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THE PROGRESSIVE FARMER



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THE TRIAL AND EDUCATIONAL INTERESTS OF OUR PEOPLE PARAMOUNT TO ALL OTHER CONSIDERATIONS

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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, Raleigh, N. C.
Reformer, Raleigh, N. C.
Our Home, Raleigh, N. C.
The Populist, Lumberton, N. C.
People's Paper, Charlotte, N. C.
The Farmer, Concord, N. C.
The New Day, Wadesboro, N. C.
The 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.

North Carolina has the soil and climate, why not have improved farms? No man will make a success of dairying unless willing to look after small things.

Young trees may be trimmed in September as well as any time. The idea is to remove the branches that interfere with the sprouts.

Water sprouts on apple trees are easily pulled away at this season. They are useless and suck away the sap in considerable quantities.

At the recent annual meeting of the National Apple Shippers' Association reports and estimates pointed to a larger crop of apples than ever before recorded.

Let young stock, as well as the milk cows, have access to salt and fresh water. If salt is not where they can get it whenever wished salt them regularly at least twice a week.

Every farmer should have a little farm library. Bound volumes of agricultural papers are good, and there should be a few good text books which teach the a b c's of the business; also books upon the crops which are your specialty.

Of course nobody should be elected to office simply because he is a farmer, but there is plenty of material for honest, sensible, capable law makers to be found among the agricultural ranks, and this country is just beginning to discover the fact.

The waste in the orchard should be looked after closely, and that which is wormy and defective fed to the hogs. The old process of sun drying, or the still better one of evaporation, or the preserving, should all go on now, so that nothing goes to waste.

Ben F. Darlington, of Texas, says an established cross between the Shorthorn and Durham would make the ideal beef steer. By using pure bred Shorthorns on both sides he thinks that in a few years a distinct type of beef cattle could be established that would not only fill the bill for this western range country.

WEEKLY WEATHER AND CROP BULLETIN

For the Week Ending Saturday, Sept 5, 1896.

CENTRAL OFFICE, Raleigh, N. C.

The week ending Saturday, September 5th, 1896, was comparatively warm, with two or three days slightly below the normal in temperature, and scattered showers on the 3rd, 4th and 5th, poorly distributed, however, except in the western portion of the State, where the rain-fall was more general; over other portions the drought in many places is unbroken. But little improvement is now possible in the crop conditions.

EASTERN DISTRICT.--The week was pleasant, not too warm, with some cool nights, and was fine for farm work. Rains occurred at scattered points on four dates, but it is still dry over the greater part of the district. Cotton-picking is going on rapidly; the crop will be nearly all open by October 1st. Peas and potatoes are needing rain, but will be good, though peas are slow to mature. Turnips are not coming up well generally on account of the drought. Peanuts will be short, the usual result of a dry August. Rice is only ordinary. On the whole very little improvement occurred this week.

CENTRAL DISTRICT.--Several thunder storms occurred this week and the rain-fall was beneficial to late corn, turnips, peas, etc., but was poorly distributed. At a few points amounts over an inch fell and the ground was softened enough for plowing. Cotton will soon be all open; many fields already look as bare and brown as if ruined by frost; lint being picked out rapidly under favorable conditions. O. d. corn nearly dry in the fields. Tobacco cures continue poor in quality; most of the crop has been housed. Some oats were planted. The absence of a general rain fall will cut short all late crops.

WESTERN DISTRICT.--Good, soaking rains fell on the last two or three days of the week at a large number of places in the Western district, effectually breaking the drought, but came too late to materially benefit crops. Cotton will be no better than already estimated; picking going on rapidly, except for two days, when interrupted by rain. Late corn is shooting up tall, but little crop. Good crop of pea vire hay has been harvested. Turnips fairly good and much benefited by the rain. Some wheat land has been broken, this work being quite backward. Leaves of forest trees are beginning to take the variegated hues of fall in the west.

The farm tools and machinery that have been scattered over the fields should be gathered up and cleaned and put in order for next year's work. A dollar's worth of paint will go far toward the preservation of the wood, as well as add 50 per cent. to the appearance. A little oil will also prevent rust.

COTTON SEED.

The cotton seed oil trust has fixed the price of cotton seed for the present year at \$4 per ton. This gigantic corporation evidently feels that has the farmers in its grasp and is determined to crush the life out of them. The farmers should combine against the trust and resolve not to sell a pound of seed except at prices to be fixed by themselves. Cotton seed is worth more than the paltry sum of \$4 a ton to the farmers as fertilizer. Let the cotton producers combine against the trust and the trust will be the first to capitulate.--Shreveport Judge.

A ROAD HOWL.

