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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 23, 1897.

No. 3

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### PAPERS.

Progressive Farmer, State Organ, Raleigh, N. C.  
Canebrake, Raleigh, N. C.  
Hickory, N. C.  
Whitakers, N. C.  
Beaver Dam, N. C.  
Lumberton, N. C.  
Charlotte, N. C.  
Concord, N. C.  
Wadesboro, N. C.  
Saurisbury, N. C.  
Carolina Watchman.

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.

Reports come from Indiana and Illinois that winter wheat has been damaged considerably by the November freeze. Bears in the Chicago wheat pit can find little comfort out of the report.

A lady in Iowa gives the following as a remedy for cough in pigs, and she says it is a sure cure: It consists of a half pint of kerosene in the swill, and continue until it has been given for three days.

On the farm, as elsewhere, and in every line of business in these days of competition it will be found that the successful man, be he farmer, merchant, or mechanic, will be the one who gives the closest attention to the minutest details of his business.

There is something wrong in farm management when the farmer is compelled to do without butter in the winter time, and has a surplus of oily stuff that brings a very low price in summer. Good butter of home manufacture should be on the farmer's table every day in the year.

Feed the orchard before fertility begins to be exhausted. Phosphoric acid, potash and nitrogen must be applied to keep up fertility. Many of our orchards are starved to death. Potash is the principal ingredient in apples and peaches, while nitrogen predominates in pears. The orchardist must bear such facts as these in mind when fertilizing his orchards.

The farmer on a few acres cannot compete in growing the staple grain crops which, harvested as they are now by machinery, can only be grown profitably on large fields. The small farmer must devote his time, skill and land to special crops that require the greatest amount of labor to make successful. If he does this thoroughly his limitation as regards land will prove an advantage, not an injury. It is only by thoroughly mastering some one business and then sticking to it that men make money. This is as true of the farmer as of men engaged in other vocations.

### AGRICULTURAL HINTS.

More hay and less grain makes the farm easier to handle.

With good roads the farmer will have a better choice of markets.

The cost of keeping a good animal is little more than a poor one.

Save all the wood ashes. They make a good fertilizer for small fruits or potatoes.

Keep the manure hauled out during the winter, applying on the field where it is most needed.

The more a milk cow will assimilate in excess of what is required for maintenance the better.

Cleanliness is as essential as shelter and food. Stock will not eat wet fodder to an advantage.

The principal advantage in using salt as a fertilizer is that it helps to make plant food in the air available.

No matter how good a pedigree an animal may have, individual merit and good conditions are essential.

With quite a number of farm products, low prices are caused not so much by overproduction as by poor quality.

With fattening hogs, allowing food to remain within reach after the appetite is satisfied injures the digestion and decreases thrift.—Farmers' Union.

### WHAT IS SPILTZ?

Correspondence of the Progressive Farmer.

Since sending our seed catalogue to the editors of agricultural newspapers a few weeks ago, we have had the above question asked us quite a number of times, and it has been asked by some leading agricultural editors. Thinking that you also might feel interested in this wonderful new grain, we take pleasure in enclosing a small sample of it, and will give you such information as we have been able to glean from the two men who have been growing for several years past.

Botanically, it is known as *Triticum Spelta*, and is a corn grass intermediate between wheat and barley. One agricultural encyclopedia states "this is supposed to be the rye grown in Egypt in the time of Moses." Another authority states that it is probably the "Far" of the ancient Romans and the "Zea" of the ancient Greeks. For centuries past it has been grown, to a limited extent, in Eastern Russia near the Caspian Sea, its value not being generally known to the agriculturists of the civilized world.

Six years ago, an emigrant from there, brought a small quantity of the grain to this country, and has been growing it here every year since. It has proved an exceptionally profitable crop, and he seems to have had no other thought than to use it for feeding purposes. Two years ago a prosperous American farmer, who was a neighbor of his, secured sufficient seed to sow five acres, and was surprised at the large crop produced. Last year, he again sowed a large field, and it produced a larger crop than either barley or oats grown in the same section, and he considers it of much higher feeding value.

He writes us that under the same circumstances it will produce double as much as barley, and in feeding value it is superior to barley, oats or rye. It grows somewhat higher than barley, stands up exceptionally well, making it easy to cut with a binder. One bushel of seed is sufficient to sow an acre, as it stools out heavily. The chaff adheres to the grain when thrashed, and it seems to do better on poor land than any other grain. We believe it will prove of much value for milling as well as for feeding. We have only a small quantity of the seed to offer this year, as most of the crop had been fed before we heard of it.

