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THE PROGRESSIVE



ARMER.

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PAPERS.

Progressive Farmer, State Organ, Raleigh, N. C.
Jacobian, Raleigh, N. C.
Secretary, Hickory, N. C.
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Beaver Dam, N. C.
Lumberton, N. C.
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Wadesboro, N. C.
Salisbury, N. C.
The People's Paper, Salisbury, N. C.
The Vestibule, Wadesboro, N. C.
The Plow-Boy, Wadesboro, N. C.
Annals Watchman, Wadesboro, N. C.

AGRICULTURE.

Don't disgust the young boys with farm work by giving them the poorest tools to work with.

During dry weather frequent tillage serves two good purposes: it saves moisture and kills weeds.

The farmer who combines the im- proved stock scientific feeding gets the best results, and meets the world's competition on a paying basis.

This is a good month to plant late cucumbers for pickles, set out late calery plants for winter use, and to plant sweet corn for use in the early fall.

Nothing adds more to render a home in the country attractive than a neatly- kept lawn; it also adds greatly to the value of the premises. It pays in several ways.

An exchange gives this good advice: Put out some roots for the stock the coming winter, and do it in time. They will furnish a relish which pays as food better than even the corn or the hay.

Manures left in heaps in the yard to rot down, will lose by actual test from 40 to 60 per cent. of their value. The fertilizing elements in manure must be in a liquid form before the plant can use them.

The farmer should avoid all fretting and worrying when a rain comes pouring down day after day at planting time. Worrying wears a man out faster than work and does no good whatever.

Farmers should learn that roots are not trip hammers striking at the almost stone like subsoil. Keep it stirred up. The best time, however, is before plant- ing, as deep cultivation now is likely to kill the plants.

Don't leave unoccupied ground in the garden. With the long seasons North Carolina farmers enjoy, they may readily find another crop to plant as a substitute for one that has out- lived its usefulness.

THE VALUE OF A GOOD SPRING.

A spring of good water on any farm adds at least a hundred dollars to its value, and if near a city it is worth much more. Often such springs can be found in hillsides by digging six or eight feet, especially if the soil shows springy places during winter and spring. If the spring is higher than the house, it can be conducted into the kitchen by force of gravity, and the water can be turned off or on as the housewife may desire. There are doubtless hundreds, and possibly thousands, of farms in New England where the best pure water can be conducted into the house at slight expense. If the water has to be lifted a hydraulic ram will force the water up hill. This costs somewhat more, but it will generally pay.—American Cultivator.

Some one rises to suggest that ento- mology—"bug science" be taught in our public schools, at least enough to learn the children what insects are their friends and what their enemies. We think the idea is a good one.

HOW PLANTS GET WATER.

The fact that in wet weather the soil dries slowly even when covered with plants that ordinarily drain the soil rapidly, leads some to think that when wet the leaves absorb moisture on them. But the fact can be equally well accounted for by the knowledge that water on the leaves prevents them from evaporating the moisture brought from the soil by roots. This soil contains some mineral elements which unite with carbonic acid gas from the air in forming plant tissue. While the leaves are wet they cannot absorb carbonic acid gas. This with the effect of stopping evaporation, makes the sappy growth which many, jumping too quickly at conclusions, think must be caused by the direct absorption of water through the leaves.—American Cultivator.

Bones will accumulate about the farm and every one should be saved. If they cannot be applied to quick- growing crops, they can be very read- ily got into shape for use as a fertilizer for the fruit trees and grape vines.

RURAL SANITATION.

Of all teachers, Nature is the most severe, inasmuch as she never forgets an infraction of her laws, nor fails to visit her penalties upon the unlearned and guilty alike, says The Dietetic and Hygienic Gazette. She does not recog- nize ignorance, but causes all who fail to observe her laws to suffer.

