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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.

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PAPERS.  
Progressive Farmer, State Organ, Raleigh, N. C.  
Agrarian, Raleigh, N. C.  
Security, Hickory, N. C.  
Farmer, Whiteakers, 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 published in their interest.

## AGRICULTURE.

A pig should make a pound a day for every day of its life. If it does this it will be ready for the market at any time after it is six months old. If we desire the lean pork we must begin to cultivate the grazing hog.

It is calculated that one acre of clover will produce 800 pounds of pork properly pastured with eight good, thrifty, growing shoats. In what other way could it be made to pay better, and how could pork be made more cheaply?

It is not the land, but the man, usually, at fault when the crops are poor, and the man is to be credited when they are large and profitable. It is very certain that the success of a man's work depends upon the amount of intelligence possessed by the man himself.

A few papers of herb seeds, such as sage, parsley and the like, should be found in every farmer's garden. They are easily grown, and a home supply will not only save paying out a good deal of money in the course of the year, but the surplus may be sold at rates which leave a good profit. The demand is not large in any neighborhood, but for the amount of land and labor required few garden products pay as well.

The farmer who works so many hours, and so hard with his hands, that he has no time to read and, add to what he learns by his own experience, the experience of others engaged in the same business, will be sure to work for very small pay. There is no danger of any man knowing too much about his business, but there is danger that, while he is working with all his might, others will know a great deal more than he does, and he will be left behind, in the race after the dollar, that is the reward of the labor directed by the knowledge gained, by retarding the experience of others.

## TO PROTECT MELON VINES FROM THE DEPRADATIONS OF INSECTS.

Correspondence of the Progressive Farmer.  
Prepare some small beds six to eight inches square in the melon patch or in the immediate vicinity thereof by digging the ground and supplying a proper quantity of rich earth. Sow melon seed thereon, a seed for about every square inch, cover with rich earth, and use as a final covering some well rotted chip manure. A handful of hen manure should be sprinkled on top of the melon hills. The insects will prefer the under plants of the beds to those of the hills. The hen manure will have a tendency to drive them to the beds, as they do not like its presence. The chip manure furnishes an additional attraction, as they can readily hide beneath it. When the beds become well charged with insects apply suddenly about a peck of dirt, tramp down and that settles it. A board placed over a portion of the beds, say one or two, may provide an additional attraction. The insects can soon be exterminated. Other beds may be sown a week after the first.  
BRYAN TYSON.

## THE BUSINESS FARMER.

The business farmer is to day the one who succeeds where a dozen others make a bare living. The business farmer knows what his resources are, and how far these are offset by his liabilities. The business farmer knows almost to a dollar how much his corn crop or his cotton crop is costing him when ready for market. He knows whether this and that cow in his dairy is a source of profit through a liberal flow of milk testing well in butter fat, compared with the cost of producing the product, or is "eating her head off" in expense of labor and feed. He keeps posted regarding market conditions; not only for the moment, and in his local town, but in the broad sense of the world's probable supplies and requirements. In a word, the management of the farm is conducted as thoroughly and as intelligently as is the business of the banker, the merchant or the manufacturer. Compare this position with the ridiculous advice given by an esteemed subscriber who writes us that, in his opinion, to successfully raise and market a crop the farmer should "first study carefully a commission merchant's price list of the previous year, selecting those products which then commanded the highest price and then act accordingly." It is the up to date farmer who finds a profit on his ledger at the end of the year; not the one who looks backward rather than forward.—Farm and Home.

## YOUNG CLOVER.

So many praises are given by most agricultural writers to young clover as a very valuable and nutritious feed that it becomes necessary to distinguish clearly what is referred to. The really valuable young clover is the second crop growth which springs up after the first cutting in June. It is at this time that the clover roots begin to form the nodules which decompose air in the soil and make use of its nitrogen. This nitrogen, apparently, to some extent, goes into the top growth, though this may only be from the increase of nitrogen in the soil, and its absorption by the roots through rains. The later this young clover is allowed to grow up to the time of seed forming, the more nutritious the herbage will be. At seed time the clover stalks become hard and fibrous, detracting from their value as feed.

Early in the spring young clover is less palatable and nutritious than any of the grasses. Its roots are striking downward towards the subsoil the second spring of the clover growth. So there is less plant food for the clover roots to get early in the season than there is for grass roots, which run mostly near the surface, and are quickly warmed by the bright spring sunshine. This is not a theory. The cow, if given a chance, will make a test that no one can dispute. If there is any old grass pasture in the field, the cow will eat that rather than clover, until the time that clover comes into head, and then will leisurely snip off the sweet blossoms, leaving the lower part of the clover untouched. It is this which makes clover unsuitable for pasturing, unless the object be to let a great amount of clover stalks go back to the soil as manure.

