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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.

Vol. 12.

RALEIGH, N. C., FEBRUARY 9, 1897.

No. 1

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**PAPERS.**  
Progressive Farmer, State Organ, Raleigh, N. C.  
Dawn, Raleigh, N. C.  
Mercury, Hickory, N. C.  
Whitakers, N. C.  
Beaver Dam, N. C.  
The Populist, Lumberton, N. C.  
The People's Paper, Charlotte, N. C.  
The Vestibule, Concord, N. C.  
The Flow-Bay, 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 do so from the list promptly. Our people can now see what papers are published in their interest.

### AGRICULTURE.

The ideal berry ground would be, first, a rich, sandy loam with clay subsoil. Second, a dark loam or gravelly loam mixed slightly with clay, and a clay subsoil, all having a southerly or eastern slope.

In every neighborhood where special attention is given to gardening or fruit growing there should be a horticultural society. There are always some good seed grown at the meetings, and they help to make one enthusiastic in the business.

Forest leaves contain upon the average, at a rough estimate, some two dollars' worth of fertilizing material per ton, beside the value of the vegetable mold they will make. They are well worth the trouble of gathering and hauling, whenever there is nothing more important to be done.

Give your cattle salt frequently. It may be taken as an indication that cattle need salt when they are seen licking each other to get the briny exudations from the skin. Of course, this may become a habit. Indigestible balls of hair are often formed in the stomach, which cannot be hurtful.

Horses are scarce and high in Europe, and buyers come here to get them. Unfortunately they cannot find them. They come to our city markets only to find cheap, small horses. When they find a good horse the price is high, for our own demand for such is twice as great as the supply. Neither is a supply in sight.

Most of those who begin farming buy more land than they can pay for, because a part payment of land leaves good security for the balance. Then they find innumerable expenses in purchasing tools and stock to begin operations. The temptation always is to economize in the stock, thinking that it is easy to breed up. Some times this is done, but more often the economy in not buying the best stock dooms the farmer to the same labor and expense of caring for it, while it is, when grown not worth half, or a quarter, what it would have been if he had begun right at the first.

### FARMING ONE HUNDRED YEARS AGO.

The farmers of the present day are disposed to consider that their surroundings are not desirable and that their progress is not so great after all. If we review the history of farming a century ago as penned by the writers of that day, we will perceive that considerable advance has been made along all these lines. One hundred years ago the houses even of the better class of farmers seldom had more than two rooms on the first floor. In one, all cooking and all other domestic operations were carried on; the other was the sleeping and living room. All eating was done in the kitchen, and in very warm weather a portion of the cooking and washing were managed in the yard. In the sleeping room were the beds, in number proportioned to that of the family, while above them was usually a sort of attic or half story, sometimes plastered, more frequently not, where the boys were sent to sleep. The clothing was home spun linsey-woolsey, the material generally being spun by the housewife, woven by the nearest weaver, who took his pay in corn, pigs, hay and pumpkins, returning the finished cloth to the sender who proceeded without instruction, rules or patterns to cut it into trousers and coats for her husband and sons. The shoes of the family were of the coarsest leather, and like the clothing, lacked the fit of modern times. The diet was as simple as the clothing. Wheat bread was only used on grand occasions. Hog killing time about Christmas was the great festival of the year. The houses were ventilated by cracks in the doors, and at night were lighted by tallow candles that stood in constant need of snuffing and went out when ever the door was opened or closed.

Contrast this with the labor saving machinery of the present day, the improvements in clothing, in house comforts, and in the dwelling places themselves and the improved methods of husbandry, and farmers will see that they have much to be thankful for, and have greater opportunities presented to them than were presented to the farmers of a century ago.—Southern Farmer.

It would be hard to find any farmer who has gone intelligently into the sheep business, keeping good stock and giving good care, whose profits for the year have not been considerably augmented. If doubtful as to the profit in sheep, let us observe closely those who are handling them, and see if they are not arranging to carry still larger flocks.

### "POTASH IN AGRICULTURE"

Is the title of a pamphlet, published by the German Kali Works, No. 93 Nassau St., New York, N. Y. This book is known to many of our readers from its first edition, published a few years ago. The second edition contains many valuable improvements. The contents embody a collection of results obtained with fertilizers at our experiment stations. It would appear from these conclusions that many brands of fertilizers now on the market do not contain as much potash as they should for the production of the best results. It would certainly pay every farmer to write for a copy of this book, which we understand is sent free.