An erroneous impression has obtained that the rural districts are removed from the influence of unsanitary con- ditions. This is far from the fact, for farmers are constantly breaking the laws of nature with impunity and without restriction. Devotees to the cause of the public health service can find their best energies to the crowded cities, and lacking thoroughness allow the country to go by default. Dr. A. O. Stimpson, who lives in a Pennsylvan- ian village and has an excellent point of observation, writes to the Medical and Surgical Reporter that physicians should contribute a portion of their time and talents to the promo- tion of the healthfulness of the com- munity in which they reside. In their travels among patients, the doctor very logically argues, they often see many existing evils that could be easily corrected were the attention of the public specifically directed to them.

In most farming communities there seems to prevail a careless indifference to anything that might tend to better- ing their sanitary surroundings and a stubborn determination to ignore the ways and means of important sanitary reforms. On some farms we find not only the stables and outhouses built in close proximity to the family dwelling, but overrunning with all manner of filthy accumulations. If a calf, sheep or any other animal happens to die from accident or disease, the owner of such stock, after some hours' delibera- tion, takes his stone boat, hitches his horse or oxen to it, and, after transfer- ring the carcass of the dead animal to said vehicle, drags it to a convenient distance from the house and there dumps it upon the ground. Here it is allowed to remain openly exposed to the air until it is converted into adipose or until the crows constitute them- selves scavengers pro tem. and devour it. How much better would it have been if the farmer had heaped a pile of straw and fagots on the dead animal, applied a torch, and cremated it. But,

HORTICULTURE.

GROWING FALL TURNIPS.

Where the land is fresh and free from the seeds of foul weeds, fall turnip seed may be sown broadcast from the first of July until the middle of August, depending on the season, and covered with a light smoothing or brush harrow. Prepare the land very carefully and pulverize and compact the seedbed thoroughly. New ground the second year from sod gives best re- sults: The soil is then rich in plant food and in good tilth. A piece of sod ground broken during the summer and seeded to wheat in the fall makes an excellent turnip field the following season, after the wheat has been har- vested. Ordinarily such land will not produce a sufficient number of weeds to interfere with the full development of the turnips. Four or five pounds of seed to the acre will give about the right stand.

In sections of the country where new land is not available, truck patches from which early vegetables have been removed will answer admirably. Often wheat land is plowed as soon as the grain has been removed and seeded to turnips. The ground must be rich, for turnips are gross feeders, but soil con- taining an excess of vegetable matter will cause an excessive growth of tops, to the detriment of root development. A cool, moist climate is very favorable to the growth of turnips, and for this reason the seed should be put in late if the season is dry, then most of the growth will take place in fall.

CHARCOAL ITEMS.

The value of charcoal for poultry cannot be too widely known. Both fowls and chicks are fond of it. Judge G. O. Brown says there is not sufficient attention given to the importance of having the charcoal fresh when it is used for poultry. Charcoal has won- derful absorbent powers, especially for gases. Only a small quantity should be put into the feed hoppers at a time, on account of its absorbent nature. Before placing it where the poultry can get it it is best to heat it well, which will have a tendency both to drive off impurities which may have come absorbed and to refreshen and make it of that crispy or crackling na- ture characteristic of fresh burned charcoal. Keep the charcoal in some vessel that is thoroughly dry and has a tight fitting cover to exclude the air.

As a corrective of injudicious over- feeding, as a remedy in bowel troubles, and as a preventive of indigestion, charcoal has no equal. Feed every other day, making it about the size of corn for fowls, and the size of wheat for chicks.

Charred corn on cob is an excellent way for giving charcoal. Place a few ears of corn in the oven, and keep them there until they are burned black to the cob. Corn charcoal can thus be made as wanted. The older and dryer the corn the easier it will be to make charcoal and the better it will be.

The best way to feed it to give just what the fowls will eat up clean. In that way it is little exposed to the air. Charcoal is invaluable as a dentrifice. It whitens the teeth and removes any unpleasant taste of a disordered stom- ach. A few drops of tincture of myrrh in a glass of water is an excellent mouth wash, while listerine as an all around purifier and antiseptic for the mouth is unexcelled.—Knight Watch- man.