Neither in this early growth of clover of much value as a fertilizer if plowed under. It is the nitrogenous substance

which makes it nutritious for the cow that most increases its manurial value. In fact, all through the second year's growth the richness of the soil where clover is grown increases. This is probably from the extension of clover roots into the subsoil, and also from the decomposition of air in the soil, which goes on at increasing ratio until frost checks clover growth in the fall.—American Cultivator.

## A NEW FODDER CROP.

The soja bean is one of the newer fodder plants that are not sufficiently appreciated, according to The American Agriculturist, authority for the following: The soja bean is a leguminous or clover like plant, which seems to possess great facility for getting its nitrogen from the air. The dry matter in either the green fodder or straw of the soja bean contains twice as much fat and protein as in fodder corn, while the grain is hardly exceeded in richness by cotton seed meal. Indeed, it is probably true that "these beans are the richest known vegetable substance," and as they can be raised in any climate or soil that will mature corn, this crop enables the Northern farmer to raise concentrated feed instead of buying it.

The medium green variety is best for forage, being leafy and succulent. In fairly fertile soil it will produce 10 to 12 tons of green fodder per acre. It should be sown in drills 2½ feet apart, using 1 to 1½ bushels of seed per acre. Sow about corn planting time and cultivate freely early in the season. It will produce a valuable fodder for stall feeding in August or early September, to be fed green or put into the silo in the proportion of one part soja bean to two parts of corn. Such silage is a balanced feed for milk cows. The black variety is a good fodder plant, but not equal to the green. Both kinds will ripen seed wherever the larger kinds of corn mature. Owing to the wonderful root development of the medium green variety, it has an admirable effect on the soil when the stubble is plowed under. Like the action of alfalfa on land adapted to that crop, the soja bean brings to the upper strata of soil plant food from below.

## GROWING BIG ONIONS.

The New Method as Practiced by a Minnesota Farmer.  
A contributor to The National Stockman and Farmer, writing from Freeborn county, Minn., says:

Of all the large varieties of onions, the Prizetaker has given me best results, but it requires a long season for full development. In our cold latitude the safest way is to start the plants under glass early enough to have them of good size by the time the ground is in condition. Transplanting so many plants may seem like a big job, and it is, and yet it is scarcely more than are the first hand weeding and hoeing where seed is sown in the field. There is a great gain, too, in having well filled rows of evenly distributed plants. No seed drill will place the seed exactly right—it leaves either too many or too few. Some of the seeds fail to grow, and the plants come up uneven, but the transplanting plan gives even rows.

Onion plants are hardy enough to recover from the effects of transplanting. If the soil about the plants is dry when they are taken up, the thread-like roots are apt to break off close to the bulb. To prevent this, the soil should be wet until it is soft before the plants are taken up. Before beginning to transplant I have the ground thoroughly fitted and all marked off in long straight rows. Then several hundred plants are taken to the field at a time and kept thoroughly wet during the work of setting out, which is done with a sharp, flat stick or dibble. I set the plants nearly six inches apart. I use to set at four inches, but prefer to give plenty of room. Even if one gets on an average a six ounce onion (many single bulbs weigh between one and two pounds) for every half foot of space, that will give a yield of 400 bushels per acre when rows are 18 inches apart.

The time to transplant is when the soil is moist, as it is a day or two after rain. One can then do so much better work and do it so much faster that it pays to wait and watch for the right time. When the surface soil is dry and loose, it is difficult to make suitable holes in it. When the dibble is drawn out, the soil falls in and half fills the hole. Then if the plant is inserted its roots coil up into a knot and are in dry soil and too near the surface.

## THE CANADA FARMER'S CREED.

The Canadian agriculturists have been putting their ideas into concrete form, and at a recent convention put out the following creed, which may be read with profit by their American neighbors:

"We believe in small farms and thorough cultivation; we believe that the soil lives to eat, as well as the owner, and ought, therefore, to be well manured; we believe in going to the bottom of things, and, therefore, deep plowing, and enough of it, all the better if it be subsoil plow; we believe in large crops which leave the land better than they found it, making both the farm and the farmer rich at once; we believe that every farmer should own a good farm; we believe that the fertilizer of any soil is a spirit of industry, enterprise and intelligence; without these, lime, gypsum and guano would be of little use; we believe in good fences, good farm houses, good orchards and good children enough to gather the fruit; we believe in a clean kitchen, a neat wife in it, a clean cupboard, a clean dairy, and a clean conscience; we believe that to ask a man's advice is not stooping, but of much benefit; believe that to keep a place for everything, and everything in its place, saves many a step and is pretty sure to lead to good tools and to keeping them in order; we believe that kind ness to stock, like good shelter, is saving of fodder; we believe that it is a good thing to keep an eye on experiments, and note all, good and bad; we believe that it is a good rule to soil grain when it is ready; we believe in producing the best butter and cheese, and marketing it when it is ready."