### CHEAP FARMS IN ENGLAND.

Farms in England are selling at a ruinous reduction of their former value, and in many cases cannot be sold at all. Many properties within two hours' ride of London are deserted. Recently at the sale of Langdon Abbey 639 acres of land, with farmhouse, stables, homestead and seven modern cottages, only realized \$28,500, or less than \$45 per acre. Fifty years ago the property was valued at over \$100,000 and four years ago it was mortgaged for \$70,000. In Essex county, within a day's walk of the Bank of England, a farm, which in 1875 rented for \$2,000, has for the last seven years rented for \$5 per annum, the occupant paying the tax, amounting to about \$750. In many cases farms have been sold for less than one tenth of their value 20 years ago. Well to do farmers are abandoning the business and going to the colonies or to the cities to start life anew. Nor does there seem to be any hopeful outlook for the industry in the future. Lord Salisbury recently declined to receive a deputation of English farmers, saying that he knew as much about the wants of the agriculturists as they could tell him, which was no doubt true, and it is

equally true that with the best will in the world the government is powerless to render them any material assistance. Although the situation is grievous, there may be some consolation in the fact that it is worse on the Continent and seems to be equally irremediable. We have not yet suffered so severely in this country, but have by no means escaped the depressing influences which seem to have fallen on agriculture everywhere.—N. Y. Tribune.

But isn't it a bit remarkable that such a state of affairs exists in the oldest gold standard country in the world.

### SUCCESSFUL CO-OPERATIVE BUYING

Our Alliance has a membership of about 80 and does an extensive grocery business. It deals mostly with whole sale houses, under contract with the State Alliance. During the last quarter we have averaged a trade of \$100 per month, with grocery department open only Saturday night, the evening of meeting. We have a purchasing agent who orders the goods and sets the price, enough extra only to pay freight and shrinkage. The members take turns in drawing the goods from the railway station, about five miles distant. A committee of four members, elected for three months without pay, fills orders for customers, and all is booked by one of this committee known as book keeper. An inventory is taken at the end of each quarter, reports made and the books are inspected by a finance committee. We deal with members only, so have but one price. A cash business is done, hence there are no debts standing on the books. The Alliance borrowed money of members in five and ten dollar shares at 6 per cent interest to pay bills in 10 days, thus securing a discount of 1 per cent.

Last spring we bought of a local dealer 150 bushels grass seed at a small advance over the wholesale price the day purchase made; each member to get his seed when he chooses, paying the per cent over the wholesale price that day. This gave the best of satisfaction and is being repeated at present. Flour is bought direct from the mills under contract with County Alliance. We also deal in furnishing goods, boots, shoes and rubbers, if ordered, but have not sufficient room to keep a stock on hand.—H. W. Fouts, Tioga Co., N. Y., in Farm and Home.

What is usually called "cold" soil is due mostly to excess of water which finds no outlet by sinking into it, and is forced to evaporate from the surface. This takes so much heat from the soil that vegetation will not grow readily in it. Hence the cold soil is very often thin as well, coming quickly to the clay on which it rests. If this clay is underdrained air and frost will pulverize it, enabling deep rooted plants to penetrate the soil and enrich it. So long as soil is filled with stagnant water it will only support ferns and mosses, whose roots run near the surface.

### POULTRY YARD

#### GRIT.

It is necessary that fowls have access to some kind of grit, if grain is fed in any considerable quantities. During the summer months, when they have free access to the yards or runs, it will not be necessary to provide grit, provided the soil is at all gravelly. If, on the other hand, the soil is fine sand or clay, it will be necessary not only to provide grit during the winter months, but throughout the whole year. Small pieces of crushed stone, flint, or crockeryware will answer the purpose admirably. There are many poultry houses which keep constantly on hand crushed granite in various sizes suitable for nearly all kinds of domestic fowls.

Crushed oyster shells, to a large extent, will supply the necessary material for grinding their food, at the same time furnish lime for the egg shells. Chemical analysis and experiments, together with the reports from many practical poultrymen, show conclusively that the ordinary grain and the green food supplied to laying hens do not contain enough lime for the formation of the egg shells. It will require several times as much lime as is ordinarily fed if green, strong egg shells are to be produced. Crushed oyster shells will supply this necessary lime if kept continually before the fowls, trusting to them to eat the amount needed to supply lime rather than mixing the shells with food. The judgment of the fowl can be relied upon in this respect.—Coleman's Rural World.

