Vol. 12.

RALEIGH, N. C., FEBRUARY 16, 1897.

No. 2

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Jarolina Watchman. Sailsbury, N. Each of the above-named papers are requested to keep the list standing on he first page and add others, provided key are duly elected. Any paper failng to advocate the Ocala platform will be dropped from the list promptly. Our secole can now see what papers are ublished in their interest.

# AGRICULTURE.

Plant Irish potatoes just as soon as possible now if you want to be on the market first.

So far as it is possible to avoid, mi'k, cream, or butter should never be touched by the hands at any stage of manufacture.

Crude petroleum is a good paint for the iron work of wagons, machinery and tools. It is almost as cheap by the barrel as water.

Do unto me as you would have me do unto you, if our positions were changed, is the sentiment of every brute on the farm.

At the Kansas Station, wheat in ro tation with corn, roots and cats, gave five and one half bushels per acre more than wheat grown continuously every year.

The Pennsylviania State Experiment Station has issued a bulletin on "Com putation of Rations for Farm Animals, that in its simplicity and practicability. meets the requirements of every

The man who makes poultry pay a arge profit must have frying size chickens on the market early and feed so as to have eggs at the time of year when price is high and others' hens are

not laying. Easilage and the winter dairy are al most the complement of each other. Do not get ready to run a winter dairy and expect to make it pay wholly upon dry food. That is not the newer and

better way. The Wisconsin Experiment Station in the past has declared that 100 pounds | land. of sweet whey is worth seven cents as a promoter of flesh and health in calves, while sour whey is not worth anything. If true, it is a pointer worth something.

A farmer may not seem to be adding to his bank account at all these hard times, but so long as his farm is imwith a good one has made a success; vated crops. and a good farm will carry him safely through the declining years of life.

WHAT SHALL BE DONE WITH DEPLETED SOIL?

Correspondence of The Progressive Farmer.

Throughout the Southern and Cen tral States there are to be found thousands upon thousands of acres that have been so continuously planted to cotton, tobacco, etc , that their further culture has ceased to be remunerative, hence they are thrown out of cultiva tion, and allowed to grow up in per simmon, pine, briars and sage grass. This would not be so bad were it not for the fact that quite a considerable portion of the land now in cultivation in those States are but little, if any, than either of the other two, can vir more productive than the rejected "old fields." What are we going do about 11? Shall we turn those acres out like wise? Or shall be try to maintain the fertility of what we have left, and even increase the productive capacity of the depleted portions? We incline toward the latter decision, for the main reason that we see no other alternative. It is "rink" or "swim," "renovate" or go hungry with insufficient clothing; build up or starve; or worse still, enslave ourselves and our children. Re store the fertility of our depleted acres we have got too; but, how? is the interesting query. Cow peas, crimson clover, potash and phosphates, to strictly home supply of manure, is the has been grown and turned under, no watch his flock and determine which answer to the problem. "But," says nures will be needed. An occasional that suits him best. Nest bexes can be ously poor that it won't grow either peas or clover! What then?" In an swer to this we would say that we have | tween the corn rows. They should be | to send for the catalogues (ffered by been intimately acquainted with just such lands; and wherever there is a clay foundation, the lands are easily brought to, even though one has to ma nurs or fertilize the first crop of cow peasor clover.

used in conjunction with potash and phosphates, succeed in bringing up any land, let it be ever so poor. Our well worn clay soils are notoriously deficient in potash; while our sandy soils are seriously deficient in both potash and phorphoric acid. It is a well established fact that cow peas and the various members of the clover family accumulate considerable stores of or ganic nitrogen from the supply of that element already present in the soil and subsoil, and also that they also attract and hold for future use vast quantities of atmospheric nitrogen; but it is also a fact just as well established but not so wit ely known, that the nodules on the roots of the various legumes (the nidus or hiding place of the microbes that attract and secrete this atmo spheric nitrogen) are present or absent in a ratio or degree exactly corresponding with the diminutive or luxuriant growth of the leguminous crop planted. If the growth of the renovating crop is especially luxuriant, the accumulation of nitrogen will accord therewith and vice versa, if the growth is puny, weak, and spindling, the amount of nitrogen accumulated will be corresponding y nitrogen, it is plainly manifest that the more liberal we are in our applicacation of these elements, the more luxuriant the growth, the greater the amount of nitrogen stored up, the faster the land acquires its needed fertility, and the greater the profit from cayed vegetable matter, humus or mold, is what all these deplete soils

it can be obtained. G. H. TURNER Burgess, Miss.

need; and the plan outlined above is

the fastest and cheapest way in which

# COW PEAS.

Correspondence of the Progressive Farmer. They should be cultivated in drills, not sown broadcast, as a renovator of

The objections to sowing peas are: 1. If sown among corn at the last plowing, it is usually done too early to permit the corn to receive the neces sary cultivation, and too late for the

2. If sown after wheat or oats have been harvested they are likewise too proving he is all right. A man who late. More than this, the time devoted starts with a common farm and ends to sowing is usually needed on culti-

peas to mature properly before frost.

proper cultivation. Consequently peas an agricultural journal.

should never be sown, except on rich land to be mown as hay.