A correspondent to the Michigan Farmer makes the following plain statement of facts as they hold in many road districts outside of Michigan. It may be you live in one of them, we do not. We are fortunate in being in one of those districts where they began to draw gravel years ago and an occasional road lead here and there keeps our roads in A 1 condition the year round.

The correspondent says: "I want to make a small howl in regard to road making. I do not suppose it will do any good, but it will relieve my mind. This, as we all know, is the reason for the former to go out with the new road machine and scrape the sod along the side of the road into the middle of the same, and call it a road.

"It is very nice for a few weeks, and there comes in a little here and another there, so that by the time winter sets in we have a muddy, rutty road to ride over. And it is not a few rods,

either, for a road district can do a mile or two of it in the time required to 'work on the road.' Now, why cannot they work say twenty or thirty rods with the road machine, make a good, wide road bed, and then draw on good gravel, not sand? Almost every district has a bank of gravel within its limits. If not on the road go back on the farm. If the farmer is a good, generous, free hearted man, he will give it to his own district. If not, cancel his road work for the gravel. He certainly should be willing to do that. It is a good plan to get the teams and men out together, and, by a little system, you can get a great deal more done. Of course it is hard to do so, but once get your district in that habit, and they think there is no other way.

"Perhaps some may think that the first part of this is all imagination, but I know of one road district (and I presume there are others) that has not drawn gravel enough in two years to cover twenty rods of road in good shape. Yet they have scraped and scraped, and will probably continue to scrape.

"Anyone who has driven fifty miles with a horse knows that when he gets on a gravel road, he gets on a good road. It is very seldom that you see a railroad company drawing sod, sand, and clay to ballast their road.

"If the proof of the pudding is in the eating, the proof of good road is in its smoothness and lasting qualities. And a well made gravel road will knock out a sod, sand and clay road every time."

CRIMSON CLOVER HAIR BALLS

Prof Coville, Botanist of the Department of Agriculture, has just written and the Department has sent out a circular on Crimson Clover Hair Balls found in horses, and decided to be the cause of their death. Those of our subscribers who have been taking the Planter for several years will remember that we drew attention to this subject several years ago in consequence of one of our subscribers losing a horse from this cause, and had a report thereon from Dr. Niles, the veterinarian at Blacksburg. He arrived at the same conclusion as Prof. Coville, viz., that the feeding of crimson clover is not necessarily dangerous to horses, but only becomes so when the crop is all wed to stand until the seed becomes ripe and the hairy sheath with which it is surrounded becomes hard. In this State the hairs become stiff and barbed, and are dangerous, as they mat together and form the balls which cause death. When the clover is cut whilst in flower, which is the proper time, it is no more dangerous than other grasses or clovers.--Southern Planter.

PRINCIPLES OF PROFITABLE FARMING.

The attention of our readers is called to a most valuable little book, entitled "Principles of Profitable Farming." We do not know of any book on the subject that gives to the farmer so much practical information in the same short space. In this book experiments are described upon different soils and crops, and the farmer is instructed how to use fertilizers properly, in order to secure the largest yields.

The reading matter is divided into three parts, as follows: Part I describes some of the important results first obtained by Prof. Wagner, Director of the Experiment Station at Darmstadt, Germany, through green manuring by means of potash phosphate fertilization. Part II gives an account of the Experimental Farm at Southern Pines, North Carolina, which is under the auspices of the North Carolina State Horticultural Society, acting in cooperation with the State Experiment Station. The object of the experiments conducted at this farm is to ascertain the relative proportions of the three principal fertilizing ingredients needed by various fruit and vegetable crops, viz.: potash, phosphoric acid and nitrogen. Part III is a summary of many important results obtained by the use of potash in experiments conducted at experiment stations in the United States.

The foregoing outline will give the reader some idea of the scope and character of this little book. All the facts are stated in clear and concise language, and the principles of profitable farming are set forth in a practical way. The book, which is full of illustrations and neatly printed and bound, is free of charge, a card addressed to the Garman Kali Works, 93 Nassau St., New York, N. Y., being all that is necessary to secure a copy. No intelligent farmer should be without it.

IMPROVING POOR FARMS

The greatest difficulty with American farmers in making their farming successful is lack of available capital. The greed for more land affects all sections of the country, though its excessive manifestation is in the West and South, where land is, or rather has been cheaper and more easily acquired than in any of the Eastern States. This desire to buy as much land as possible is due to the belief that until recently was justified by results that land was the safest kind of investment, and bound to rise in price with every improvement made either on the farm itself or in its neighborhood. But the slipshod farming which too large farms necessitated made it impossible either to keep up fertility or to make the improvements required to increase farm productiveness, says the American Cultivator.