Much labor in cultivation may be saved by making corn rows straight. It is very hard to hold the cultivator so as to miss hills that are alternately a few inches out of plumb line one side or the other. The result is that in trying to save the hills it is impossible to cultivate the soil as it should be or to take all the weeds. With the corn in a straight line earth may be drawn from the stalk and thrown back again so as to destroy all the weeds while they are small. It requires not only a true eye in the driver, but an active, strong horse to draw the marker straight across the field. It is not every man or horse that can ever be taught to do it. Those who can should be paid extra for the job, for their work is really skilled labor.

## LOWER INTEREST ON FARM MORTGAGES.

Refunding operations are being conducted upon an enormous scale by public and private corporations. The Lake Shore Railroad has recently replaced its 7 per cent. bonded indebtedness with a new issue of bonds bearing only 3½ per cent, and running 100 years, saving in interest nearly \$2,000,000 per year on the total issue of \$50,000,000. The New York Central Railroad proposes to refund its \$70,000,000 of 4, 5, 6 and 7 per cent. bonds by hundred year 3½ per cent. bonds, thus saving over a million dollars a year in interest, or enough to pay an extra dividend of over 1 per cent. on the capital stock. Other railroad managers will probably attempt to imitate this example. The Financial Chronicle prints a list of railroads whose bonds bearing 5 to 7 per cent. interest amount to over \$700,000,000. It refunded at an average of 4 per cent it shows that the savings of these corporations would be upward of \$20,000,000 a year.

Now the farmer's bonds (that is, the mortgages on his real estate) ought to be refunded. The average interest on them is over 7 per cent., ranging from 5 per cent. at the East to over 20 per cent. at the West and South. The total amount of these farm mortgages is about a billion dollars. If they could be refunded at an average of 5 per cent., the 2 per cent. thus saved would put \$20,000,000 into the farmers' pockets every year. Refunded at an average of 4 per cent., the saving would be \$30,000,000 a year. Every mortgaged farmer can see at once what it would mean to him to reduce by one-fourth or one third the interest he now pays.

The necessity for such refunding operations is even greater with the farmer than with the railroad. Farm prices and profits have declined quite as much if not more than transportation rates. The farmer has economized to the utmost to meet this out in his receipts; he has probably reduced his expenses in even a larger proportion than railroads have. Now the railroad

goes still further, and is saving from one-fourth to one half the interest on its debts, thus enabling good properties to earn fair dividends on honest capitalizations. But the farmer has not been able to reduce the rate of interest he pays on his mortgage, and is thus deprived of the saving in interest that in many cases would represent the farmer's sole profit.

The big refunding schemes above referred to and others that have already been carried out, and the low rate of interest upon National, State and municipal bonds of undoubted character, show that capital is to be satisfied in future with 3 and 5 per cent. on the same securities that formerly paid 4 to 8 per cent. This means, if it means anything, that the capitalist (whether he has \$100 or \$1,000,000) believes that the day of big returns on safe investments has gone not to return for many years, if ever. This is equivalent to saying that large profits in all ordinary business are to be no more. And this means, should it so prove, that farming, like other industry, must be managed on a hardpan basis. Consequently it is even more imperative to the farmer to refund his mortgage at a lower rate than it is to a corporation, State or city. The latter can't afford to pay present comparatively high rates of interest, but if they are obliged to do so, they can raise the money or reduce dividends. But it is a vital necessity with the farmer—too often a matter of life and death. He must either reduce his interest or lose his farm. Such a fate is even worse for society in general than it is for the individual alone.

Other things being equal, the interest rate depends upon the security. But the mortgaged farms of America, carrying as they do an average debt of only about one third their value, and being the basis of all prosperity, nay, of existence itself, are certainly as good security as the best railroad properties. Indeed, American railways as a class are mortgaged for all they are worth—their 5,500 million bonded debts exceed by \$500,000,000 their capital stock, and three quarters of their stock doesn't pay dividends. The mortgage indebtedness on all the farms in the United States is hardly one fifth the amount of the railroad bonds, and the margin between debt and value is three times as large on farms as on railroads.

The obstacle to the refunding of farm mortgages lies not in the lack of security, but in the absence of a feasible plan and machinery for carrying it out. Now a plan can be devised to accomplish this refunding of farm bonds. It must be devised—Farm and Home.

The duties on farm products in the Dingley tariff bill pass for humor all right. But to take a serious view of the situation, it is apparent that the politicians and the monopolists think they can deceive the poor farmer one more time, at least. The truth is, that the farmers of this country export a hundred dollars' worth of products to possibly one dollar's worth imported here from other countries, and the benefits of that portion of the Dingley bill will be in about the same proportion—100 chances against the farmer to one in his favor. But, then, lots of farmers voted for it.