A pea crop to give good results, should be properly stimulated. A perfect fertilizer contains three elements: farmers can study until they thornitrogen, phosphoric acid and potash; oughly understand them and afteracid phosphate and kainit contain respectively the two last. Peas draw the needed nitrogen from the air and cultu al journal does not say to the consequently do not need a direct application of nitrogenous manures, such | do the rest." The agricultural journal as stable, guano, etc. Hence by an application of the two last elements and by growing and turning a crop of | constituting the science of agriculture. peas in connection therewith, the first, (nitroger), which is by far more costly tually be grown. By noting this fact | ing the principle than the actual prac and acting accordingly, farmers can reap an immense advantage.

As a proper stimulant for the peas, I suggest an application of 300 pounds of acid phosphate and 400 pounds of kainit per acre, sown broadcast and plowed under about March 15th. Early in April lay off in drills 8 feet apart, preferably in line with the sun at 2 o'clock and drop corn 8 to 12 inches apart, be ing half the distance usually required when the drills are 4 feet apart.

consequently it will be necessary to year. In February the poultry keeper strew a proper quantity of stable manure, guano other nitrogenous manure, stock for the coming season. He will gether with a scrupulous saving of the | in the drill. After a crop of pea vines | have had time during the winter to only true, legitimate and satisfactory further application of nitrogenous ma- birds come nearest his ideal of the style one, "suppose the land is so outrage pea crop should be turned under. From overhauled and fixed up for the com the 1st to the 10th of June, cow peas | ing need of them, and plans for hatch should be planted in drills midway be- ing perfected. Our readers are advised thinned to 1 vine 6 six inches apart. The plants should be pulled up, not These machines are now so far per-

should be planted about May 20th and than one hundred chicks should have the plants left one foot apart. Some a brooder, even if the hatching is to 'Cow peas and clover will, when experiments as to distance, from 6 to 8 be done with hens. It is a question feet in the drill, may be made with both kinds of peas. If you wish to unless 200 or more chicks are to be grow peas, they should have distance; hatched. If very early chicks are deif vines, they may be thicker. The tired incubators must be used, as it is Olay and Wonderful are believed to be impossible to get hens to sit before some best varieties for fall purposes.

> Cultivate thoroughly until the vines become too large to work.

Early in the fall, preferably before frost, adopt necessary measures for turning under the corn stalks and pea vines. Then sow from 1 to 2 bushels of wheat per acre. Seventy five bush els of corn and from 30 to 50 bushels of peas can thus easily be grown per acre, and from 25 to 40 bushels of wheat. Clover seed may be sown on the wheat about April 1st and harrowed in Every farmer should try at least two acres on the above plan.

ERYAN TYSON. Raleigh, N. C.

# BOOK FARMING.

The prejudice against what is termed 'book farming" is very strong, al though based on unsubstantial grounds. It is gratifying to know that this prejudice is gradually decreasing, and as education becomes more general, will small. Potash and phosphates are all be wholly eliminated. By "book farmthat is necessary to apply in order to ing" the reading of agricultural papers induce a luxuriant growth; and as is implied. There are not a few suc these are the cheaper forms of fertil zers | cessful farmers who decry book farm and are indispensable to the life, ing, and yet in their practice negative growth and well being of the renovat | their position. It will generally be ing crop while it is engaged in the noted of them that they absorb readily, work of capturing the more expensive but never give out information. With great eagerness they gather up oral hints and suggestions from their neighbors and are the closest observers of what is going on their own farms and the farms of others, says the Southern Cultivator.

Will the mere fact of the publication the investment. Organic matter, de of their own experience or what infor mation they may have obtained from others in an agricultural journal or in book form invalidate the correctness and value of that experience or information? Does a reflector behind a lamp destroy the brightness of the light? How can it demonstrate the correctness of an experience by obtaining the details of it orally? Why should reading in print the same experience demonstrate its uncorrectness?

Books and agricultural journals, in recording the experiences and observa tions of others, and the conclusions drawn therefrom, serve as the reflector behind the light to extend its focal power and bring out more perfectly its illuminating power.

It may be said truthfully that every observation written is not absolutely correct. Neither would it be correct if it was spoken instead of being written.

