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# THE PROGRESSIVE FARMER.

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

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### PAPERS.

Progressive Farmer, State Organ, Raleigh, N. C.  
 Advance, Raleigh, N. C.  
 Security, Raleigh, N. C.  
 Cottler, Raleigh, N. C.  
 The Home, Raleigh, N. C.  
 The Populist, Raleigh, N. C.  
 The People's Paper, Raleigh, N. C.  
 The Plow-Boy, Raleigh, N. C.  
 The Vestibule, Raleigh, N. C.  
 The Watchman, Raleigh, 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 do so will be dropped from the list promptly. Our people can now see what papers are published in their interest.

## AGRICULTURE.

At Lancaster, Ky., one firm slaughtered 25,000 turkeys in 1895, and in 1896 30,000.

Turkeys are profitable, much more so than chickens if you have range, are lucky in raising them and can raise them in sufficient numbers to make it pay.

The sheep is in high favor now, and a flock of them will enable you to earn more money from a given amount of land than will any other stock requiring the same labor.

Mahomet must go to the mountain. When breeding you will find it more profitable to conform to the wants of the market than to try to make the market conform to your ideas and fancies.

There has been too much plowing—too much washing and waste of fertility of hilly lands. Plans should be formed which ultimately result in such lands being seeded down oftener and and pastured more.

Hogs are often grown up to a fair and marketable weight at a profit. And then they are held and fed for a greater weight or a higher price until the profit is all fed up and they can't pay their corn bills.

As a hog grows older and heavier it requires not only more food to make a pound of gain, but more to sustain the weight that it already has. So if not gaining, you want to get it off your hands pretty quickly.

Go around and examine the fences. If any boards are getting loose nail them securely at once. See that no sticks are lying about the stock yards. Many a good horse has been ruined by a stick flying up, or by the end of a loose board.

The capabilities of the soil are best shown by a succession of the various crops to which it is adapted. In this way green manuring can be procured with regularity and without manuring comparatively little farm land can be made to pay at all. A good rotation of crops makes farming a much safer business than haphazard work.

and your crop starve." That is true if you apply small amounts to crops planted on the same land year after year, for a crop cannot live by fertilizer. It reminds me of what the old woman said of mulberries for chickens. Says she: "They are rank pisin to chickens." My conclusions were that her chickens died not from the eating of mulberries, but from the lack of them, and other things, as she had but one tree, and a large flock of chickens, and there they sat all day waiting for mulberries to fall. Now these commercial fertilizers will not do it all as some seem to think they should if they possess any virtue. Some are so unreasonable as to think the work connected with the crop ought to be half done when the fertilizer is applied. It is an aid and only does its part. From observation and experience I have found that cotton on rich land needs plenty of acid phosphate and potash, especially when nitrogenous renovating crops preceded the cotton. On poor thin lands, and especially sandy lands, the addition of nitrogen was very beneficial. Not that the nitrogen did harm on the rich lands, but the same money invested in potash and phosphorus did more good. My preference is a mixture made at home. I buy the ingredients, cotton seed meal, acid phosphate and kainit and mix them to suit the land and crop. A general formula is as follows:

Cotton seed meal..... 600 lbs.  
 Acid phosphate..... 900 lbs.  
 Kainit..... 500 lbs.  
 2,000 lbs.

Apply from 400 to 600 lbs. per acre. If the land is rich in nitrogen from previous crops I would prefer to invest in a little more potash. On rich lands this is nearly always best, and on sandy leachy lands the kainit absorbs moisture, and prevents blight in cotton, two very important benefits. Thus the proportions can be varied to suit the soil. The kainit and phosphate mixed with the meal does not get caked, and can be used when desired.

**B. IBBY,**  
 N. C. Agricultural College, Raleigh, N. C.

## SHADE FOR THE DWELLING.

Shade trees are essential, only don't let them shade the house. Farmers, to enjoy life, must have their surroundings pleasant, commodious, convenient and healthy. These conditions can only be obtained by attention to details, by having a place for everything and everything in its place. Once get started along these lines, and improved methods follow, and if we persevere we shall have our reward.—N. Y. Farmer.

