

"The Progressive Farmer is a good paper—far above the average—and possibly the best advertising medium in N. C." Printers' Ink.



# 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., APRIL 6, 1897.

No. 9

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## PAPERS.

Progressive Farmer, State Organ, Raleigh, N. C.  
The American, Raleigh, N. C.  
The Standard, Raleigh, N. C.  
The Mercury, Hickory, N. C.  
The Sentinel, Salisbury, N. C.  
The Home, Whiteakers, N. C.  
The Populist, Beaver Dam, N. C.  
The People's Paper, Lumberton, N. C.  
The Vestigator, Concord, N. C.  
The Plow-Boy, Charlotte, N. C.  
The Carolina Watchman, 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.

Where a variety of crops is grown, we can apply our labor to much better advantage than if it is limited to the planting, cultivating and gathering of one crop.

Wood ashes, on account of the large percentage of potash they contain, are a good fertilizer for potatoes. Put a handful in each hill, and then sow broadcast.

A few mulberries, Russian or Downing's Everbearing, will furnish food for the birds, and in turn the birds will destroy the noxious insects that damage us so much.

If you have a shallow well do not neglect to clean it out at the first opportunity which presents itself. It is a large factor in the health of the family to have pure water.

There is little saving in feeding moldy or musty hay to stock. We may not at once see the injury done to the animals, but that will not repair the damage which results from feeding such hay.

To build a good fence, both the builder and the fence should be well "posted." Many fences have failed to perform their functions because of the lack, on the part of both builder and fence, of being well posted.

Do not forget to plant some nut bearing trees, hickory, chestnut, black and white walnut, etc. Black walnuts will bear nuts in five to seven years from planting, and as for poultry feed for winter use walnuts are almost as good as cut bone.

Early failures to hatch eggs very seldom come from lack of vigor in the germ; for in this the early eggs are superior. They more often come from allowing eggs to be chilled before the setting begins. Every one knows that chilling after a few days setting soon destroys the life in the egg. It may do so where eggs that have never been set on are kept in contact with metal, which rapidly abstracts heat when the eggs are kept for greater safety near the freezing temperature. Dishes for holding eggs should be of wood, which abstracts heat slowly.

## SOIL FOR BRIGHT TOBACCO.

Correspondence of the Progressive Farmer.

The authorities agree that a soil favorable for bright tobacco is very different from a heavy tobacco soil, and that a soil of the latter description cannot give a good light tobacco. A bright tobacco soil contains very little clay and a large amount of sand, the organic matter is very low, less than one-tenth of what is necessary for a good heavy tobacco soil.

It is impossible to state exactly the reasons for these differences in soil action. One of the principal points is that a too free supply of moisture is prejudicial to good bright tobacco, and a light sandy soil does not hold water as strongly as a clay soil. The danger with bright is too liberal supply of ammonia, as the least tendency to rankness has a serious effect on the quality.

Though the ammonia must be guarded carefully, the mineral fertilizers are apt to be deficient. In a soil of this type the mineral fertilizers—potash and phosphates—are apt to be in very slightly available forms while the ammonia is quickly made useful. It must be remembered that the tobacco plant has a very limited power of foraging for food, and as it consumed relatively little water, the subsoil is not a reservoir of plant food.

While it is true that a light sandy soil is best for bright tobacco, it must not be inferred that a poor sandy soil is desirable. The mineral manures must be supplied liberally or the leaf matter will have no substance. The nature of the minerals supplied is also of importance. The potash should be in the form of sulphate, and comparatively free from muriates. Muriates, or chlorides, seem to affect injuriously the burning properties of tobacco; an important matter with bright tobacco.

The phosphates also are apt to carry much useless acid. In order to remove these acids, the soil should be frequently limed; but, lime must not be used if the organic matter is high. In such case the ammonia would be liberated too freely and the supply of mineral fertilizers would be inadequate. Indeed, in this case the lime is used merely as a corrective and is best applied immediately after the crop is removed. The potash and phosphate may also be applied very early to advantage, as the loss by drainage will be very slight.