The real base of this prejudice is the fact that readers do not always com-3 The vines are dwarfed for lack of prehend the real mission and object of

Let readers learn that the mission of agricultural journals is not to lay down a fixed rule for the guidance of farmers, but to enunciate principles which wards apply according to varying circumstances and conditions. The agrifarmer, "You press the button; we will elucidates and explains the general principles underlying the practice and

The agricultural journal should be read for the purpose of learning the why and the how, and more for learntice. It should be used by the farmer as any other implement, intelligently and for the purpose intended. Thus used they are among the best invest ments on the farm.

### POULTRY YARD

#### POULTRY IN FEBRUARY.

February is the month of preparation. It is the time to begin to study Corn requires a perfect fertilizer and over the operations for the coming should begin to pick out his breeding the makers of incubators and brooders. fected that they are very reliable, and The Wonderful, or Uaknown pea, any one who expects to hatch more whether it pays to buy an incubator time in March, except in rare cases.

> We used brooders before we did in cubators, and after the first seasons experience concluded never to raise any more fowls with a hen mother, as the brooder makes it as easy to take care of 100 chicks as it is to watch one old hen with a dozen chicks, says the Farmers' Voice.

> Those who keep purebred fowls-and every breeder ought to do so-should separate their breeding hens from the main flock the latter part of this month, and place with them the male he de sires to breed from, in order to have the eggs of pure blood and known parentage.

Breeding pens should be mated up at least a month before any eggs are saved for hatching in order to be perfectly sure of the eggs being all right, though in a pinch and when the hens are laying freely, half this time will do.

If the poultry house is thoroughly purified and cleansed during February half the battle against lice and mites is fought. During some warm day all the nest boxes and perches should be taken out of the house and scalded by pouring boiling water on them freely. Then the inside of the house should be white washed, put ing on a liberal coat of thick, hot white wash with an old broom. Replace the perches and nest boxes and give them a coat of kerosene and the lice and mites will have been killed, and all the eggs in the cracks about the house destroyed. It will be but little trouble after this to keep all such pests under subjection.

It should be remembered that it takes but a moderately cold day to chill eggs long branches. Pruned a little every enough to kill the germ in them, and eggs that are to be used in hatching early chickens should be gathered fre quently and kept in a warm place.

If hens are to be used for hatching, prepare a place where a dozen may be set at the same time. If this is done better. the chicks may all be put in one brocder or the hatch may be doubled up and given to half the hens, while the other hens are set again or turned out to get thick. Fewer branches, permitting of ready to begin business in the way of producing eggs. Frequently, in early hatches, two or three hens will hatch only as many chickens as one can care for and it is a waste of time to allow all of them to run with a lot of chicks that one of them could care for.

March is a wet and sloppy month usually, and the good poultry keeper will prepare to keep his poultry yards as dry as possible in order to make his some of the older shoots yearly, not alable fowl will do any good in any way. of young shoots. In this way the trees able and obedient.

#### HORTICULTURE HORTICULTURAL HINTS.

T. B. Terry thinks the Ozark region

fruit garden of the world. Greenfield, Mo. It is five feet around | cut out, the largest part of the trunk, and when in its prime had a spread of 80 feet.

business. He cannot at the same time be a banker, grocer, or dry goods merchant. Personal experience is needed.

Every fruit grower should have some specialty for a leader and also a num ber of auxiliary crops to protect against danger of total failure any one year. -Massachusetts Plowman.

#### PRUNING IN THE FRUIT ORCH ARD.

some leisure to the orchardist, it ought | better for being cut down completely not to be one of entire inactivity, for | to the ground to give them an entirely there is pruning to be done, and its new start. proper performance is a matter of much importance. The young orchard have an abundance of young wood. may need but little hard work, but it There are those who prefer to have will need much head work, for on its little else besides young canes from the proper treatment now will depend ground each year. At the same time, whether or not it is to afford pleasure | if the last year's fruiting cane be well and profit in after years.

more than the thinning out of branches | the side shoots back to within two or where they are too thick, and the three eyes of the main stem. This cutshortening in of others that may need | ting back decreases the number of it to give good shape to the future tree. It is by judicious work in this way in are produced. - Joseph Meehan, Gerthe early years of an orchard that wellformed, beautiful trees are developed. There is no gain in having branches too low. Prune them up to five or six feet, that getting about under them is practicable. Large trees often need no pruning. Some times where a branch is unthrifty, it is better to cut it cut, to induce a new healthy one to take its place. And where such large trees have not been well pruned when young, there may be large limbs which need later it went the other way and by the cutting out that others may be benefited. When such is the case, saw off close to the trunk, and paint the scar to prevent decay.