## AMERICAN CORN ABROAD.

The silver lining in the low price of corn lies, in part at least, in the fact that foreign markets are taking increasingly large amounts of it, and are becoming familiar with its use. This justifies the hope that as foreign countries become accustomed to it they will be more considerable customers for it in future seasons and at better prices. Recent exports have been larger than ever before. Three and four million bushels a week have recently been unusual. In the first ten months of the present year 113,000,000 bushels have been taken for export, which is about two and a half times the quantity exported during the same period in 1895. Great Britain has taken 45,000,000 bushels, which is double the amount taken last year. Germany, France and other countries on the continent are taking from three to five times their last year's purchases. The fact that it is phenomenally cheap probably has a good deal to do with the increased exports. There is no sentiment in business and it is price that sells. We are this year giving a great deal of good feed for a little money, but let us hope that use will teach our new customers that they must have the corn in larger quantities than here before. Our corn growers will then it is hoped, find the foreign strength ening a good market instead of merely snatching up the grain when we are almost giving it away.

The best profits are procured by having good crops in poor seasons. He who by thorough culture puts his land in such shape that it will stand the bad effects of severe rains or of unusual drouths, and has it rich enough to resist epidemics of insect enemies and disease, is sure to avoid many of the misfortunes of his neighbors; even when crops are good universally his larger crops put him in the lead.

## SUPERIORITY OF FARMYARD MANURE.

It would appear from the recent experiments carried on by Messrs. Sutton, of Reading, in respect to potato growing, and further by Sir J. B. Lawes, in regard to wheat, that scarcely any kind of artificial manure is found to excel that from the farmyard. The last named practical agriculturist, in the course of his recently published annual report on the experiments carried on at Rothamsted, remarks: "The permanently unmanured plot gives a yield of 16½ bushels per acre, which is very much over the average yield of ten years, thirty four, or forty-four years. The farmyard dung and the three artificially manured plots all give a high yield. It is in regard to the quality of the wheat as shown by the weight per bushel, that this crop gives such favorable results. In two instances the weight of the bushel reaches 64 pounds, and on referring back to our results since they began in 1844 I find no record of a weight of 64 pounds in any one of these five experiments. The crop gathered from the plot dressed with farmyard manure reached the rate of 44 bushels per acre, being exceeded in one instance only on an artificially manured plot which reached 44½ bushels; while the weight of grain per bushel was 64 pounds and 64½ pounds, and the weight of straw 44½ and 45½ cwt per acre respectively. The two instances quoted clearly show that nothing excels the old fashioned method of culture, so far at least as manure is concerned.—Dairyman.

There is not one farmer in existence but may feed a dozen sheep without ever feeling the loss of the feed. There are lots of deadhead cows that are all ways in debt to the feeder, which might best be killed off and replaced by seven or eight sheep, which may be well kept on the food of one scrub, really useless, cow.

## CORN, POTATOES AND SOD LAND.

Sod land is generally used for potatoes, and for an early crop it should be thoroughly rotten. Herein is one of the chief advantages of fall plowing for this crop. When the soil is very fertile, it has been found good practice to precede the potatoes with corn. The sod is broken late in the spring, and the preparation for corn and the cultivation of the crop tears the sod into pieces and causes it to rot thoroughly. This fits the soil for feeding the potato plants the next season. But in land of ordinary fertility the corn crop makes a too great drain upon the store of plant food, and this rotation is not advisable. The next best thing is to plow sod land in the fall for potatoes, and thus secure some decay during warm weather in the winter and early spring. Corn thrives on fermenting vegetable matter, and it is a rank feeder, but potatoes do better when fertilized with thoroughly rotten manure, whether it be in form of a sod or a barnyard fertilizer.—Rural World.

