"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.

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

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

Vol. 12. RALEIGH, N. C., MAY 4, 1897. No. 13

THE NATIONAL FARMERS' ALLIANCE AND INDUSTRIAL UNION.

President—Mann Page, Brandon, Va.
Vice President—C. Vincent, Indianapolis, Ind.
Secretary Treasurer—W. P. Bricker, Cogan Station, Pa.

LECTURERS.

J. P. Sossamon, Charlotte, N. C.
Hamlin V. Poore, Bird Island, Minn.
F. H. Peirsol, Parkersburg, W. Va.

NATIONAL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE.

Mann Page, Brandon, Va; R. A. Southworth, Denver, Col.; John Breinig, W. Va; A. B. Welch, New York; W. A. Gardner, Andrew's Settlement, Pa.

JUDICIARY.

R. A. Southworth, Denver, Colo.
R. W. Beck, Alabama.
M. D. Davie, Kentucky.

NORTH CAROLINA FARMERS' STATE ALLIANCE.

President—Dr. Cyrus Thompson, Richlands, N. C.
Vice-President—Jno. Graham, Ridgeway, N. C.
Secretary-Treasurer—W. S. Barnes, Hillsboro, N. C.
Lecturer—J. T. B. Hoover, Elm City, N. C.
Steward—Dr. V. N. Seawell, Villadow, N. C.
Chaplain—Rev. P. H. Massey, Durham, N. C.
Door-keeper—Geo. T. Lane, Greensboro, N. C.
Assistant Door-keeper—Jas. E. Lyon, Durham, N. C.
Sergeant-at-Arms—A. D. K. Wallace, Rutherfordton, N. C.
State Business Agent—T. Ivey, Hillsboro, N. C.
Trustee Business Agency Fund—W. A. Graham, Machpelah, N. C.

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE OF THE NORTH CAROLINA FARMERS' STATE ALLIANCE.

A. F. Hileman, Concord, N. C.; N. O. English, Trinity, N. C.; James M. Mewborne, Kinston, N. C.

STATE ALLIANCE JUDICIARY COMMITTEE.

John Brady, Gatesville, N. C.; Dr. J. F. Harrell, Whiteville, N. C.; T. J. Candler, Acton, N. C.

North Carolina Reform Press Association.

Officers—J. L. Ramsey, President; Marion Butler, Vice-President; W. S. Barnes, Secretary.

PAPERS.

Progressive Farmer,	State Organ, Raleigh, N. C.
Caucasian,	Raleigh, N. C.
Mercury,	Hickory, N. C.
Rattler,	Whitakers, N. C.
Our Home,	Beaver Dam, N. C.
The Populist,	Lumberton, N. C.
The People's Paper,	Charlotte, N. C.
The Vestibule,	Concord, N. C.
The Plow-Boy,	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 advocate the Ocala platform will be dropped from the list promptly. Our people can now see what papers are established in their interest.

AGRICULTURE.

The Burlington railroad has established a number of "model farms" in Kansas and Nebraska for the purpose of experimenting in combating the effects of protracted droughs.

Secretary of Agriculture Wilson says the remedy for ten cent corn is to raise more corn. Now just wait and see if he don't forget and say much about overproduction before the end of two years.

The farm and the work must be studied By having the labor properly systematized and distributed less hired labor will be needed. Only by taking every advantage to produce results at lowest cost is a profit possible, often times.

It is said that if a knife blade, table knife preferable, is stuck through the the cabbage stalk just under the first leaf, say from east to west and north to south, about the time the head begins to form, it will hasten the heading and make the cabbage solid.

Corn is the most available food, and may be fed to advantage alone, provided a sufficient amount of laxative coarse feed be added, such as clover hay; but for fattening sheep a better ration is half corn and half barley, or add to the corn rye and oats.

The cherry is more sensitive to the heat of a hot and dry soil than other fruit trees, and mulching is more important. Where young or newly transplanted cherry trees are so treated they will likely all live and grow; if not, their growth will be slow, and many of them will probably perish.