Yours truly,  
IOWA SEED COMPANY,  
Des Moines, Iowa.

### FIELD EXPERIMENTS WITH CORN.

Experiments at the Missouri Station, tests were made of fifty six varieties of corn. The highest average yield of any one variety on three years was 57.4 bushels per acre.

Applications of fertilizers were made at the uniform rate of ten tons of barnyard manure per acre, fermented and unfermented, solid horse and cattle manure alone, and solid and liquid manure combined. These were applied both on the surface and plowed under. Where fresh barnyard manure was applied twice in three years an average increase in yield was obtained of \$6.6

per cent. Larger yields were obtained from the combined solid and liquid manure than from solid manure alone. Horse manure produced larger yields than cattle manure. Plowing manure under was better than applying it on the surface.

Almost all stable manure is deficient in potash. It is best supplied in the form of German potash salts, which are not caustic, and will absorb ammonia rather than dissipate it if applied to manure heaps. In this way a double purpose is accomplished. The most valuable quality of the manure is saved, and the manure is at the same time reinforced in the mineral fertilizer which it most lacked to be effective.

### OVERPRODUCTION OR UNDER-CONSUMPTION.

The question of overproduction as a cause for the general depression in the price of agricultural products, has been so thoroughly discussed that it seems that anything further said on the subject would be superfluous. But to attribute the present hard times, the scarcity of money among farmers, their inability to meet their liabilities, or pay their current expenses, to overproduction, would appear to be loading that particular horn of the dilemma with more than it will carry. In a discussion of the subject "Some Reasons for the Present Depression," by A. R. Eastman, of Waterville, N. Y., at the meeting of the Pennsylvania State Dairymen's Association, it was shown that the number of farms, according to the census of 1890, in the United States was 4,564,641. Showing an increase of farms of proportion with the increase in population, indicating that a larger percentage of our population has turned their attention to agricultural pursuits, says the Pennsylvania Farmer.

This is not altogether correct as to the population. In 1850 over 60 per cent. of our population were engaged in agriculture, while in 1890 about 44 per cent. were farmers. But that the introduction of labor saving machinery has increased the product per capita of the number engaged in agriculture, every one will admit. Yet it is difficult for the most credulous to believe that there is an overproduction in this country, if the consuming millions were not impoverished by other conditions and influences to such a degree that they are unable to buy a full ration of the necessities of life, and hundreds of thousands are bordering on starvation, or at the present time depending on public and private charity. We seriously doubt that there is even an overproduction of apples or potatoes or those perishable articles that are of short duration, if they they were properly distributed. But the great obstacle in the way is the lack of money with which to purchase agricultural products, even at the low and unremunerative prices for which they are offered. Mr. Eastman attributed some of the causes of the present depression to the farmer's lack of thought. Who can say of the farmers of this country that they have not done their full duty in their effort to feed and clothe mankind. They have produced from their fields and flocks not only the fiber and the food to supply the wants of the 70,000,000 of our own people, but have furnished 73 per cent. of all the exports to the foreign markets of the world. What more could have been done by the farmers in the way of agriculture, by thought?

It is true not enough attention was given by the farmer to what was going on outside of agriculture. While he was struggling to increase the quantity of his product to keep up his income, in spite of the falling prices of his products, the money shark was whispering in the ear of Congress to demonetize silver and increase the purchasing power of gold, to make every dollar of the capitalist and the lender of money cover two dollars' worth of the products of the farmer's toil. While the farmer was cultivating the surface of his farm, the money schemer was securing legislation by which to take not only one-half the products, but to take from the land also one-half of the value, that had been the slow but steady accumulation of the years and generations of the past. Thus, vicious and unjust legislation began the impoverishment of the farmer, for the benefit of the money changer, which has been going on ever since; the farmer becoming no longer able to purchase the products of manufacturers and other industries that furnished employment to a vast consuming popu-

lation, these industries have been closed for want of orders, and their laborers thrown out of employment, and with no work they have no money to buy the farmer's product. This is the true cause of the present depression.

