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# 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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## PAPERS.

Progressive Farmer, State Organ, Raleigh, N. C.  
Caucasian, Raleigh, N. C.  
Secretary, Raleigh, N. C.  
Sattler, Raleigh, N. C.  
Our Home, Raleigh, N. C.  
The Baptist, Raleigh, N. C.  
The People's Paper, Concord, N. C.  
The News, Wadesboro, N. C.  
The Flowery, Salisbury, 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.

It is desirable to have the colt foaled in the fall rather than in the spring. He is then weaned in the spring, when fresh grass is ready for him to feed upon. Kept in the stable through the winter, he can be trained and handled as he should be from the very first.

The chances of failure in almost every other line of business are greater than in agriculture, as the farmer usually can, in even the worst season, make enough for his support without cutting into his capital; but with the merchant a bad season means an inroad upon his capital for the means of subsistence.

Before giving up the farm for another business which promises better returns, study closely the chances for success or failure. The farmer has his house rent and his table supplies with out deducting them from the profits of his business. The business man is no better off who is making twice as much.

It is very difficult to keep soils fertile if they contain a large proportion of sand. If they are kept under cultivation this difficulty is increased, as the sand both blows and washes away when exposed to winds. For this reason many owners of sandy fields keep them seeded with grass or clover as much as possible, and only plowing them when the seeding runs out.

Diversified farming has two great advantages over that which is confined to one or two specialties. If the different crops are properly chosen there will be a succession of marketing to be done through the year, and also something to be done on the farm to keep the labor employed at all times. Where the specialty only is grown, though it may bring a good deal of money when sold, most of this has already been expended during the season while the crop was being grown. This is the difficulty with the Southern planter who depends wholly on his cotton crop. After the expenses of making it is deducted the planter has less ready money than if he had more crops, so as to be able to sell something every month in the year.

## WEEKLY WEATHER CROP BULLETIN

For the Week Ending Saturday, Aug 22, 1896.

CENTRAL OFFICE, Raleigh, N. C.

The week ending Saturday, August 22, 1896, was more favorable for crops and especially for farm work than any since the middle of July. The first two days of the week continued warm, but on the 18th very beneficial rains occurred at a large number of places, following which the temperature dropped below the normal, with some agreeably cool nights. The rain fall was not sufficient to break the drought generally, but caused some improvement in the crop conditions.

**EASTERN DISTRICT.**—Past week was favorable. Good rains occurred on several dates, chiefly on the 18th, but small in amount, and were followed by several agreeably cooler days. Late corn, peas, turnips and potatoes were benefited. The extent to which cotton has been cut off over the State is variously estimated from one fourth to one-half. Cotton is opening rapidly and will be picked out by the middle of October. It needs more rain to mature bolls, though rain would probably not cause any new bolls to form. Early corn came through all right, but late is poor, though aided by showers this week. Fodder is nearly all pulled in south. Curing tobacco about finished. Making sorghum syrup has begun. Rains brought out turnip seeds and further planting is progressing. Peas are forming fruit fairly; rice and sweet potatoes are still very good; peanuts suffered considerably from the drought.

**CENTRAL DISTRICT.**—The hot spell was broken on the 18th and cooler, pleasant weather followed, which was more beneficial to those pulling fodder and picking cotton than to crops. Scattered rains occurred on Tuesday, but many counties remain entirely dry and experienced further decline in crop conditions. Cotton is still shedding in pieces; is opening fast, especially on sandy land, lint is short, and the crop generally a great disappointment. In many places fodder is all saved; not much will be made from late corn. Tobacco is generally poor and not curing so well, though it seems to be all right in color, and the crop is earlier than usual. Peas and potatoes are needing rain. Some farmers have begun to make sorghum molasses. Soil not fit for plowing.

**WESTERN DISTRICT.**—The first part of the week was still warm and dry, but followed by local showers and cooler weather; a few nights were very cool. Favorable showers occurred on the 18th and 22d, but by no means sufficient to break the drought, while over large portions of the district no rain has fallen. The general crop conditions have, however, improved. Cotton still inclined to wilt and shed forms, some fields much worse than others; bolls are small; picking progressing with prospects for nothing like a full crop. Fodder pulling fully under way; with sufficient rain late corn would make a short crop. Tobacco seems to be curing nicely. Cabbage is not much good; peas and sweet potatoes doing tolerably well; molasses making begun; some plowing and seeding turnips was accomplished; large amounts of excellent hay stacked and ready for housing in the west.

Do not drive horses fast down hill—spring knees and injured shoulders will be the result in time. That takes money out of your pocket, to say nothing about the suffering that will be induced.