Place no reliance on the natural supplies of mineral fertilizers in the soil. Some plants, notably oats, seem to have the power of foraging extensively for potash and phosphates, but tobacco is particularly helpless in this line. Of the total phosphoric acid existing in the soil naturally, about one-third is available for plant food; of the total potash, about one twentieth. It is important, therefore, to keep these minerals supplied rather more carefully than in ordinary farming.

The fertilizer recommended by authority contains 3 per cent. ammonia, 10 per cent. potash and 7 per cent. available phosphoric acid. Of this not less than 600 pounds should be used per acre. If there is much humus in the soil, lower the ammonia to one per cent. The manuring as directed in this article is necessary on the soil described as best for bright tobacco, but no form of manuring will produce bright tobacco on a heavy clay soil, or one very rich in organic matter.

S. PEACOCK.

## THE HORSE FOR THE FARMER.

[Condensed from the Breeders' Gazette.]

Mr. J. Dason Duncan read a paper under the above title at the Clay Co., Ind., Farmers' Institute. The writer said, "after having spent several hundred dollars in trying to make horse breeding profitable, I find myself with a barn full of 'expectations,' and consequently am rich in experience if not in pocket. I am therefore forced through circumstances to give this topic thought and study so that I may be better prepared to meet the future."

The kind of horse most in demand was discussed. The breaking and fitting horses for market noticed, and the kind of horse to be used in breeding was pointed out. Instead of the old fashioned general purpose farmer's horse, which "are neither a road horse nor a coach horse and are too light for draft purposes in cities; and for express purposes, etc., they have not the quick action, style and weight that is required and money demands," the draft breeds are recommended, and farmers are urged to use their best material—young strong mares—to give them a rest from work, etc. "Pension the old girls off and do as the Scottish

## farmers do—select your young, vigorous fillies.

"Men do not gather grapes from thorns, nor figs from thistles." Take this as your motto and mate them with a horse that is strong in their deficiencies and with as many good points as it is possible to find and do not let a dollar or two stand in your light. Seek for a horse of a superior class. If you have not such a horse in your neighborhood band yourselves together in a club and buy or hire one; my word for it, you will find it a profitable investment."

"Of the other kind of horses that can be reared at a profit, and which the market demands at fancy prices, the first of these may be mentioned as the coach horse." A description of what he should be and for what he is used with reason why he brings a good price was given. The Hackney was named and seconded by the French coach or these may be replaced by sires such as Harrison Chief, Mambino King, and a few others among trotting horses. However, in this group the writer stipulates that the breeder must be in possession of specimens of the largest long necked, and most substantial of the trotting bred to make the proper 'nich' with the coach horses. They must be 'without a drop of draft blood.'"

"The horse I would next mention is the combination horse, known as the Kentucky saddler, which carry their riders with ease and grace. Their gait is the walk, trot, fox-trot, canter, and rack, and are changed by a slight touch of the hand or motion of the body. In my judgment these horses will be in great demand by those now riding the wheel for pleasure and who can afford to own a horse, as the wheel will prove but a fad after all among the wealthier class and will have its day. [Thus the wheel will prove a blessing in disguise to the breeder of saddle horses in the future.]"

"At last I come to my favorite kind of horse—the American Roadster. I love them as I love none other. I love to get in behind an ambitious driver; yes, I love to be among them.

'I love to hear the brood mares  
In their stalls a chewing hay,  
I love to see them drinking  
In their peaceful, quiet way.

I love to see the little colts  
Trot down the lane and back;  
I like to see them later  
In their battles on the track.'

This kind of a horse to fill the fastidious tastes of gentlemen road riders must be an ideal horse, and be susceptible to education that appears almost human, for

'Well handled he shies,  
He never runs away;  
His heart is good at even time,  
Though you've travelled the live long day.'

