had to buy new stock every spring and did not get any honey. The benefit derived from the bees fertilizing fruit blossoms would pay for the trouble. In this case box hives would be better than any others, as bees undoubtedly winter better in



PRESERVING BIG GAME.

Commendable Instances of Private Enterprise. ADRIAN, Mich., June 30.—The recent death of Austin Corbin, the New England multi-millionaire, at his villa, near Newport, N. H., elicits special interest here. Mr. Corbin has the most extensive private preserve for large game that probably exists, covering 25,000 acres in the Blue Mountain Forest. On this magnificent ranch much of the Page Woven Wire Fence has been used, the works for the manufacture of which exist in this city.

The great financier had adopted the Adrian product in preference to all others. He had given much attention to preserving from extinction the American bison; and one of the stipulations submitted for enclosing his New Hampshire domain was that the fence should be proof against attempts to leap it, or break through, on the part of these powerful and agile animals.

Unlike barb wire and analogous devices the Page product is a protection instead of a menace to animals within its enclosure. A short time ago he donated to the park commissioners of New York, a number of bison from his Blue Mountain herd, with the condition that none but Page fencing be used to enclose them.

Stimulated by Mr. Corbin's example, the Page people have instituted a zoo of their own. A range of 37 acres has been enclosed, and in this the company has placed a number of deer and elk, with nine bison. These were obtained after considerable trouble and expense, so rare are full blooded specimens of the American bison becoming. Nero, a superb animal weighing 2,000 pounds, died recently from injuries sustained in its transportation to the Adrian park, and has been mounted together with a beautiful elk, and donated to the museum of Adrian College.

Having succeeded so well in coraling the brawny bison, the Page people are now preparing a fence to enclose the elephants in Lincoln Park, Chicago, and relieve the animals from the chains which keep them in subjection at the expense of their tempers and physical condition.

The company has also made a tender to the government to enclose a range at Yellowstone Park, and save from depredation and loss the few buffalo that remain.

and honey is a secondary consideration. In any event, get a good stock of industrious bees. It is becoming pretty generally accepted that bee keeping will not do to rely on as a money-making occupation unless practiced in connection with some other business. The farmer who likes to handle bees will have an excellent side issue, which, if carefully managed, will be a satisfaction as well as a profit. To such a farmer I say, get two colonies of Italian bees from some reliable breeder, put them in an eight or ten frame dovetailed hive, get a smoker, bee veil, a book on apiculture and be gin. In one respect experienced apiarists are quite as negligent as beginners, that is in furnishing shade for the hives. It has been conclusively shown that colonies in shade during hot weather make the most honey.

During the summer months the finely powdered dust from the road bed should be gathered. Its best use will be found in the hen house, where it can be placed in shallow boxes to be used as dust baths. It is also good to sprinkle over heaps of hen manure to absorb the ammonia as the manure decomposes.

WAKE UP THE "WAY BACKS"

Opposition to more frequent mails and free delivery in country districts comes from farmers who "take about one weekly paper and get about four letters a year." Well, we rather think that those men would take a daily paper or at least get into communication with the outside world somehow if they had daily mails at their doors. This idea that farmers are going to continue to be "way backs" is all wrong. Their present unrest is conclusive evidence of this. One criticism of the postal department that is being brought out very forcibly is the large salaries paid to postmasters and mail carriers in the larger towns and cities. Many a postmaster is paid from \$2,000 to \$3,000 per year or more who couldn't earn half that working for anybody else, while as good men for carriers could be hired for half of the \$900 to \$1,000 per year now paid in cities. The whole tendency during the past ten years has been toward increasing these and other official salaries, while the prices of products of farm and factory have been constantly decreasing. This won't do.—Farm and Home.

Milking should be done as rapidly as possible without worry. It should be done thoroughly to the last drop; otherwise a little milk carelessly or unintentionally left in the udder will begin the work of "drying off" the cow. Milking should be done regularly, beginning at the same hour, and the milker should go through his cows in the same order, thus making it easier and less disturbing for the cow that from habit knows when to expect her turn.

etc. He does not have so many from which to pick and is less liable to err in choosing, as this is to be his life business. But the average farmer, with the orchard a side question merely, is often neglectful in carefully selecting trees.

After deciding upon a site, thoroughly plowing and manuring the soil, a complete list of fruits suited to his locality is of paramount importance. Many orchards in nearly every State of the Union are almost worthless today, because they are set with poor varieties of trees. The following list of fruits has been recommended by Illinois horticulturists as adapted to their latitude and with slight variation can be used in most portions of the West.

Apples, for winter: Willow Twig, Minkler, Roman Stem, Ben Davis and Smith's Cider. York Imperial is rapidly becoming a popular variety that has been successfully raised in Iowa, Indiana and several Eastern States. In Kansas, it is considered the coming apple. For autumn: Maiden's Blush, Wealthy, Fameuse and Bailey Sweet. For summer: Tetofsky, Red Astrachan, Sops of Wine, Codlin and Duchess of Oldenberg. Pears: Tyson, Flemish Beauty, Clapp's Favorite and Kieffer's Hybrid. Cherries: Early Richmond, English Morello and Late Dutch succeeded best. Quinces: Orange is the best. Peaches: Omelia, Early York, Stump of the World, George the 4th and Salaway. Crosby is a promising variety from the Atlantic coast. Plums: Wild Goose, Burbank and Chickasaw. Grapes: Concord, Worden, Moore's Early and Pocklington. Gooseberries: Smith's Improved is good. Currants: La Versailles, Fay's Prolific. Blackberries: Snyder, Early Harvest. Raspberries: Souhegan, Gregg, Shaffer's Colossal, Marlboro. Strawberries: Crescent, Jewel, Capt. Jack, Glendale, Sharpless, Downing. The Lucretia Strawberry has been raised with some success and promises to be valuable for home use. It would also be advisable to grow a few upland huckleberries and the June berry. Every orchard should have few stands of bees. The proper fertilization of the blossoms is thus insured, and besides the family is supplied with honey. Of course the above list of fruits are not all that can be successfully raised, but are a few of those that have been raised with most success. A person with no experience in this line of work would do well to consult some successful fruit grower in his region. As was said in the beginning, it pays to be very careful in selecting varieties.—Farm and Home.