### LIVE STOCK.

#### SHEEP MANAGEMENT.

Mr. D. S. Smith's methods: Feed shock corn for a grain ration and all the clover hay they will eat up clean, up to about two months of the expected lamb crop. Then commence feeding bran and oats mixed in small quantities at first, but generally increase the bran and oats and decrease the shock corn so that about two weeks before the crop you have them on bran and oats—about one pint each morning and evening with all the clover hay they will eat up clean. A change to straw of other kind, of hay is good and eaten with a relish. Keep their sheds well bedded, a chunk of rock salt within their reach, and plenty of good, clean drinking water. Give them the run of a good-sized yard, or better, a few hours in the fields or pasture when the snow is not too deep. It does the ewes lots of good and makes stronger lambs. Good shelter, that can be closed up in stormy weather and cold nights, should be provided, and see to it that the sheep are under it, and especially during a cold, wet storm.

Where the peach tree is not pruned long, slender branches form, and these produce fruit mainly at their outer ends. The tree will carry much more fruit if properly distributed, and will produce more perfect fruit. The cutting will not be attended with injury if done while the tree is dormant. That the peach trees should be left to grow at will is an outgrown idea.

#### HOME-CURED HAMS.

As this is the butchering season, I will give my recipe for sugar curing hams and bacon on what is called the "ten day plan." I greatly prefer this plan to the one I used for over thirty years of curing in sweet pickle. The advantages of this plan are: first, it is cheaper, as it does not require a tight barrel, but we cure the meat in a sugar barrel, which cost but five cents; second, the meat is cured in about ten days, ready for smoking, and can then be put away, and will give no further trouble, and, third, I find that cured by this plan it is always right—neither too salt nor fresh, and always keeps; if the rule is followed in every detail every piece will be cured the same. The plan of curing is as follows: Rub the meat with a little salt when first cut up, and lay it on a bench or table to cool, and for the blood to drain from it; in two days begin the curing process. Weigh the meat, or, if it is not convenient to weigh all, weigh two or three average sized pieces and estimate the weight of the balance. For each 100 pounds weigh four pounds of salt and two pounds of sugar. I prefer granulated sugar, as it will mix with the salt more perfectly than the soft sugars. Some add an ounce of saltpetre, but I prefer to omit it. Next, divide your salt and sugar into three equal parts by weight or measure and rub one-third of it on the meat, rubbing it well in where the bone has been cut off, and on all the flesh part, pack in a sugar barrel and leave three days; then take the meat out and rub with another third, beginning with the pieces that were on top, so as to get them into the bottom of the barrel, for the bottom pieces will get a little more salt from the drip.

In three days take up the meat and use the last of the salt and sugar, observing the same rule in packing it, and three days more makes it ready to smoke. As soon as well smoked put it away for the summer. My plan of keeping smoked meat for the summer is to put it in paper flour sacks and hang it to the rafters in an attic. To prevent the grease from soaking through the bags, we put cut hay in the bottom for the ham to rest upon, and wrap the pieces well in old news papers. The sacks are impervious to flies and the meat always comes out in good condition.

A reader asks for an article on relieving choked cattle, but as in fifty years' experience on the farm I have never had an animal choke, I have nothing to offer on the subject. I feed several hundred bushels of roots each winter, and never cut them, as I find it useless labor, and I think cattle are quite likely to choke when eating roots cut into triangular pieces; but they will never choke on whole beets, as they bite out small mouthfuls from them and do not take two pieces in the mouth at once. Many of the beets this year weigh from ten to twelve pounds each, and the cows eat them without trouble.

Doubleless many of our readers are caught with shock corn still unhusked, and there is no more disagreeable work than husking corn from the shock in winter, as standing on frozen ground makes the feet cold, and when the frost comes out the mud is deep and sticky. To all who still have corn standing out in shocks I would say, make a long sled and bring the corn to the barn to husk. If you have a barn floor you can fill it, and if you have not, either buy or rent some lumber and make a temporary shed at the south end of the barn; you will only need a roof, for you can build a wall of fodder at the ends to keep the wind out and husk in the middle. It will not take a large shed to hold 100 shocks, and with even half this amount in, you will have work for one or two rainy days, when the fodder will be soft and nice to handle, and the weather warm and comfortable to work. There is always a time at the beginning of a thaw when shock corn can be drawn in comfortably, and one can keep warm at this work when he would suffer with cold if husking in the field. I would rather husk three shocks in a comfortable dry shed on a warm rainy day, or protected from the wind with the sun shining on me, than one shock out in the wind, standing on frozen ground or in cold mud.