The Morgan is my ideal roadster, as he is endowed with good horse sense and is safe for the wife to drive. They will road from eight to twelve miles an hour. If you fail to get extreme speed you will surely get a handsome animal. \* \* \*

To use the words of Mr. Gratton:  
'He confers distinction upon you; he yields you pleasure and satisfaction; he is not a blot upon the face of nature. Like a fine picture or sweet music, he appeals to the artistic sentiments of your being. Skillfully managed he is like a grand instrument grandly played. The horse the Bible immortalizes in splendid imagery; Shakspeare, the incomparable, lifts him to the loftiest pedestal of patriotic grandeur. The greatest warriors of history—Alexander, Napoleon, and Grant—worshipped him. Shall the horsemen of to day continue to degrade him by breeding him in lines of ugliness? The thought is hateful, the practice is suicidal and following after false gods. The greatest profit, the greatest speed and the greatest satisfaction are all allied to the highest type of beauty.

Speed lines and lines of symmetrical cantons run in the same channels. Abandon, then, O, readers, the lines of ugliness and swear allegiance to the beauty which is a joy forever."  
"Be diligent in your calling, read and study The Breeders' Gazette (and THE PROGRESSIVE FARMER—Ed) and peace and prosperity will sit on your hearthstone and the grandeur of a farmer's life you will bequeath to your children."

The heifer that is expected to make a good dairy cow should always be kept in a good, thrifty condition—not stunted in growth at any time—as this will prove a drawback to her progress to maturity.

## JAPANESE MILLET.

*Panicum Crus Galli.*

BARNYARD GRASS.

The Massachusetts Agricultural Experiment Station has recently introduced three new varieties of millets from Japan. Among them is a variety of barnyard grass, *Panicum crus galli*, which, while it differs in its habits of growth, is botanically identical with the common barnyard grass. The variety from Japan has been grown for a few years at the Massachusetts Experiment Station. Prof. Brooks, of that Station, is very enthusiastic about it and recommends it as a fodder crop either for feeding green or for the silo. As a forage plant it may yield ten to twelve tons of fodder per acre and when thinly sown in rows about a foot apart, a yield of fifty to ninety bushels of seed may be obtained.

Ordinary barnyard grass is a coarse annual, with stems two to four feet in length, appearing in midsummer, in low, somewhat damp places or on cultivated grounds. The ordinary variety is a very handsome weed. Prof. Brooks says: "This Japanese variety of the species has not become a weed here, however, although the seed does not lose all vitality during the winter. Although it is possible that it might under some circumstances become troublesome, it is hardly liable to prove more so than clover or winter wheat, for instance."

This plant is being quite extensively advertised by seedsmen under the name of Japanese Millet or its scientific name, *Panicum crus galli*. While this may prove to be a valuable acquisition to our fodder plants and not become a means of spreading a bad weed, the Experiment Station would recommend the farmers of Maine to be cautious about purchasing seed of this new plant. Certainly the seed of *Panicum crus galli* should be bought only of reliable dealers, who will be sure to furnish the seed of the Japanese variety. The mischief that would be wrought by sowing seed of ordinary barnyard grass is self evident.

CHAS. D. WOODS, Director.  
State College, March 26, 1897.

## A NEW REMEDY FOR POTATO SCAB.

February 26th, Purdue University Agricultural Experiment Station sent out the following bulletin:

Potato scab is a source of material loss to those who grow potatoes for the market, and a great blemish in all cases. It is one of the triumphs of practical botany that the cause of this trouble has been traced to a minute germ that feeds on the surface of the potato tuber, and to a less extent on other fleshy roots and tubers. It has also been found that a suitable fungicide will kill the germs on the tubers without injuring the growth of the potatoes. Corrosive sublimate meets these requirements, and has been advocated by the Purdue Experiment Station, where its application originated. So effective has it been found, so cheap and easy to apply, that many large growers, who get extra prices for their crops by having high grade product, have adopted the treatment as a regular thing.