The real cost of that produced on a farm, other than the value of labor and interest on investment, is the plant food removed from the soil. If large quantities of material are fed to stock it remains on the farm unless sold in the form of meat, milk, eggs, butter or wool, and there can be no loss or waste as long as the farmer can utilize such materials for producing more crops.

FACTS ABOUT COTTON.

Correspondence of the Progressive Farmer.

NEW YORK, April 24 1897.

We have the pleasure of submitting for your information the following comparative position of cotton and prices on April 23d for the past four years:

	1897.	1896.	1895.	1894.
Total Visible Supply in U. S., Europe and at Sea	3,019 880	3,148,184	4 207,854	3 891,252
Cotton Marketed to date	8,066 869	6 638,431	9,456 408	7 102,091
Total Exports	5 411 267	4 102 454	6 049 044	4,646,706
Stock in U S Ports	540 633	475,817	739 839	668,957
" Liverpool (all kinds)	1,254 000	1,161,000	1,718 000	1,734,000
Afloat for Europe (American)	262,000	249,000	378,000	213,000
Middling Uplands in New York	7 71 16c.	8 1 16c.	6 15 16c.	7½c
" " Liverpool	4 4.	4 13 32d.	3 11 16d.	4 1 16d

From this statement the total visible supply of the world is 128 304 bales less than last year, 1,187 974 bales less than in 1895, and 871 372 bales less than in 1894.

The amount of cotton that has been marketed to date is 1,428,438 bales more than last year, 1 389 539 bales less than in 1895, and 964 778 bales more than in 1894.

The exports this year are 1,308,843 more than last year, 637 747 bales less than in 1895, and 764,591 bales more than in 1894.

The stock in United States ports is 64 816 bales more than last year, 199,206 bales less than in 1895, and 128,324 bales less than in 1894.

The price of cotton is now 0 74 cents cheaper than last year, 0.25 cents dearer than in 1895, and 0 21 cents cheaper than in 1894 for May contracts; and for October contracts it is 0 46 cents cheaper than last year, 0 07 cents cheaper than in 1895, and 0 72 cents cheaper than in 1894.

The total visible supply of cotton in the world is 128,304 bales less than in 1896, when the crop was unusually small and 1,187,974 bales less than in 1895, showing the present statistical position to be stronger than for many years at this date. Then, too, it is probable the large consumption in Europe will continue and improving in America may be expected.

Early planting and favorable weather conditions constitute the chief elements of successful cotton growing—without them a large crop is impossible; thus far, this season, these facts have been lacking.

Our advices generally report the crop three to five weeks later than last year, land poorly prepared and nights too cool for growth in some sections; besides, it is well known that a vast area of the most productive cotton lands in the States of Tennessee, Arkansas, Mississippi and Louisiana, that are usually planted in cotton by this time of the year, are now under water, and it is questionable if any crop at all can be raised on this account.

Yours very truly,
LATHAM, ALEXANDER & CO.

SEED POTATOES.

The tests of the Ohio Experiment Station indicate that home-grown potatoes will give as good crops as any Northern grown seed of the same varities, provided the seed potatoes are well kept, but the yield is materially lessened and the ripening retarded if the seed potatoes are allowed to sprout and the sprouts are broken off, as usually happens when the potatoes are kept in a dark cellar.

Many potato growers keep their potatoes successfully, especially in the northern part of the State, by burying the potatoes in pits, covering to a shallow depth at first and adding layers of straw and earth as the weather becomes colder.

The ideal method of keeping seed potatoes is in cold storage. Potatoes thus kept at the Ohio Station have come out sound and fresh, with no indication of sprouting and the vitality unimpaired, even so late as the first of June. It is important, however, that the temperature of the cold storage room should not fall below 35 degrees, nor should it rise much above 40 degrees.

When cold storage is not available, sprouting may be in some measure prevented by shoveling the potatoes over frequently.

While the sprouting of potatoes under ordinary conditions is very objectionable, they may be so sprouted as to materially advance their earliness. This is done by placing them, stem end down, in single layers in shallow trays on the floor, in a light and moderately warm room. Thus placed they will send out short, stubby, green sprouts which will remain in that condition for weeks Such potatoes, planted without breaking the sprouts, will grow immediately and produce an early crop

The gardens should be worked for spring crops as early as possible; yet, care should be taken to see that the soil is in good condition first. It takes a very little to injure some soils when wet, and when thus injured it will take years of patience to repair the damage.