## WHEAT GROWING

There are three requisites indispensable to successful wheat growing, to wit:

- 1 Good, sound, clean seed suitable to our soil and climate.
  - 2 Good soil.
  - 3 Thorough tillage.
- "Whoever a man soweth that shall he also reap." In one of the parables of the Saviour when it was reported to a householder by his servants that there were tares growing in his field. He said, "An enemy has done this." Now, the farmer who grows cockle, cheat, smut or any other foul seed is his own enemy, and need not try to shirk the responsibility, but should go to work and thoroughly cleanse his wheat. If he has no suitable fan of his own he had better go twenty miles to a good mill and pay the toll and have it run through a smut machine. Only standard varieties that have

been thoroughly tested in your locality, except by way of experiment, should be used for seed. As a rule, the bearded varieties will succeed better on low land than the smooth heads. The Felts, Fulcaster and the Pool are standard varieties, and succeed well in our section.

Wheat, like all other crops, requires good soil. Twelve or fifteen bushels of wheat per acre may be grown on thin soil under favorable conditions, but this at present prices will not pay. But by an intelligent system of rotation with peas or clover, and a liberal application of commercial fertilizer, carrying from 2½ to 3½ per cent. of potash, and from 10 to 12 per cent. of phosphoric acid, with thorough tillage may be doubled. I would not advise the application of a fertilizer containing nitrogen after a crop of either peas or clover, as either will furnish all the nitrogen needed for the wheat crop, even after the removal of the clover and peas in the way of hay. By growing either of these crops we are enabled to reduce the cost of our fertilizer from \$8 to \$10 per ton, and have just as good results as when we pay 18 to 20 cents per pound for nitrogen.

While it is not very difficult to get farmers to realize the importance of having seed and good soil, yet it is next to impossible to get them to realize the importance of tilling the soil. Nature has made this provision in virgin soils, by filling them with roots of plants. But the farmer has by an injudicious system of farming exhausted this vegetable matter, and as a result finds his land hard and cloddy. Yet with this object lesson spread before him he fails to realize the importance of a mellow seed bed, and scatters his seed on a pile of clods, seeming to think he has done his whole duty; and if at harvest he fails, and fail he will, to reap a rich harvest, he is loud in his denunciation of the fertilizer agent, the season, the moon, bad luck or something else, when in reality he alone is to blame. A clod yields no nourishment to plants till pulverized. The sun, air and rain all help the mellow soil, and so by pulverizing we set forces at work which are lost on compact or cloddy soils. It is therefore of the utmost importance to have the soil thoroughly pulverized. This preparation should begin now. To reach the best results the plowing should all be done this month and the soil thoroughly harrowed every week or ten days with smoothing harrow or clod crusher until October 10th, at which time I like to commence. Never before this, as earlier seeding is apt to be injured by the fly. I am not an advocate of deep plowing or thick seeding. From four to five inches is as deep as I like to plow for wheat, and about one bushel per acre is as much as I like to sow on well prepared soil of sound, clean wheat.

To summarize, I sow only the best seed on rich soil, if it is not rich I make it so, for nothing will thrive on poor soil. I have been using for a number of years as a fertilizer a brand known as Firman's Formula, made in Atlanta by Adair & McCarthy Bros. I use from 200 to 300 pounds of this per acre drilled in with wheat on a thoroughly pulverized bed. While I think the capabilities of our section of country as a wheat producing section have not as yet been dreamed of, yet I would not advise an indiscriminate seeding on any and all kinds of soil to the exclusion of any crop that may be needed on the farm that can be successfully grown. I think only maximum crops should be aimed at by the farmer. These can be made to pay while the average crop will not. The best methods should be adopted by which the greatest number of bushels can be raised per acre at the least expense. Wheat will remain at relatively low prices in the future except when there are failures of the crop in large wheat growing sections. The great competitors of the United States in the production and sale of wheat are the Argentine Republic, Australia, and Russia. The Argentine Republic with a population of about five million is already to put on the European markets thirty-five million bushels of wheat a year, and besides this, these wheat fields average less than one hundred miles from deep water harbors. So you see Argentine wheat pays very little inland freight. Russia likewise has a short haul while the United States average heavy transportation charges in reaching the seaboard. So you see that those, and only those, who are able to adopt the best methods should attempt to grow wheat as a profit.—Ex.

## SEEDING CORN FIELDS TO CRIMSON CLOVER.

The question of setting corn fields to crimson clover is not by any means settled. It has been tried in some localities with fairly good success; in others it has been a total failure. In many places the crimson clover has been unable to stand the severity of the winter; it has grown fairly well in the fall but has winter killed. Crimson clover should do well in southeastern Pennsylvania and farther South when sown under favorable conditions, and I would by all means advise seeding corn to crimson clover. It ought to be seeded not later than August 15. A common mistake has been in sowing the crimson clover too late. The plants were too small to withstand exposure and severe freezing of winter.