The deadly poisonous nature of corrosive sublimate, however, has kept it from coming into general use. It is, therefore, considered a matter of considerable moment to be able to announce the discovery of a new fungicide for potato scab, one that is thoroughly efficient and not poisonous. The new substance is formalin (some times called formaldehyde), a watery solution of a gas, not very expensive, and rapidly coming into favor as a general antiseptic, so that it is likely to become still cheaper and better known. It is sold by the fluid ounce, and can be obtained at most drug stores.

The method of using the new fungicide is very simple. Eight ounces of the formalin are added to fifteen gallons of water, and in this the seed potatoes are soaked for two hours. After taken from the bath they can be cut and planted as usual, either at once or after some time. Formalin is not corrosive, and so can be used in any kind of vessel, and, not being poisonous, there are no particular precautions to be observed. It does, however, make the hands smart, if there are any raw spots, and the fumes irritate the eyes and throat. But these are only slight annoyances. Further information about formalin and its use as a fungicide will be given in a bulletin to be issued in a short time.

The potato crop of the State of Indiana reaches annually the large figure of over 90,000 acres, and nearly 6,000,000 bushels, and sometimes larger. The treatment of the seed tubers as here recommended will materially raise the market value of the crop and prove a source of profit of no mean proportion. Try it.

## GRAIN ON HAND.

The Department of Agriculture at Washington, under date of March 10, estimates as follows the stocks of principal grains on farms and in hands of farmers: "The corn on hand as estimated aggregates 1,164,000,000 bushels, or 51 per cent. of the last crop, against 1,072,000,000 in March, 1896. Both the proportion and the quantity in original hands at this date are unprecedented, although closely approached last year and in March, 1890. Correspondents report large stocks in cribs, particularly in the prairie States, awaiting better prices. The aggregate sold from farms to go beyond county lines is 628,000,000 bushels, or 27.3 per cent. of the crop. The proportion merchantable is 1,936,000,000, or 84.8 per cent. The wheat reserve in farmers' hands amounts to 20.6 per cent. of the crop, or 88,000,000 bushels, against 123,000,000 bushels last March. Of this amount 3 per cent. is reported as coming over from previous crops. The proportion of wheat sold outside the county is 51.7 per cent. Of oats there are 313,000,000 bushels or 42.2 per cent. of the 1896 crop, yet in farmers' hands. Proportion shipped beyond county lines, 27 per cent."

## LIVE STOCK.

### FREE RECIPE FOR HOG CHOLERA.

Dr. T. J. Dodge Hamilton, Ill., in Iowa Homestead, says: I have used this remedy for 35 years, and raised hogs on my ranch in Nebraska and never lost a hog:

(See American Swine Herd, Vol. XII, No. 9, p. 25 for directions, etc.)

Arsenic, 1/2 lb.; cape aloes, 1/2 lb.  
Blue vitriol, 1/2 lb.; black antimony 1 oz.

Grind and mix well the remedy before using.

1. Sick hogs in all cases to be separated from well ones and placed in dry pens with only five large hogs or eight small ones in each pen.

2. Feed nothing but dry food, no water except alop containing the remedy, until cured.

3. When the hogs refuse to eat turn them on their backs, and then, with a long-handled spoon put the dry medicine down their throats.

4. Dose for large hogs, one teaspoonful three times a day for three days; then miss one day, and repeat amount until cured. Shoats or pigs half this amount.

5. As a preventive, one teaspoonful once a week will keep your hogs in a healthy condition to take on fat.

### HOG CHOLERA FORMULA.

We have been asked to republish the formula for hog cholera and swine plague recommended by the bureau of animal industry, and although we have frequently done this before, we are now without back numbers to furnish to inquirers, and it is therefore republished. The prescription is as follows:

Wood charcoal, sulphur, sodium sulphate and antimony sulphide, one pound each; sodium chloride, sodium bicarbonate and sodium hyposulphite, two pounds each. These ingredients should be completely pulverized and thoroughly mixed. The dose of the mixture to be given is a large tablespoonful for each 200 pound weight of hogs to be treated, and should be given only once a day. Hogs affected by the disease should not be fed on corn alone, but should have at least once a day soft feed made by mixing bran and middlings, or middlings and corn meal, or ground oats and corn, or crushed wheat with hot water, and then stirring into the mixture a proper quantity of the medicine. Hogs are fond of the mixture, and it increases their appetite. When once they taste it in the food they will eat it even when nothing else can tempt them, says the Western Live Stock Journal.