## WAGES ON THE FARM.

Those who work by the month on the farm are apt to regard their circumstances with disfavor when they hear of the wages which labor of no higher grade commands in our large cities. But they will find, if they investigate the matter, that the farm laborer is usually as well paid as his city brother, and oftentimes a great deal better. In the city of Pittsburg at present all the carpenters and artisans of a similar grade that are wanted can be had for \$2 per day. Many cannot find work at that. All over the Southern country good "common" labor can be had at prices from \$1 to \$1.50 per day. Those who have contracts for public works, such as railroads, pipe lines, etc., are overwhelmed with applications for work.

Wages like \$1.50, \$2 or \$2.50 per day, look pretty big to the man who the year round makes but 50 cents in cash, but they are not so big as they look. They are often inconsistent. A good many skilled laborers can work only a part of the year, but rent and other living expenses must be paid all the time. The city laborer must pay cash for everything, including many things which the farm hand is either furnished or permitted to raise for himself free of cost. Unless a workman of the \$2 grade has constant employment in a city like Pittsburg he is very likely to find the balance on the wrong side at the end of the year. If he has a family to support he must often live in cramped quarters, and must raise his children

amid surroundings unfavorable to their physical and moral development. Contrast this picture with the man on the farm, who, if he has a family, is often furnished a house at little or no cost, is often permitted to raise his vegetables, dairy products and meats, and is paid wages besides. Or with the single man who is kept, and if economical, has most of his wages at the end of the year. The country laborer who investigates the matter thoroughly will be very slow to change his certain employment and inexpensive living for a place where the reverse is unfortunately too common.—Mississippi Home and Farm.

## ABANDONED FARMS.

It is difficult for our readers in the great Central States of the Union to realize that anywhere in this country farms are actually being abandoned by their owners, left as unsalable and not worth holding longer. People here believe such stories are told for party effect, and refuse to believe them. But it is true that farms are being thus abandoned, and in the New England States where wealth is understood to be constantly on the increase, wealth is on the increase in the East, but it is not the wealth of the farmer or the farm; it is the wealth of the money changer and money and securities—the wealth that impoverishes. Our financial system enhances the value of money and securities, but it depresses farm and product values until only the more fertile farms are worth holding, and the less fertile, even in the centers of modern wealth, are being cast off and abandoned as an old garment may be cast off. Yet these abandoned farms are not unproductive. Under other conditions they would afford thousands of people happy homes.

But moralizing is not our purpose in writing this article; it is to give our skeptical readers official proof that farms are being abandoned in the East. The Secretary of the Massachusetts State Board of Agriculture, Mr. Sessions, in his report just published, gives some interesting information on the subject of abandoned farms in that State. When farms are abandoned there is no means of collecting taxes upon them. They may be offered at tax sales, but without purchasers the State, therefore, to save its own revenue, has gone into the real estate business, and has undertaken to dispose of these farms. Mr. Sessions reports 559 farms thus advertised for sale. Of the farms thus advertised, 238 were sold, 91 were reclaimed by their former owners, 120 former owners requested that their farms be continued in the list, and upon 110 of them no claim whatever could be found, and no purchasers secured.

Since 1890, Massachusetts has advertised for sale 650 abandoned farms, with a total of 70,838 acres. And Massachusetts is not alone. We have in our possession a long list of abandoned farms in New Hampshire, and similar lists have been officially published by nearly all the New England States. We cannot appreciate a prosperity which drives owners to the actual abandonment of their farms.—Progressive Home.