## SUBSOILING.

Our ordinary prairie and bluff soil, as plowed year after year to a depth of four or five inches, becomes impacted just below the shallow, mellow surface by the treading of the horses in the furrow and the pressure of the plow in rolling the furrows until it becomes almost as impervious as hardpan, writes Prof. J. L. Budd. Subsoiling to a depth of from twelve to fifteen inches gives a deep bed, that holds moisture even during a trying season. During the past 25 years we have practiced a method of subsoiling in garden, potato field nursery which has given remarkable results with little increased cost. We subsoil deeply under the rows only, just prior to planting. With this plan, the summer rains run under the rows, and, if the fall is considerable, it percolates from the softened trenches under the intervening spaces and softens the whole surface. As an instance, in planting potatoes in garden or field, we mark out the rows with the subsoil lifter, running it under each row to a depth of from 12 to 15 inches. On this deep, mellow seed bed the seed is dropped, and pressed down by stepping on the pieces. The pressure of the foot sinks the seed down in the mellow furrow four or five inches, permitting perfect covering with a harrow. Over these trenches we have grown 300 bushels per acre, when on unretrenched soil the yield was less than 100 bushels.

## THE DAIRY.

### CARE OF CALVES.

Correspondence of The Progressive Farmer.  
It does not pay to turn calves out until the days and nights are warm. I have seen calves put in an outside pen so early that they actually lost flesh and strength which it took months to recover. Quite frequently cold storms come on in May when the calf is very apt to take cold. If overtaken by such a storm, the calf ought to be put into the barn at once. The minute a calf begins to shiver it is going backward. Scours then follow and loss is certain.

Whole milk is not so wholesome a food for the growing calf as part skim milk to which a handful of shorts or oil meal or a little of both has been added. Sweet milk tends towards fatness. We do not care so much for flesh in the calf which is intended for the dairy as we do for milk giving characteristics. These may be developed, yes, must be brought out while the calf is young by a liberal diet which shall give the animal vitality and capacity to eat and digest the ration which will be given it later on.

There are many nowadays who profess to give us the key note to success in dairying. There is many a "lo here!" and "lo there!" In most of these calculations, the cow is placed first. This I believe to be wrong, decidedly wrong. First and foremost stands, and must stand the man. Give a man who possesses the true instinct of a dairyman, and success will follow. Such a man will necessarily soon gather about him a good herd and good mechanical appliances. He will develop his cows and work up a good market. This done, what remains needful to ensure success?

Rainbows are beautiful. Chasing them passes away the idle hour. But we have no use for them in dairying. Some men spend half their lives working up some theory only to cast it aside at the end. It is well to be ambitious, but let it be along practical lines.

Butter which is put up in attractive form almost sells itself. If offered for sale in a stained, leaky tub, with a soiled and discolored rag over the top of it, the buyer almost instinctively turns away from it. Butter is made to eat. If we "spleen" against it on account of its unfavorable appearance, what comfort do we derive from its use after it reaches the table? It pays above all things to be neat with butter.

E. L. VINCENT.  
Broome Co., N. Y.

## HONOR TO WHOM HONOR IS DUE.

Last week there stepped into the Dairyman sanctum a very bright, interesting lady, who introduced herself in a modest manner, as Mrs. Gwendillian Halladay, formerly Miss Morgan, of Wales. We at once recognized the lady as one of the very noted butter makers of the United Kingdom, and enjoyed, very much, an hour's talk with her. Mrs. Halladay is now a resident of Wisconsin, having married here. She is an intelligent illustration of what a plucky, intelligent girl can make of herself, in skill and reputation, in the study of dairy science and practice. She was raised on a dairy farm in the mountains of Wales. After winning first prize at the British Dairy Farmer's Association at the International Contest, London, in 1886, she was employed by Prof. Long, in London, to make butter, from which the House of Commons was supplied, and also as a teacher of butter making. She was next employed in the Island of Jersey, to start a creamery, where she remained seven months. She was also employed as a teacher of butter making in England and Wales, for four years, during which time she received a silver medal, and a certificate signed by Queen Victoria, as President of the Royal Agricultural Society, of England. This certificate, Mrs. Halladay exhibits with commendable pride. Among the other trophies of her skill, is a diamond ring, appropriately inscribed, a gift of public spirited citizens of Wales, for the honor she had conferred on that portion of the Kingdom.—Hoard's Dairyman.

In many parts of Europe the goat is regarded as a very important animal. Its milk is there highly valued, and considering the small amount of feed it requires to support life, the number of goats that can be kept on the same herbage will, perhaps, supply as much milk as if the same feed had been fed to cows. But the greatest value of the goat is for pasturing rocky land that cattle will starve on.