Although charcoal has no fertilizing properties in itself, it is an excellent thing to apply to gardens, to manure heaps, and, indeed to all rich ground. It is indestructible, though its lightness causes it to be easily washed from the soil, when it will be broken into very fine particles, and deposited in the black mud of ditches and ponds. This is very rich, because the charcoal is an excellent absorbent of ammonia from the air, which it readily gives to the roots of plants. Hence though the charcoal be not itself fertile it is an ex- cellent gatherer of fertility. In fresh charcoal there is a slight trace of sul- phur, which makes it repellant to in- sects. A mixture of sulphur and char- coal is the best means of repelling cucumber and squash bugs when it has been dusted on the vines.—American Cultivator.

In the same journal we find the follow- ing from J. W. Smith, of Kentucky: To prevent crows injuring my young corn, I sprinkle shelled corn on top of the ground on the plowed fields. The crows are looking for worms and will not eat up corn if they can get enough to eat without doing so. I have followed this plan for years and my corn has never been disturbed. I have had no outworn when my neighbors have been compelled to replant entire fields.

A man who kills a crow should be fined. Save the birds and they will save the farmers' crops.

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In sections of the country where new land is not available, truck patches from which early vegetables have been removed will answer admirably. Often wheat land is plowed as soon as the grain has been removed and seeded to turnips. The ground must be rich, for turnips are gross feeders, but soil con- taining an excess of vegetable matter will cause an excessive growth of tops, to the detriment of root development. A cool, moist climate is very favorable to the growth of turnips, and for this reason the seed should be put in late if the season is dry, then most of the growth will take place in fall.

While broadcasting answers very well on new land, the best results are obtained only when sown in rows and cultivated. Have the rows about two feet apart and the plants anywhere from six to twelve inches apart in the row. Give level culture, keep the land free from weeds and stir the surface often.

Turnips are a valuable winter feed for sheep and cattle, particularly the former. When fed to milk cows, they just after milking. Otherwise the milk may be given an unpleasant odor and the butter an undesirable taint. They must not be fed in excess to any stock but when other succulent feeds cannot be fed, turnips are invaluable.

MORE APPLES.

Were every family to put in practice the following sensible advice of Prof. Faraday, a marked gain in the health of its members would be the result: Let every family in autumn lay in from two to ten or more barrels, and it will be them the most economical investment in the whole range of culi- nary supplies. A raw, mellow apple is digested in an hour and a half, while boiled cabbage requires five hours. The most healthful dessert that can be placed on the table is baked apple. If taken freely at breakfast, with coarse bread, and without meat or flesh of any kind, it has an admirable effect on the general system, often removing constipation, correcting acidities, and cooling off febrile conditions more effectively than the most approved medicines. If families could be induced to substitute the apple—sound, ripe and luscious—for the pies, cakes can- dies and other sweetmeats, with which children are too often stuffed, there would be a diminution of doctors' bills sufficient in a single year to lay up a stock of this delicious fruit for a sea- son's use.—Ex.

BERRY CULTURE.

Mr. M. A. Thayer, Sparta, Wis., sends the following hints for July: Will it pay to continue strawberry beds more than one year? That de- pends much on the condition of the beds at the close of the fruiting season. If the ground is rich, the rows well filled out, the crop light, and nearly free from grass and weeds, it will then usually pay to continue one, two or more years. If, however, plants are exhausted by a large yield, and grass and weeds have been allowed to grow, it will be more work to place old beds in condition than to prepare new ones.

If to be discontinued, plow at once and sow some late crop for feed or fer- tility.

To renew old beds, mow off plants. As soon as dry, burn over, reduce rows to six or eight inches in width with spade or cultivator. Remove all weeds, every particle of grass, apply a liberal dressing of fine manure, cultivate and keep clean, same as with new beds.

Right here is one of the benefits of keeping new beds perfectly clean. It saves a large amount of labor when

LIVE STOCK.

LIVE STOCK ITEMS.

The early lamb catches the biggest price.
Poor pasture will not make good mutton.

It is the worst kind of policy to breed from weak ewes.
Wherever the mutton sheep is grown to perfection, the feed is the very best.

One man says that sheep always pay and we are not sure but that he is right.
Wool to be good must have no weak spots in it, but will have if the sheep is not kept in good condition all the time.

Don't stunt the calves. See that they are well cared for. If you don't expect to attend to them, better kill them at once.