## LIVE STOCK.

### COTTON SEED HULLS AND MEAL FOR BEEF PRODUCTION.

The question of cotton seed hulls and meal for stock feeding has received attention from the North Carolina Experiment Station since 1888, when it was proved that cotton seed hulls and meal without any other food were a profitable ration for fattening beef for market. A recent bulletin published (No. 118) upon this subject includes digestibility of several rations with different proportions of hulls and meal even as close as 1½ of hulls and one of meal. The longest time that beef should be fed would be from 40 to 60 days, as it was determined that after this limit the feeding was mainly lost. The digestibility of these rations was carefully studied and determined by accurate and detailed examination and analysis. The manure recovered from the food given was carefully determined, and in every case the total value, in respect to fertilizing ingredients, was greater than the cost of the food given. It cannot be expected in practice that this result would be obtained, because there will necessarily be loss in management and handling of the manure.

As is the custom of the Experiment Station, a summary of the results written in plain, untechnical language is

given, in which only the detailed methods and actual results are given, so that anyone can study the progress of the experiments in the detailed methods used to secure the results. Only the portion containing general summary of 8 pages is sent to the general mailing list of the Station.

## THE HOG.

When the pigs have been born the mother needs the most care. Stir handful of middlings in water and let her eat when she feels like it. Soon thereafter she should have all the milk producing food she wants. See that her swill is sweet, lest scours follow the eating of it.

Early maturity is a prime necessity for pig raising, and it is folly to wait more than six months for an animal to show its points. If not exhibited by that time they are too slow in development for future use in breeding. Early marketable animals are demanded, and it is a saving to the grower also to feed well and liberally and sell while young.

Thumps in pigs is caused principally by overfeeding and poor protection from the weather, says the National Stockman. If taken in hand when first noticed it can, in most cases, be cured. The young pig must be compelled to take exercise; the sows given something to cool the system and clean out the bowels. It is a nice point in feeding to reach the greatest limit of pushing and escape this trouble. We have cured bad cases and had them do well afterward.

No other kind of root is so greedily eaten by pigs as the beet. It may not have so much nutrition as the potato, but what it has is sweet and therefore palatable. Even the fattening hogs will eat some beets every day, and should have them. But their best use is as green feed for sows that are giving milk. It will increase the quantity greatly, but it will need some grain feed with it to keep the sow thus fed from losing flesh too rapidly. It is expected of course that the sow will grow poor while suckling her young, but if this goes too far her value as a breeder is lessened, and the next litter of pigs will be deficient either in number or vigor and size.

There is no room for doubt that a better quality of pork is made by feeding the pigs a balanced ration during their growing period. But this is not all that is to be gained by following out a more rational policy in the feed lot. By proper methods of feeding when the pig is in the formative stages of his development the constitution is strengthened rather than weakened. We believe in a good bit of shorts, roots, milk and clover or lucerne for the growing pig. A reasonable amount of corn along with any or all these things is a good thing always, too. Feed the pig plenty, give him a variety of food when you can, observe a rigid regularity in all that you do for him, give him clean and dry quarters, with sunshine and room for exercise and you are on the road to success with him. Few men attempt to do this.

It is said that the ravages of the squash bug can be checked by keeping the vines covered with Paris green and plaster, mixed in the ratio of one part of Paris green to fifty parts of plaster. This would be too strong an application for almost any other vine, but the vines of the squash do not suffer any ill effects therefrom.

Boston Herald's Mexico City correspondence: There is one thing Mexico will not permit, and that is the growth and entrenchment in power of huge monopolies. The contemplated new banking law is a measure designed to give the country free banking outside of the federal districts, where the big banks are located. General Diaz is opposed to exclusive privileges, and has said so in public addresses. He has put out one railway against another, one bank in rivalry with another, and encouraged the growth of industries of a competitive character, but has not given his consent to what might be called destructive activity. His policy for the closing term of the century will be to foster Mexican manufactures, so as to give varied employment to the masses, and to open up new regions by railways, such as the big road recently projected by Mr. Frederick Bartlett, Chicago, for which a liberal charter has been negotiated, carrying with it about \$5,000,000 subsidy. Public schools are receiving the special care of the President, and the schools here in the federal district are to have the most modern school furniture, manufactured in Mexico of native iron and wood.