I have often rented lumber for temporary purposes at about ten cents per 100 feet a month. The lumber that is light to handle, and while not fit for permanent work, is just as good as any for a temporary job. I rent nearly every spring from 800 to 1,000 feet of lumber for a month to cover my sweet potato beds. We usually get all of our corn husked before winter sets in, but if not we do not try to husk in the field, but bring it to the barn. I can put in from 100 to 150 shocks at once. Even during the pleasant fall weather we always keep a day's husking or more in the barn, so as not to lose the rainy days. Some times the fodder gets so dry that a large per cent of the blades and husks will break off and waste if husked in the field, and when this is the case we tear down the shocks at night and spread them out, and then in the early morning, while the fodder is tough, we draw it to the barn and husk it, where all the blades and husks can be saved.—Waldo F. Brown, in Prairie Farmer.

creamery should be carefully looked after. In the first place, care should be taken to thoroughly rinse off all the sawdust that may stick to the ice before the latter is placed in the tank. Next, be sure when straining the milk not to spill any of it into the water. But if any gets into it, then change the water at once; especially during warm weather.

Every dairyman should have a dairy room or house, and it should be located where no foul odors would be likely to reach it.

That cleanliness is next to Godliness is especially true when applied to dairying.

#### CLINTON, IOWA.

#### F. W. MOSELEY.

#### AT THE VERMONT STATION.

At the Vermont Experiment Station, four methods of feeding corn to dairy cows were tried: First, the whole plant was run through the cutter into the silo. Second, the ears were husked, cribbed, dried and ground, cob and all, and fed with the stalks that had been made into silage. Third, the corn was cut and cured in large shocks and before feeding was run through a cutter, ears and all. Fourth, the corn was husked from the fodder, ground with the cob, and fed with the stover that was cut as needed.

Analysis showed that the loss from each method was practically the same, except where the shocks were left exposed as the winter progressed the loss increased. In the silage the ears lost more of their value than in the shock or crib. Time and money spent husking and grinding the ears was wasted, as better results were obtained when the ears were left on the stalks and all run through the cutter before feeding. The silage forms were most relished by the cows and the dairy product greatest.

The experiments confirm the common opinion that for dairy cows, the corn crop in the form of silage is more valuable than in dry fodder and meal, probably because it is relished more and is eaten cleaner, but for steer feeding there is evidence going to show that steers fed on shock corn run through the cutter, ears and stalk, make better growth than where the corn is husked and the fodder and ears or meal is fed separately.

#### DAIRY SCHOOLS.

Modern advances in dairy knowledge have been so rapid and the inventor has so changed the apparatus and routine formerly in use that those who were experts have fallen behind in the march of events, and it is now scarcely possible to acquire expert knowledge in the farm dairies, where the practices of more than a quarter of a century ago are still followed. The establishing of dairy schools, where theoretical instruction as well as practical explanation in the use of the best apparatus could be given in accordance with the results of the latest scientific researches, therefore became necessary. "Dairy Schools," by R. A. Pearson, B. S., Assistant Chief of Dairy Division, Bureau of Animal Industry (Bulletin No. 17, Bureau of Animal Industry), which has just been issued by the Department of Agriculture, is intended to spread information concerning the good results these schools accomplish among the dairymen who either do not know of them or have only a vague idea as to their purposes. The subject is treated under the heads: Dairy instruction; Purposes of dairy schools; Methods of conducting dairy schools—requirements for admission, certificates and prizes, and cost of dairy course—Equipment; Advantages of a dairy course; Advantages of dairy schools to the public; and an Appendix, which contains statements of the facilities for instruction in dairying in the States and Territories. The illustrations consist of four full page plates: (1) Dairy hall, New York, and Dairy hall, Wisconsin; (2) Churning room and operating separators, Wisconsin; (3) Pasteurizing milk, Illinois, and cheese room, Minnesota; (4) Milk laboratory and live stock lecture room, Minnesota. Also two figures: (1) Receiving and sampling milk, College creamery, Iowa; (2) College creamery at Fargo, N. Dak. This publication is not for miscellaneous distribution by the Department, but can be secured from the Superintendent of Documents, Union Building, Washington, D. C., for 16 cents. 67471

Cleanliness is next to godliness, especially in handling milk and butter.

The water and ice tank of a portable