If animals are very sick and will not come up to feed, they should be drenched with the medicine shaken up with water. Care is necessary in drenching hogs lest they be suffocated. Do not turn the hog on its back to drench it, but pull the cheek away from the teeth so as to form a pouch into which the medicine may be slowly poured. It will flow from the cheek into the mouth, and when the hog finds what it is, it will stop squealing and swallow it. In the experience of the bureau, hogs that were so sick that they could eat nothing have commenced to eat very soon after getting a dose of the remedy, and have steadily improved until they appeared to be perfectly well. The medicine may also be used as a preventive of hog cholera and swine plague, and for this purpose should be put into the food of the whole herd. Care should, of course, be observed to see that each animal receives its proper share. In cases where it has been given a fair trial the bureau of animal industry says that it has apparently cured most of the animals which were sick, and has stopped the further progress of the disease. It appears to be an excellent appetizer and stimulant of the processes of digestion and assimilation, and when given to thrifty hogs it increases the appetite, causes them to take on flesh and to assume a thrifty appearance.

### Close buying and economical farm management are now essential.

The cost of production, as well as the best plans of selling, must be studied along with the methods of making good yields. Never was there a greater tendency among farmers to live within their means than now. The patch on the clothing will come in fashion again. The mark on the merchant's book will be an important problem to solve while the furrows are being turned in the spring.

## HORTICULTURE.

### THE SOIL FOR RASPBERRIES.

As to soil for raspberries, different varieties demand different soil in order to do their best. The red and white kinds demand a deep, rich, moist soil and one that is rather compact. Generally they do poorly on sandy soil, though in the extreme North they may show an exception to the rule. The black raspberry will do well in either light or heavy soil, but they will do best on soil that is light. In the selection of plants we will remember that no variety of the raspberry is other than biennial. That is to say, one year they produce wood, the next year fruit, and that is the end of them. We need not look, therefore, for two or three-year old plants. It is best to get one year old plants for transplanting, always. But while the wood is short-lived the roots are long-lived, often being several years old. Before planting the raspberry, in any way, thoroughly prepare the soil. In selecting plants get those with plenty of small fibrous roots, and set no deeper than they originally were. If the ground is poor manure in the hill, at the time of planting and afterwards on the surface, working it with plow or cultivator. Keep the soil as level as possible, and free from weeds. The raspberry receives very little pruning. In field culture none is given, except to cut out the old wood after fruiting. It would often prove beneficial, however, to prune more.

### THE SUGAR BEET.

The sugar beet is a very profitable crop to raise for stock food alone. For an experimental patch select a rich, sandy loam, well drained soil, as free from weeds as possible, preferably a clean clover sod. Plow early and deep, and pulverize thoroughly, says Farm and Fireside.  
Sow the beet seed at corn planting time. It is best sown with a good garden drill set to drop seeds three inches apart in rows about thirty inches apart. It may be sown by hand in shallow furrows made by a common sled marker, and covered one inch deep, firming the earth over the seeds. Cultivation with a smoothing harrow or weeder should begin before the plants appear. When the plants are about four inches high they should be thinned to stand six inches apart. Cultivation should be as frequent as necessary to keep the weeds down and the surface loose and mellow. Aim to get a perfect stand, and to grow as many medium-sized beets as possible. Beets weighing one and one half to two pounds, are richer in sugar than larger ones, and more valuable for either stock food or sugar-making.

No man who will abuse a good cow ought to take part in a prayer meeting. The man who will lift his hat to a good cow is better than the one who will abuse her. If you want to abuse anybody or anything, try a book agent or a mule.