The result is that in all the older States are many run down farms, generally held by farmers with very small capital, because such farms are the only ones they have money enough to buy. It is always the poorest farmer who owns the poorest farm. The man with plenty of money buys a farm that is making money for its owner, and he is accordingly able to continue in the same line. On the poor farm the poverty of the farmer grows worse with each year, and it is mainly because he lacks the money to make the kind of improvements that he well knows will pay. No man should remain long in this most uncomfortable and unprofitable position.

Fortunately it is within the power of any farmer willing to work to begin making his land more productive, even if he cannot get money to purchase manures or improved stock with which to make them. If there is an intelligent comprehension of what the farm needs, a small amount of money, with what labor the farmer can himself do, will make a great change. We knew a Scotchman many years ago, who, like most Scotch farmers, was a thorough and intelligent cultivator. Some parts of the farm he had lately bought were wet. With his own hands he dug a ditch, plowing out as much as possible so as to lessen the work. After the ditch was dug he gathered stones and carefully laid them so as to leave a good water course at the bottom. He had not the money to buy tile, which were then scarce and dearer than now. But his stone drain kept this land dry for 30 years, while he knew the farm, and it is doubtless doing good service yet.

But the best way to improve a poor farm is to intelligently use brains with labor. Seeding with clover as often as possible, and using all the home made manure to make this clover grow, will bring land into condition for profitable production quicker than can be done in any other way. If the land is sandy use all the ashes possible, and if cannot be had in sufficient quantities, buy potash salts. More potash is what sandy soils need to make clover grow. After sandy land can be made to grow even one crop of clover, there will, with good management, be no difficulty thereafter in getting either a clover or grass seeding.

Every farmer on a poor farm should study to take the benefit of every advantage which even the least fertile farm may offer for making money. Many a poor farm has a wood lot, from which, if the farmer is willing to work, he may cut and haul away enough wood every winter to make more real profit than he can get by working the land in summer. If he uses the winter-earned money in improving his cultivated land, it may soon be brought into a high state of productiveness. Where there is much stone on the farm or it is underlain by rock, the opening of a quarry will some times prove the most profitable enterprise that the farmer can go into. In still other places running streams of cold water may be stocked with trout, and fish may be grown in large quantities by making small ponds with dams, and protected at both inlet and outlet so as to prevent them from escaping. Wherever these trout ponds are provided it is easy to make the farm on which they are located a popular resort for city visitors, who will leave more money for their entertainment than can be made by ordinary farming.

In every way the farmers should study to devise the new and more paying uses to which his farm may be put. When he once begins to make profit in some way the after improvement of the farm will follow as a matter of course. Some times there is on the

farm neglected orchards that with proper care, cultivation and pruning may be brought into a profitable production. Even if there are only a few such trees, making the most of them will be a quicker way to earn money than will anything else that the farmer can do.

After all is said and suggested, good, sound judgment will be required and also some practical experience in farming. Many of the wealthy beginners in farm improvement use their money in ways that do not and cannot return the money they expend. It is not, of course, safe or wise to follow their examples. By keeping eyes and ears open and noting what the successful money-making farmers are doing, and so far as possible imitating them, more success will be attained than in any other way.

The grazing districts of Arizona and New Mexico have been having a good share of rain-fall. This is good news to cattlemen. It means a good quality of beef to ship and the stock in better shape for wintering. There is certainly no overproduction of cattle on the ranges this year. One Arizona paper estimates a shortage of 20,000 head of feeding cattle in one valley alone. All the conditions except those of our national finances indicate improved prices for beef.

SOME GREAT FARMS.

We boast of the big farms and ranches of the United States, but away down in Australia they have plantations or "stations" so big that many of ours seem small in comparison. One Australian, James Tyron by name, says a recent visitor to the antipodes, has about 2,000,000 acres, or a territory nearly as large as three States like Rhode Island, one and one half Delaware, or even one third the size of Vermont, or one-seventeenth the size of Iowa. He has nearly 1,000,000 sheep or the equivalent in cattle. One Mr. McCaughey has one station of 1,214,877 acres, with some 500,000 sheep. James Wilson has 640,000 acres, or just 1,000 square miles, in one station, and over 400,000 sheep. I have a friend in the interior, whom I visited recently, who has 500,000 acres and 300,000 sheep. One can drive 100 miles in a straight line on his estate. Of this 500,000 acres, 700,000 are freehold, and the rest is leased from the government of New South Wales on long time, for a definite annual rental. I have another friend, a member of the New South Wales Parliament, who holds 240,000 acres in Queensland on long lease, at an annual rental of one farthing, or one-half cent per acre. Recently the government sunk an artesian well on this land that flows 3,000,000 gallons per day, according to newspaper reports. Most of this station, I am informed, is good land. All these stations, like the petty dukedoms of Europe, are named, and the names, pronounceable, are not easily forgotten. But their names serve a better purpose than mere ornament. As there is a considerable difference in altitude, latitude, soil, vegetation, breed or care of sheep, there is a very noticeable difference in the wool, and the reputation of the station has no little influence on the price of the respective clips. In the English trade reviews, or prices current, the names of the stations of Australia become as familiar to a large business class as are the names of the nations of the globe to the average educated man.