A poor cow should not be very highly valued as an ornament to the farm. When she ceases to pay her way, bet- ter dispose of her.

The dog is entitled to protection, if he attends to his own business. But when he goes sheep hunting, his "hour" should come.

People are becoming more and more shy of buying poor mutton, and, there- fore, farmers are paying more and more heed to the raising and feeding of good sheep.

It is a most foolish and absurd prac- tice to stint an animal in food and water. There is no time from the birth of a cow until she is disposed of that starvation will pay.

It is said that exclusive corn feeding is the cause of more losses of hogs than any other thing. It is because corn is one of the hardest grains to digest, un- less ground and cooked.

Salt is one of the greatest aids to di- gestion. It should always be kept in reach of all the stock on the farm. Hogs and horses, as well as cows, must have it, if you intend to secure the greatest profit from them.

It matters not, says an exchange, whether the farmer is breeding for beef or butter, he cannot afford to ignore the principle which runs through all breeding operations—that like be- gets like. One may soon build up a herd of great merit merely through a selection of good cows bred to the best bulls, or may stay at the tail of the procession.

VALUE OF SHELTER FOR STOCK.

Prof. Georgeason, of the Kansas Agri- cultural College, thus sums up results of three experiments:

"As regards the value of shelter dur- ing winter for fattening steers we have made three experiments, comprising in all thirty head, of which fifteen were sheltered and fifteen fed in the open yard. They were fed alike in all re- spects. It should be stated that in the first experiment the indoor steers fet- tered much under the confinement for sometime, until they became accus- tomed to it. In the second case the experimenter did not begin till the steers had become quiet, and in the third case they did not offer objections to the con- finement, having been reared in that manner.

"The figures show that the steers which were sheltered ate more than the steers sheltered in the barn, but that the gain was practically the same; that the cost per pound of gain was greater for the outdoor steers, and that in the final settlement of accounts the sheltered steers brought a profit of \$6.34 per head, while the steers not sheltered caused a loss of 85 cents per head, making an actual difference of \$7.19 in favor of shelter. But this takes account of the production of of beef from the feed consumed. There are other factors which should be con- sidered before we pronounce in favor of sheltering as a practical measure. These are the cost of providing ade- quate shelter, the largely increased amount of labor in caring for steers tied up in the barn, and the important feature to the Western farmer, who feeds mostly whole corn, that hogs can- not follow barn-fed steers as they can those fed outdoors. When these things are considered, shelter is of question- able value for the Western feeder. On the other hand, to Eastern farmers who would probably feed a balanced ration of ground feed, and who would value the manure more than the cost of cleaning the stable and handling the feed, barn feeding would doubtless commend itself as the more profitable method."

THOSE TOMATO PLANTS

It is a common thing to see in many farm houses at this season of the year a box or two of tomato plants setting in some sunny place, says B. A. Wood in a contemporary. This fact of itself is nothing remarkable and is commend- able in every one who has such a "flower pot," but there are other facts connected with this one about which I wish to comment.

There are but few who so plant seeds who ever think of transplanting the plants more than once, and that once is from the box directly to the garden. Many are not aware that frequent transplantings make earlier fruit as well as stockier and healthier plants. Seeds are apt to be sown too thick in boxes, and, if good, the plants will be too close together. If these are not transplanted so as to allow more space for each plant, they will grow up early slender.

My plan has been to transplant to larger boxes as soon as the third leaf is well formed. I set the plants nearly to the seed leaf that the stems may be short and stocky. When they are about three inches high I again trans- plant into berry boxes, planting four in a box, one in each quarter; when the weather and soil are suitable I finally remove to the garden.

In setting out I break the boxes apart and with a sharp knife cut the earth into four equal parts, so that a plant will be in each piece. This leaves the roots of each plant undisturbed, and they will continue growth unchecked.

As the tomato plant is a gross feeder, plenty of well rotted manure should be placed below each hill. The plant should not be set directly in the ma- nure, but there should be six or eight inches of earth between.

There are several ways of training the vines: Any way is good enough, only so that the fruit is off the ground and has plenty of sunlight.