Crimson clover will not answer the purpose so well for sowing in the spring as some other legumes. The time is so short between early seeding and the time necessary to plow for corn that this plant would be unable to store up any considerable amount of nitrogen. The legumes do not have the power of gathering nitrogen during their early stages that they possess a little later in life. It is well understood that young plants of the legumes do not gather nitrogen. The seed furnishes sufficient nitrogen for them to use until they become well established. Just at this time there is often a period of partial starvation. The plant has not yet acquired the power to make use of the free nitrogen of the air through the bacteria at work in the tubercles on the roots. Until the tubercles are formed the plants are usually less thrifty than they are a little later. It is doubtful if crimson clover would prove satisfactory as a nitrogen gatherer when sown in the spring and plowed under for corn. Should it be necessary to sow a legume early in the spring to be plowed under for corn, Canada field peas will undoubtedly give better satisfaction than crimson clover.—Farm and Home.

## THAT BROAD TIRE.

"The difference between a narrow tire and a broad one," said a leading Chicago business man in the other day, "is simply that the narrow tire cuts up and ruins the roadway, while the broad tire actually makes the roadway better by its use."

That is surely enough of a difference to make the farmer, who realizes the importance of the transportation question, consider a change, if at present he is using the narrow tire. But one farmer cannot make the road good by his use of the broad tire. There should be an organized movement in every township favorable to the broad tire, which, instead of sinking deep into the roadway and rendering it impassable, serves the purpose of a roller, hardening it and making it more smooth.

The broad tire alone will not make good roads, for there are many kinds of difficulty to be overcome, and every mile of roadway offers one or more peculiar to itself. But in a country of fairly good roads there is perhaps no one thing which will help so much to preserve them as the faithful and general employment of the broad tire. It is one of the reforms which lies within the reach of all to assist in, and it is a most important one.

The cost of bad roads to the people of the United States is estimated by Prof. Latta, of Purdue University, who bases his figures upon the certified experience of the farmers of forty Indiana counties, amounts to 77 cents an acre annually, or \$50 a square mile of farm area. There are 1,000,000 square miles of farm area in the country, which gives us \$500,000,000 as the amount annually assessed against the people as a bad roads tax—and the farmer pays fully 90 per cent. of it. He doesn't get a penny more for his product because he is obliged to haul over abominable roads!—Farmers' Voice.

The man who would have sound, nicely formed hoofs on his horses when he comes to sell them, must give attention to the hoofs of his colts.

## AGRICULTURE IN THE PUBLIC SCHOOLS.

I have been interested in the discussion in regard to teaching agriculture in the public schools, but it appears to me that one point has not been given sufficient consideration—teachers.

There is no doubt there are text books which would supply our schools, but where are the teachers? There are eight schools in this township and all

are taught by lady teachers. In an adjoining township there are eleven schools and only two male teachers. Now I should like to know whether lady teachers are competent to teach agriculture. The majority of them are young and have not had much experience in teaching, and to require them to teach this additional branch would be an absurdity. We might just as well take the young man out of the field, put him into the school and compel him to teach the culinary art. I'm afraid we wouldn't be inclined to place much confidence in his instruction, and that some of his girl scholars would know more about preparing a palatable dinner than their instructor. In the same manner some of the boys could probably give the teacher some "pointers." Theories could, no doubt, be taught in our public schools, but theories are not always practicable.

Another thing must be remembered. All our teachers are not country-bred and are not familiar with farm life. For a city daughter to undertake to teach agriculture would be out of the question.

A teacher cannot successfully teach a class experiments in chemistry or physics without having performed them himself. Farming is one continual experiment and we must learn by doing. I saw a person, a graduate of a college, who had studied geology and could not identify a sand stone. He was an excellent scholar, theoretically speaking, but lacked practical experience.

Arithmetic is arithmetic, grammar is grammar, but agriculture is subject to so many conditions of soil and climate that one could not do the subject justice with our present corps of teachers.—Germania, in National Stockman.

No better use of skim milk can be made than to feed it to poultry, either small or large. It should, however, be generally fed in hot weather as curd, which enables it to be eaten clean and without waste. A mixture of curd and wheat bran is excellent for hens when moulting, as both the curd and the bran contain the nutrition required to grow a new crop of feathers.

## THE GENERAL TRADE SITUATION.

This continues quiet without particularly new development. The usual midsummer quietude pervades all Northern and Eastern markets, and in the West and South staple crops are being taken care of in good shape. Commercial and financial circles are subjected to much disturbance because of the political campaign, and in many directions it is urged no real stability need be expected until after election. Bearish operators on the leading exchanges have been successful in forcing a decline in nearly all securities, irrespective of their real merits, and interest rates in some instances are slightly higher. Exports of gold are small, with everybody watching the reserve in the National Treasury, which is held well in hand.