TO KEEP TURNIPS AND POTATOES.

One of our subscribers, Mr. L. P. Duncan, Woodburn, N. C, writes to give us his plan for saving turnips and to keep them from getting pithy during the winter. He says: "Put down a layer of turnips and then put just enough dirt on to cover the turnips, then another layer of turnips and more earth. This can be repeated until the pile is several feet high. Then cover all with enough earth to keep the turnips from freezing. Don't put any roof over the pile.

'Sweet potatoes can be saved the same way, except the pile should be covered with boards to keep off rain."

There is no better way to fertilize poor land than to sow it with peas, using phosphate of lime to furnish the mineral fertility that this crop requires to perfect the seed. It is not nitrogen which the pea crop most needs other than what the pea roots supply by disintegrating air in the soil and liberating its nitrogen. But to form the grain both lime and phosphate are required. With these supplied the soil will grow richer every year.

AN IDEAL EXPERIMENT FARM.

In horticulture, truck and small fruit growing, as a rule, the amount of farm stock necessary to work the land is less than with cereals and ordinary rotation farming. As a rule, few or no cattle are kept, and live stock generally are few. Consequently, the supply of farm manures made is very slender. Also, the gross weight per acre of crops removed from the soil exceeds that of ordinary farming, so that the drain on the fertility is greater. This makes the use of artificial manures a necessity, and, as a result, the question as to how to do this most profitably becomes a most important one to the farmer. Experimental work to determine this most profitable use of artificial manure would be too expensive an undertaking for the individual farmer, and is more properly the function of the State, or of an organized association of farmers.

In this country we have at Southern Pines, N. C., the sole illustration of the experimental farm dealing with this point singly—that is, an experimental farm designed to show conclusively the proper use of a chemical manure on a light, sandy soil, where, in the natural course of profitable farming, they must be used extensively. At no purely fertilizer experiment station in the world is the subject treated as extensively as at Southern Pines. As green manuring is within the province of horticulture, this form of fertilization is also being tested.

The plan of the experiments is to test the crop producing power of nitrogen, potash and phosphoric acid, and also lime. In every case only mineral fertilizers are used, except the nitrogen of the leguminous (cow peas) plants in the green manuring tests. The crops experimented with include all the ordinary vegetables, berries and fruits. The investigations also include experiments to determine the effect of various forms of potash salts. The quantity of fertilizer applied varies both with regard to the total amount and also with regard to the relation of the various ingredients to one another.

HOW?

But we hear it said, why, if raising wheat is unprofitable, does not the farmer raise something else? Simply because he can raise nothing that is profitable. Corn last year brought the farmer of Nebraska less than ten cents a bushel, or about $3 an acre, that is, all the corn that could be raised off of a farm of 100 acres, taking a farmer and two able bodied sons to cultivate was $300, a pitiable sum to be divided among three able bodied men as the remuneration of their year's labor. We said to be divided as remuneration, but stop. This paltry $300 was not divided. Out of this $300 had to be paid such repairing of tools as could not be done without, and taxes had to be taken, leaving only the remnant for the farmer and his sons as the remuneration for three able bodied men, says the Philadelphia American.

But now we are told the farmer is going to be given the opportunity to raise wool at a profit. This is to be done for him by protection. But how many farmers can turn to raising wool at a profit, premising even that we shut out every pound of foreign wool. The importations of wools for the last fiscal year amounted to 230,000,000 pounds. Now, suppose this wool was kept out and a market made for this amount of additional home made wool at 15 cents a pound. This would make a market for less than $35,000,000 worth of wool. But how far would this go around among our five million farmers. There would be an opening for each one of them to raise $7 worth of wool. And is this an opening that will bring prosperity to our agricultural classes; would this opening relieve the pressure of competition in the cereal and cotton fields? It would be but a drop of relief to our farmers who raise even at present low prices $450,000,000 worth of corn, $250,000,000 worth of wheat, and $200,000,000 worth of cotton a year. Even this drop would be welcome, but better prices for our cereal products and cotton it would not bring, for prices for these products are fixed in England, where we dispose of our surplus products, and the cutting down of our exports to England would not curtail the supply in England, and would not increase the price, for our competitors have the ability and the inclination to supply the whole market at present prices. So these prices must meet, and better prices for our great crops we cannot get until we raise the prices at which our competitors can sell. And this we can only do by restoring bimetallism, which is the only real protection that can be given our farmers and planters at this time.