Much the same rules apply to prunmakes more branches when young, it needs closer attention at that time. Very often good sized trees are seen with far too many branches on them. The tendency of almost all pruners is to leave too many branches. Do not let them interlace each other. The time to cut them out when they show a tendency to do this, is when they are quite young. Cut them off close to the limb they start from, that no bucs will be left to start afresh. The large, round buds of winter are the ones that bear the flowers. Sime times in pruning it is well to observe them, as it sometimes occurs that it is desirable a certain kind should flower the coming season. Bearing trees will often have their branches brought out of shape by the weight of fruit. Prune such crooked branches in such a way that a good outline will be kept up.

The cherry needs little pruning after the first few years, and, in fact, what it needs at first is but a little to give it outline. It is unwise to cut it much after it gets large, as it is a tree which resents cutting, healing slowly, and when old, some times not at all. For the same reason care should be taken not to bruise the bark of this tree.

Peaches and apricote are little pruned as usually seep, and yet few fruit trees are more benefited by it. Should there be no young wood there will be no fruit. Left to grow as they will, which is the usual way, what little young growth is made is at the extremity of tree, from near the ground to the top. Do not let strong shoots go unpruned. Not only is a little winter pruning good, that of summer, performed while growth is still going on, is perhaps

In regard to the plum, what has been said of the pear applies to it very well. Keep the branches from getting too more air and light to the remainder, would bring better fruit to many a tree. Watch the plum, to cut out diseased branches as soon as seen, be it winter or summer.

I have the best success with quinces when I prune them well. A lot of old wood is of no use to them. There must be a good many strong young shoots for succession to get fruit. Cut out

are always in a condition to bear, and a crop will rarely be missed. I have in mind a particular tree so pruned that has not missed a crop a single of Southern Missouri is to become the season in fifteen years. Some times the pruning brings too many young The largest peach tree on record is at shoots, and some of them have to be

In the small fruit line a shortening in of the canes of raspberries and black-The fruit grower must attend to berries should be made, the former to about four feet and the latter to five feet. All old canes should be cut out. Currants and gooseberries need little pruning except to prevent them carrying too many shoots, and to keep up a supply of young wood. The fruit is the best on strong two year shoots, and the aim must be to keep up a supply of these. The English type of gooseberry does not produce as much wood as our native sorts; hence needs less pruning. I have known old bushes While the winter season is one of of currants and gooseberries to be the

Grapes must be pruned in a way to provided with side shoots, it will prove The young apple orchard needs little satisfactory for another crop. Prune bunches, but adds to the size of what mantown, Pa., in Country Gentleman.

### THE DAIRY.

#### BUTTER PRICES.

Correspondence of The Progressive Farmer. At, or a little before the beginning of the year of 1896, the writer and many others were quite hopeful regarding the outlook for butter, and at that time there did seem to be a strengthening up of prices, but a little first of May the butter market was pretty flat and was disappointing the

balance of the year. But low in price as butter was, it paid as well or better than anything ing the pear as to the apple, but as it else produced on the farm except eggs. Even now utter is lower in price than it usually is at this time of the year. But when we remember how very low prices are for grain, it does seem that it will bring more converted into butter-butter of good quality than any other way of marketing would be likely to to return-if, as heretofcre, except production of eggs. This is espe-

cially true of corn. Doubtless many went out of the dairy business during 1896 and many more reduced their number of cows fully fifty per cent., and others made even a greater reduction of their herd. Those that did either belong mainly to that class of farmers who rushed into dairying expecting to get suddenly rich. As a rule, the last ones to go into dairying are the first ones to go out when a depression in prices comes. It is the old dairymen that as a rule stay by through the ups and downs of the business. They are the ones that in the end win success, as a rule.

There would be sense in a farmer disposing of one half his herd if he would get rid of the poorest cows and by better methods of care and feeding increase the butter production of those retained. This can many time be done. All the money made in dairying has been made with good cows well fed and cared for.

If times improve so that the purchasing power of the people of of this country proves greater during this year than it was last, butterought to average higher in price during 1897 than it did during 1896. There are some year, there is young wood over all the ifs in the way, yet there are reasons for being hopeful.

> During the past year filled cheese received a black eye and that makes a better market for good cheese, which will naturally result in diverting a larger proportion of the milk product to cheese making than has gone in that direction for several years past. Taking all these facts into consideration, it seems there is really no need for any one to abandon butter making who is weil established and who will do his best to increase product per cow and improve quality. The farmer that will not do that better be out of the business, anyway.

F. W. MOSELEY.

Clinton, Iowa.

Love your wife and children, your farm and live stock, and you will feel better and be able to face adverse conditions. Pet your horses and cows and fowls comfortable for no uncomfort | together, but well back, to get a supply | they will love you and be more profit-