The effort to restore the equilibrium of our finances and industry, by a higher rate of tariff duties on manufactures must fail, for the reason that the tariff is a tax on everything the farmer has to buy, and gives him nothing in return. Prosperity can never come to the farmer from any such source, or through any such policy, and unless the farmer is prosperous all other industries will languish. Give the farmers the bimetallic currency with which they can make this country what it was, and upon which all values were based up to 1873; and they in turn will start the machinery in the factories by once more becoming the greatest purchasers of the product of the manufacturing industries. Then labor will again be employed and the idle, waiting, starving workmen will purchase with their earnings the product of the farmer, and keep the endless chain of prosperity on its ceaseless round benefiting and blessing mankind. There will then be no such thing as overproduction, caused by underconsumption, and no underconsumption caused by underemployment of labor, and no underemployment of labor caused by the impoverishment of the 34,000,000 of people who live on farms in the United States; impoverished by the demoralization of silver and the establishment of the gold standard, which has robbed the honest, industrious farmers of one half of all their earthly possessions, to gratify the unhallowed avarice of the English and American money changers, and satiate their sordid greed for gold. Let the government return to the tried and true policy of our fathers and the very face of nature will again be wreathed in smiles.

### NEEDS CAREFUL INVESTIGATION.

Dealing in "futures" is a system that should be carefully investigated by Congress. Some maintain that it is an advantage to farmers, while others assert that it decreases prices while products are held by the producers, the rise in prices going to a class which simply deposit certain sums as wagers on the results. There is no doubt, however, as long as the system exists there will continue to be an uncertainty in prices, and that the farmer will be compelled to suffer all the losses, but will not share in the profits. Much of the business done by the manipulators of wheat and other grains is not based on the articles at all, as it frequently happens that more grain is sold than exists in the whole country.—Colman's Rural World.

Hot baths made by putting sulphur in water are a specific for scab in sheep. It is very infectious, and any sheep having it should be kept by itself. The bath will need to be repeated at intervals of one or two or three days, for at least three times, in order to destroy germs that were not advanced enough for the first application to kill. The Australian sheep growers have succeeded in eradicating scab from that country. Now every sheep brought to Australia has to submit the bath once to destroy possible germs that have not become visible.

### HOW TO CURE HAMS.

A woman correspondent of the Charleston Courier thus describes her method of preserving hams:

"The borated, smoking and various other remedies all proved unsatisfactory, so, by way of experiment, I conceived the idea of packing meat away in dry ashes. Apply a pinch of saltpetre at the joints, and after sufficient time has been allowed for curing in salt, say three to four weeks, take out, wash and dry thoroughly, then wrap each piece separately in thin cloth. Then pack away with alternate layers of dry oak leaves.

The first trial proved a grand success. Since then I've not had the least trouble in keeping my meat.

You will find that this simple and inexpensive process not only prevents all attacks from insects, but keeps the meat in a perfect state of preservation, therefore it retains the natural sweet, juicy flavor, which, in my judgment, is the first and greatest thought under consideration. Hams treated in this way will keep all summer perfectly sound and fresh."

### HORTICULTURE MORE MANURE FOR ORCHARDS

While the experience of many apple growers this year is most discouraging on account of low prices, it remains true that, taking a series of years for our reckoning, the apple orchard has paid better than any other equal acreage of the farm. It is quite likely to do so next year, for the small proportion of apple trees that will bear in 1897 will bring fruit that will sell for much higher prices than for many previous years. Hence, instead of destroying or neglecting the apple orchard, it should have during 1897 greater care than ever before. While we would not advise heavy manuring of orchards now, they should all have a liberal supply of potash and phosphate fertilizers, not merely to fit them for fruit bearing in 1897, but for the years that follow after. It is the amount of mineral fertilizers that mainly determines the quantity and quality of the fruit the trees produce. But to secure the best results this mineral fertilizer should be applied at least a year before fruit is expected. Nature does not form fruit buds unless the mineral fertility needed to perfect the fruit has been first supplied.—American Cultivator.

The planting of a tree, whether for fruit, timber or ornament, increases the value of the land. The value of many farms could be almost doubled in a few years, at least in a generation, by judicious tree planting.

### WIND-UP CRANBERRY SEASON.

An unprofitable year is rapidly drawing to a close, the cranberry movement and market being a succession of disappointments from first to last. February prices are very much lower than they should be, and far less than an average one year with another. Two chief causes have operated to make the year unsatisfactory to cranberry growers. One, the overwhelming crop of apples, which has made this fruit plentiful in every nook and corner of the land at prices perhaps the lowest on record, very largely supplying a place which ordinarily would be filled to some extent by cranberries. Scarcely less important in causing low prices was the poor keeping quality of berries, notably those from Cape Cod. Consumers in regard to cranberries as a luxury, and even though prices have been low from the beginning, the general business quietude no doubt had its influence in restricted distribution.