HORTICULTURE

NEW METHOD OF TRANSPLANTING TREES.

A book by a Southern author favors a novel method of transplanting trees. It is this, in short: That when one to two year old trees are planted the roots be cut back to stubs about an inch long and the trunk pruned to a branchless whip from one to three feet high. It is maintained that by this means new roots grow strong and deep, almost directly downward, thus avoiding the drought that often affects the surface roots of young trees planted in the ordinary method. Successful experiments are cited in support of this method, and especially a peach orchard of 100,000 trees planted in Georgia in this way. It is directed that the roots be cut cleanly in a horizontal plane, a hole two inches in diameter dibbled in well-worked soil, the tree inserted and the earth trampled close around it. The writer suggests that the experiment stations take up the subject and experiment with different trees and lengths of roots and trunks.

BETTER RESULTS.

The growing of a berry calls into action some of the most wonderful laws of nature.

In the growth of plants we find these laws in perfection. We also find in various forms, a complete supply of every element required for the full development of both plant and fruit.

Nature gives us all these products, without stint. She simply asks in return that we assist her in some of the smaller details of the work.

She asks that the soil be made rich and well prepared. That the plants be of good quality and carefully set out. That frequent hoeing and cultivation be given. That plants be protected from winter frosts and summer drouth. That no insect pest or fungus disease find an abiding place with them. That you treat them as a friend and love them as a brother.

Both pleasure and profit come in greatest measure from closest attention to all these details.

Nature furnishes almost every good with a prodigal hand, but she is a niggard to him who will not work in her ways. You cannot cheat her in farm or garden. You cannot get something for nothing. These are days of progress. Every line of business must advance with the times, or drop to the rear. The farmer has been the laggard.

The safest, the surest, the most ancient and most honorable business on earth should be in the most progressive ranks.

An army of best newspapers are stationed all along the agricultural highway, to guard us from error and direct us to success. We cannot afford to be without them. Read them! Study them. Experiment in a moderate way, give extra preparation and cultivation to certain tracts, and mark results, as compared with ordinary tillage. Observe results of similar experiments on your neighbor's farm. Compare notes with him and reason together.

Extend like experiments to the seeds you sow, the stock you grow and trees, plants and shrubs you set.

Such experiments are almost sure to lead to more careful selection of seed, stock and plants; to a more thorough cultivation of the soil and better results every way from farm, fruit and garden.—M. A. Thayer, Sparta, Wis.

THE DAIRY.

DAIRYING PAYS.

Correspondence of the Progressive Farmer.

One thing presents itself with great force in the midst of the uncertainty regarding the future of dairying, and that is that very few are abandoning the business. In a circle of forty miles I know of one man who has decided to let his cows go and try something else This man has recently sold his cows at auction and has made up his mind to try raising young stock and beef for the market. This is in the nature of an experiment and we shall watch it with interest. We are in a strictly dairy country. Very little grain is raised for the market, our main dependence being upon milk and its products; and it is doubtful whether we can compete with the great West in the production of beef.

But it is the almost universal decision that nothing pays better than dairying, and the season opens with just as strong a purpose and just as high a hope as ever, so far as I am able to see. The public creameries are all open for business. Cows are selling at fairly good prices, and the shipments of milk and butter are full up to the average for this time of the year. With prices so low, why should men cling so desperately to dairying?

Because, first, in no other way can we maintain the fertility of our farms If the farmer who keeps fifteen or twenty cows could know the just value of the natural fertilizer produced from year to year by this herd, he would be astonished at the amount. This goes back onto the land and prevents its being absolutely run out. To appreciate the loss in this direction, if one does not return to his fields as much as he takes from them, it is only necessary to look at farms from which the hay has been sold year after year and no equivalent in commercial fertilizer put back. Such farms by their barren and starved out appearance prove more strongly than any words could do the utter folly of turning our backs upon the cow.