The largest farm in this country is situated in the southern part of Louisiana. It extends 100 miles north and south, and twenty five miles east and west. It was purchased in 1883 by a syndicate of northern capitalists, by whom it is still operated. At the time of its purchase its 1,500,000 acres was a vast pasture of cattle belonging to a few dealers in this country. Now it is divided into pasture stations or ranches every six miles. The fencing is said to have cost \$50,000. The land is best adapted for rice, sugar, corn and cotton. A tract, say half a mile wide, is taken, and an engine is placed on each side. The engines are portable and operate a cable attached to four plows. By this arrangement thirty acres are gone over in a day with the labor of only three men. There is not a single draught horse on the entire place, if we except those used by the herders of cattle, of which there are 16,000 head on the place. The Southern Pacific Railway runs for thirty-six miles through the farm. The company has three steamboats operating on the estate, of which 300 miles are navigable. It has also an ice house, bank, shipyard, and rice mills.

LIVE STOCK.

HOGS BEAT DOGS.

About February, 1892, my wife said to me, I want a pig. I am feeding three or four worthless dogs for you and the boys, and I would much rather feed a pig for myself. I tried to impress upon her the idea that the pig would be the source of more annoyance than profit. I thought, as she made no reply, that she had abandoned the idea of keeping a pig. I knew, however, that she had the peculiar knack of carrying her point, and was not surprised a few days later on discovering in the back yard a diminutive pig in a chicken's coop. I said nothing, but kept an eye on the pig. It soon outgrew its narrow limits, and I built a comfortable sty. Though my wife never called on me for more than one bushel of corn, that pig by December turned the scales at 400 pounds. The worthless dogs are no longer on the farm, but there are three pigs in the sty that will pan out from 800 to 1,000 pounds of pork, besides lard and sausage galore.--Stock Journal.

PIG-KEEPING FOR WOMEN.

A writer in the New York Journal says that pig keeping may be made as profitable as well as profitable by women. Two girls, who had thought of becoming type-writers, concluded to stay on the farm and raise pigs. They had a piece of ground laid out and drained as carefully as a tennis court. It was neatly enclosed, and so arranged as to be flooded for cleansing. Here and there the pigs ran at large, and could take baths at will. No food was bought for them, not even corn, but they fed on table waste, on fruit and nuts gathered for them, on grass and favorite weeds cultivated for them. They were kept healthy, clean and comparatively lean. When ready for market, these 17 pigs were not sold to the butcher, but contracted for to persons who knew of their careful rearing. They brought \$255, having cost little more than the labor and care.

The woman pig raiser should never think of the open market, but seek epicurean private customers with whom she can make a reputation for fancy wares and obtain therefor fancy prices. She who brings such pork to such palates has competence within her grasp. To do it she must learn a few things--first, what sort of pigs to raise. Small boned Berkshires are best, or crosses of that blood on native stock not too coarse. Next come Jersey Reds, Essexes and Suffolks. The huge commercial sorts--Chester Whites, Poland-Chinas and their kidney--while excellent for the packing houses, are not for the woman's piggery.

While pigs are the better for a short range they will thrive in a 12 foot pen if properly cared for. It should have a tight plank floor, with trough at one side for food, and at the other for water. Everything should be cleaned out daily, and if possible copiously flushed. The troughs should have slats over them. If there is room outside, have a cemented pool or half hoghead sunk in the ground, where piggy may splash to his heart's content.

The best food is corn meal and wheat middlings mixed and cooked to a thick mush. Feed often, but not too much at a time. Supplement the mush with all the buttermilk and clabber you can lay hands on, and alternate it with apples, roots and whatever green food is in season. Purslane from the garden a tid bit, so are freshly cut clover and any kind of grain in the milk. Salt the milk slightly, and once a week give more salt, mixed liberally with hard-wood ashes and bits of charcoal.

As often as you please, scrub off the animals, using a long handled brush and carbolic soap suds. Twice a week rise out water and feed troughs with a solution of copperas, and at least once a fortnight brush all the wood work over with kerosene. Beware of straw beds, which cause mange. Use, instead, dry leaves, marsh hay, or even excelsior. Change them frequently, and provide shelter from rain, wind and hot sun, but do not keep the pigs too close. The biggest should be ready for the knife at six months old. Pigs so kept and tended will be lovely and pleasant in their lives, and in their deaths you will divide profits worth naming--if you strike a market worthy of your meat.--Country Gentleman.

The gold standard is the standard of Wall street. Do you think, therefore, that it is the standard that you should rally to?--Advance Guard.