As shown in our exclusive report last October, the '96 cranberry crop in New Jersey was especially small, and testimony throughout the entire season has verified this estimate. As for Cape Cod, we pointed out at that time that while the crop was apparently only a moderate one, numerous small bogs turned off greatly increased yields, and many sections of New England which ordinarily show up only small quantities, last year harvested a good many berries. These unexpected pockets have to some extent swelled the aggregate New England supply, but what was more important still, a considerable part of the Cape Cod fruit turned out even more seriously damaged, through unfavorable summer weather, than seemed probable in the early autumn. The poor keeping quality of these berries has proved very mischievous. Large quantities were placed on the market soft and wet, but not only damaging the sale of really choice fruit, whether grown East or West, but also restricting the sale of poor and common qualities. As a result, while the aggregate cranberry crop was a small one, growers received no adequate price remuneration. Frost and wet weather combined to make nearly all the late fruit reach the market in extremely poor condition, and berries commencing to show bad order, prices were speedily made which would move them quickly. Dealers have lost money on their stock, and during the past few weeks have had all the berries they could handle forced on them, strictly on commission.

A top price in practically all markets is \$5 per barrel for very best berries, with some transactions of good to choice fruit as low as \$3.50 to \$4, and from that all the way down to 50 cents for soft and damaged stock. This holds true in Chicago, Philadelphia, New York and Boston. As for reserves in growers' hands, these are greatly reduced, particularly in Wisconsin and New Jersey, careful estimates from the last named State placing it at 15 to 25 per cent. of the '96 crop there. A number

of small points in Cape Cod still contain cranberries, which are being held for a better market. Still others have shipped, but up to the present time received no sale returns. It is now so late in the season that growers and dealers as a rule do not anticipate any appreciable advance, and are closing out as rapidly as practicable. At the recent meeting of the American cranberry growers' association at Trenton the general feeling expressed was one of discouragement, prices having declined so much in the last few years, until they are now regarded as very close to cost of production. There has been no foreign outlet of consequence, the company which was organized to promote the export business shipping only 600 bushels to Europe from the crop of '96.—American Agriculturist.

If you are in the dairy business to stay, there is more than one reason for raising your own calves. You cannot only develop the best milking strains in this way, but you can be sure of having quiet and gentle cows.

### LIVE STOCK.

#### IS HOG CHOLERA CONTAGIOUS?

A reader in Fayette county, Iowa, writes us that a man has been in that locality claiming to be able to cure hog cholera. He also alleges that the disease is not contagious, and in order to prove his theory has brought some healthy hogs and put them in with the sick ones. The correspondent wishes to know our ideas on the subject, says says the Western Live Stock Journal.

The term "hog cholera" has been used throughout the country with a great deal of looseness. We feel morally certain that a great many thousands of hogs die annually of ailments that are not hog cholera at all, and are nevertheless popularly attributed to that disease. Any one with experience in such ailments, only might very easily observe facts which would lead him to believe that they were not contagious, and this might also be in accordance with the fact; and as they are popularly called hog cholera, he might infer from these facts that hog cholera is not contagious. If, however, there be any one well settled fact with respect to genuine hog cholera, it is that it is a very contagious disease. Accurate inoculation experiments have shown this, as have also hundreds of equally accurate experiments made in the way our correspondent speaks of, namely, by turning healthy hogs in among those having the disease. Our further beliefs with respect to hog cholera are that the contagion may be made more virulent by such faults in breeding and management as decrease constitutional vigor and lessen resisting power. For example, every one of us every day of our lives come in contact in some way, with the contagion of tuberculosis, but it is only when those organs that are primarily involved in the contraction of the disease are in some way lowered in tone, as for example, by severe colds, that we are in danger of taking consumption. So likewise, as bad sanitary conditions add to the virulence of many contagious diseases in the human family, so bad sanitation in the care of swine probably increases the virulence of hog cholera contagion.

It follows from what we have said that we have no favorable opinion of any proposition to treat hog cholera upon a theory which presupposes its non-contagious character. A bad attack of non-contagious indigestion that would kill a hog if permitted to have its course, may be cured, but such cure does not warrant any one in assuming that he has thereby cured a case of hog cholera. So with the numerous other affections that hogs die of that are not contagious, but are popularly called hog cholera. It is possible that they may be cured, but such cure does not imply that hog cholera would yield to the same treatment. We think the ravages may be very considerably minimized by such care in breeding, feeding and general management as will promote a high degree of vigor, both constitutional and otherwise. It is possible also that methods may be discovered that will actually cure cholera in a reasonable number of cases, but such discovery will not be made along lines that assume cholera to be non-contagious, unless all accurate experiments with respect to this feature of the disease that have been so abundantly made in the past would prove worthless.

Now is the time to pay your subscription. To-morrow may be too late.