The markets for farm and orchard produce are certainly as active as are those for textiles, iron and steel, and manufactured goods generally. The realization of another big corn crop causes easiness, oats have sold off a little in the St. Louis and Chicago markets despite less favorable threshing returns, and barley is dull, with the market not fully opened except on the Pacific Coast. Values have shown little appreciable change within the past week. The trade is beginning to believe in earnest that the wheat crop of 1896 will not prove a burdensome one, yet the market lacks genuine support either at New York, Chicago or San Francisco. Foreign markets are taking a fair quantity of wheat and flour, and according to Bradstreet's the world's available supply of wheat is the smallest in four years. Fresh fruits are moving rapidly to market, the low price stimulating consumption, and dairy products are a little firmer.—American Agriculturist.

As the fruit begins to ripen in the orchard or vineyard, cultivation should be suspended. This is not only that orchard fruit may not be soiled by falling upon the loosened earth, but what is still more important, to prevent the late growth of wood which will not ripen before winter. If the ends of the new shoots have not been pinched before this it should be done now. This will turn the sap back to the fruit and will also form fruit buds for next year's crop.

## POULTRY YARD

**A DOSE FOR FOWLS.**  
Those who are compelled to doctor chickens should remember that a teaspoon holds about one fluid drachm; a tablespoon half a fluid ounce, and a wine glass two fluid ounces. A drop is larger with some liquids than with others. Water has about sixty drops or minims to a tablespoonful or drachm, and laudanum and all other tinctures and alcohols have 120 drops to a fluid drachm. What would be a dose for a child is about right for a fowl. A two weeks' old chicken will need about as much medicine in a day as a child six months old. At six weeks it would require the same dose as for a year old child, a half grown fowl as much as a four year old child. Whenever giving a liquid see that the nostrils are clean, so that the fowl can breathe, or it will strangle. Many a bird has thus been killed and the remedy received the blame.—Fanciers' Review.

## SUBSTANTIAL RESULTS.

A correspondent of the Indiana Farmer gives "the details of what a small flock of twenty-five hens did from November, 1894, up to date, November, 1895. The flock were White Leghorns and Plymouth Rocks, and were kept in limited quarters. They averaged, by my egg record book, in which I kept a strict account of all eggs laid, and kept track of everything concerning my fowls, about 140 eggs for the year. The Leghorns laid the most eggs, but during the moulting season I find the Plymouth Rocks laying some, while the Leghorn hens had stopped, though they are fed the same, but not together. From these hens I raised 113 chicks, and only kept the very best of the pullets of both breeds for layers and breeders.

"I sold eggs and chickens to the amount of \$99.99, total cost of feed (not including table scraps), \$35.50; clear profit, \$64.49, almost \$2.50 per head. Do you consider that a good showing? I have Plymouth Rocks to average 151 eggs, besides raising some chicks."

## LIVE STOCK.

### TO TREAT OVERHEATED HORSES

During the recent heated spell the Illinois Humane Society issued a circular calling attention to the abuse of horses during hot weather and giving directions to drivers and others in charge of horses as to treatment for an animal which is overheated or worked too hard, says the Western Rural.

The following suggestions taken from the circular may be helpful to some of our readers: The symptoms of overheating are easily noticed, as the horse will suddenly stop and refuse to work, or, in more severe cases, stagger and fall. The horse should be unharnessed at once and removed to a shady place and freely sprinkled with water, head and body. Sponging the mouth and nostrils with water or with vinegar and water, and the application of spirits will gradually revive the animal. In ordinary cases it will take several hours before the horse can safely be removed, as in the process of recovery it is liable to stagger and fall. The scarifying and bleeding of the mouth and ears, not infrequently practiced by drivers who are frightened and do not know what to do, is useless and senseless and only excites the horse, then in a condition where rest and quiet are most essential to recovery.

The prevention of sunstroke lies in the judicious care of the horse at this particular time. The patient and careful driver will have little to fear from the heat, whereas the man who hurries or otherwise abuses his horses invites sunstroke. It is well to call the attention of drivers and foremen of barns to the liability of horses to sore shoulders at the present time, when perspiration and dust easily irritate the skin. The results are sores, simple abrasions, swellings, galls and abscesses, which, if not properly attended to from the start, may make the horse unserviceable for weeks at a time. Pains should be taken to wash the shoulders of horses with water and soap, when they return from the day's work, and if there are any visible swellings or sores they should be bathed with salt and water, and in cases of open or running sores a carbolic salve or other disinfecting ointment should be applied. Horses in this condition should be kept from work until the wounds are healed; although, in the cases of small sores, pads of straw or felt may be attached to the collars and other harness parts in such a way as to prevent further irritation and pressure. If this can be accomplished the sores will heal, while at the same time the horse may be moderately worked.

We would also call attention to the too free use of water. In great heat the horse should be allowed to drink frequently, but little at a time.