Again, dairying is our most profitable business because in no other way can we turn the products of our farm into money to so good an advantage. The cow is the mint which coins the hay, corn and other crops of our lands into clean money. Upon the manner in which this is done depends our success or failure. If there are too many leaks all along the way, so that the cost of producing a quart of milk or a pound of butter exceeds the pride obtained for it, then our profits must necessarily be small. This is the greatest problem before us: how to turn all our farm products most economically into butter and cheese? When this is solved the rest will be easy enough.

E. L. VINCENT.

Broome Co., N. Y.

At midnight, in his guarded tent, the Turk lay dreaming of the hours when he could hide to some extent behind the coat tails of the Powers.—Cleveland Plain Dealer.

POULTRY YARD

A POULTRY TABLE.

An ingenious statistician has drawn up a table to show how many eggs the various kinds of domestic fowls lay per annum, and how many of the eggs go to the pound:

Geese, 4 to the pound; 30 per annum.

Polish, 9 to the pound; 150 per annum.

Bantams, 16 to the pound; 100 per annum.

Hamburgs, 9 to the pound; 200 per annum.

Turkeys, 5 to the pound; 30 to 60 per annum.

Game Fowl, 9 to the pound; 160 per annum.

Leghorns, 9 to the pound; 200 per annum.

Plymouth Rocks, 8 to the pound; 150 per annum.

Langshans, 8 to the pound; 150 per annum.

Brahmas, 7 to the pound; 130 per annum.

Ducks, 5 to the pound; 30 to 60 per annum.

CROSS BREEDING.

The object of crossing pure bred cocks on common stock, says a bulletin of the North Carolina station, is to improve naturally, yet often mistakes are made because the proper breed is not selected. The following will be found the most desirable ones, and the advantages to be derived from their use on common hens. * * * Barred Plymouth Rock cocks are very extensively used for grading, and an old variety they are now more widely scattered then other varieties. The grades from them mature early and are very hardy. They generally take the color of their sires. The meat being yellow, as well as legs, making them very salable stock. The White Plymouth Rocks are equals of the Barred, and are preferred to the latter by many, as the young are free from black or dark pin feathers.

White Wyandotte crosses we consider the best of all for broilers, as the young stock (grades) are more compact, equally as healthy, and, as a rule, carry more flesh at an early age than either cross mentioned. They will readily show good treatment, and it is advisable to feed well when young, which is equally true of all varieties. Pullets from such a cock mature and lay early in the fall, and continue through the winter.

The Indian Game is a good fowl for grading flocks, for several reasons, viz.: The young are always fat, the color of the skin is yellow (except in some cases where black hens with white skin are used), their weight is remarkable, and much greater than their looks, deceiving all who are not familiar with the breed it its purity. * * * Black or White Minorcas have the characteristics of the Leghorns, so far as laying is concerned, and are larger; therefore would suit some persons when the Leghorns would not. The eggs from the Minorcas are large—in fact, no pure-bred fowl lays a larger.

The Houdan (a French fowl), having a crest, beard and five toes on each foot, are recommended very highly for use on barn yard hens, but we have not been particularly pleased with results from such a mating.

Dorkings are also prominently mentioned by many breeders, but having had no experience with them, we cannot offer an opinion.

SHE CHANGED HER MIND.

Every now and then the old adage "There's many a slip," etc., is verified. A young man and a young lady of this community after passing the usual preliminary sparking stage agreed to unite their hearts and fortunes. The young man went to work, built a house, furnished it, stocked the pantry with a supply of provisions and had all things in readiness to receive his bride, when on the eve of the day set for the wedding he received a note from the young lady that she did not want to get married.

To take a serious view of this incident, a person who will trifle with the affection of another in such manner as this will have a great sin to answer for.—Greenville Reflector

Numbers of experiments have been made which demonstrate beyond a doubt that sufficient plant food remains in the soil to produce a good croy, but this plant food has not been available because the condition of the soil did not permit of the feeding rootlets of the plants penetrating the soil in quest of nourishment.