POULTRY YARD THE BEST BREED FOR MARKET FOWLS.

Fowls that are plump and have plenty of meat on their breasts will always sell well in market. The carcass, however, depends on the breed. To know which should be preferred, it may be stated that breeds that are the most active and fly the highest have the most meat on the breast. This is easily explained, as the ability to fly implies great muscle power, and the muscles are mainly on the breast. The Games, Dorkings and even Leghorns are plump on the breast, and they can fly over a high fence. Brahmas cannot fly, and they have but little breast meat. The Langshans and Cochins are apparently of the same stock, but when a fowl of both breeds is dressed for market, Langshans will be found much superior, as they have a larger proportion of meat on the breast.—Farm and Fireside.

YOU CAN'T HURRY HENS.

When fowls don't lay as many eggs as we think they ought to, especially at this season of the year, we naturally do something to stir them up—feed meat and egg-producing food. If we are not quite familiar with this line of procedure, we are apt to look for almost immediate results, and are quite sure to be disappointed.

We can feed cows for an increased supply of milk and get it quickly, because the process between the digestion and the making of milk is rapid; not so in the process between the fowl and the egg. The egg is quite complicated, not only in its entire structure, but in the process of putting on the shell—the last process, however, being the quickest performed. The germ of the egg being there, all that is required are the proper conditions to mature it—and time.

How long a time? Well, about two weeks at least. In other words, it is a matter of haste on our part and a matter of taking it easy on the part of the fowls.—N. D. Forbes, in Poultry Monthly.

LIVE STOCK. SELLING HORSES.

To sell a horse to the best advantage is not an easy thing to do. How often we hear of some horse being sold for a moderate price, soon to be sold at a larger figure and then again at another advance over the second price. The first thing when one has a good horse of any class to sell, should be to have him in the best form possible for his kind. Fat is the selling quality on the draft breed. Nearly anyone can fatten a horse by giving plenty of such grain as you may have, and sufficient exercise for health. Right here, it must be remembered that an animal taking on fat requires an excess of water, and should have all he desires of pure lukewarm water.

No one can afford to sell a good animal out of condition either in regard to health or flesh. If on dry feed, some laxative food should be given, say a small armful of grass or green fodder, being careful not to give enough to take the appetite from the hay. Should green fodder not be obtainable, a feed of bran put in a tight pail in the morning, boiling water poured over it, then covered tight to keep the heat in till noon, when it should be fed in place of the regular feed. Feed this bran three times a week. In place of the bran, flax seed meal may be given—a half pint three times a week, in addition to regular feed.

Salt should be put in a place where the horse can help himself, and not placed in his feed where he will be forced to eat all at one time, and do without at all other times.

Should the animal for sale be a roadster or saddler, fat is not such a necessity. If in good condition, they are really of more value than when fat. There is no quality of so much value in either of these animals as education. Two horses equal in all other respects when offered for sale will be found to bring very different prices. The better the one is educated over the other, the greater will be the difference in price. Horses of this class need plenty of grain, lots of exercise, very little rough feed, and if the owner does not thoroughly understand them, he, by all means, should put them in the hands of one who does. Few breeders understand gaiting a saddle horse, but to sell for a good price he must be well educated by some one who understands this branch of the business. Many a good horse sells cheap because his owner does not make up his mind to sell until the last moment, and then has a time to prepare the horse to show his good qualities, and the horse is sold just the same as if he did not possess them.—Roadster, in Journal of Agriculture.

"You just ought to see the hogs we raise out in Iowa." "So big you have to kill half of one at a time?" "Well, no; but let me tell you some peculiar things about those hogs." "All right, so large, I suppose, that you can find them on the maps in the geographic?" "Well, I don't know as to that, but I have known one of those hogs to start north where the meridians come closer together, and in ten hours get wedged in so tightly between a couple of those lines that it took a week to dig it loose."

WHIPPING BALKY HORSES.

Notwithstanding the fact that the press continually admonishes whom it may concern that it does no good to whip or pound a balky horse, almost every owner or driver of one does it today. It is probably the greatest piece of horse folly in existence. It is not a remnant of barbarism, but it is continued barbarity, and brings out what original sin there is in a man.

The brain of a horse can retain but one idea at a time. If the idea is to sulk, whipping only intensifies it. A change of that idea, then, is the only successful method of management. This may be accomplished in scores of ways, a few of which are here named:

Tie a handkerchief about his eyes; tie his tail to the bellyband or backband; fasten a stick in his mouth; tie a cord tightly about his leg; clasp his nostrils and shut his wind off until he wants to go; unhitch him from the vehicle and then hitch him up again, or almost any way to get his mind on something else.

Whipping or scolding always does harm. The treatment should always be gentle. There are more balky drivers than horses.—National Stockman.

The best is the cheapest—live fertilizer, seed, hired help, tools, land stock. He who farms upon cheapness builds upon sand. There is, however, a wide difference between paying a big price for a poor article, compared with getting the best in the market at the bottom figure. True economy is to get the money's worth.