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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.

The Progressive Farmer, State Organ, Raleigh, N. C.  
The Southern Farmer, Raleigh, N. C.  
The North Carolina Farmer, Raleigh, N. C.  
The People's Paper, Raleigh, N. C.  
The Vestal, Raleigh, N. C.  
The Plow-Boy, Raleigh, N. C.  
The Carolina Watchman, Raleigh, 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.

Carriages and buggies are cheap and every farmer should possess good vehicles.

To make the most of the feed consumed, horses should be given a little salt at least once a day in their food. Nature seems to have provided it as a promoter of good digestion.

Saul Sly is a sharp trader; he usually gets the best of the bargain; he does this by misrepresenting things. His boy tells lies and Saul wonders where he learned how to tell it.—Ex.

One of the best investments a farmer can make is to buy a chest of such oils as are often used. They are the means of making the boys handy and often save a trip to town in a busy time.

If the plan of pasturing the meadows is followed, do not turn the stock in until the plants have had time to make a good, vigorous start to grow, and then be careful not to pasture down too close.

A hired man who whistles is worth five dollars a month more than the one who doesn't. The man who whistles is neither sad, sulky, nor morose, and as a rule he does not swear at the cows and horses.

Half a day for fishing and time along toward night to visit the "swimming hole" is not wasted on boys. They work better for such things and don't want to get away from work at the first opportunity.

The man who says the farmer does not deserve the best of everything should go to Mexico, and the farmer who keeps and eats only those things he cannot sell would make a fitting companion for him.

Fine clothes do not make a fine man any more than fine feathers make fine birds, but you will notice that the man who pays attention to his personal appearance is the one who is listened to with the most attention.

## THE SOUTHERN COW PEA AS A NITROGEN GATHERER.

Correspondence of the Progressive Farmer.

During the past four months we have traversed quite a considerable portion of the States of Alabama, Georgia, North and South Carolina and Tennessee. We have visited truck farmers, fruit growers, cotton planters and nurserymen, stock raisers and even rice farmers in the above named States, and more especially that portion of them that might justly be termed "live," "wide awake" and "progressive;" men who, as agriculturists, have made for themselves a national and at the same time a very enviable reputation; as, for instance, G. W. Truitt and J. C. Sim, of Troup county, Ga.; both of these gentlemen having harvested upwards of four bales of cotton from the single acre in a single season, and this not on a single acre, but on five acre patches; Capt. Z. J. Draka, of Marlboro county, S. C., who harvested 255 bushels of corn from the single acre in a single season; and many others too numerous to mention who have made themselves famous along their individual lines.

We mention this to show that we have gained quite a large fund of valuable practical information from our brother "planters" of the Sunny South. We have learned amongst other things that the Southern field pea, or cow pea, however good it may be as a "nitrogen gatherer," is by no means equal (as a source of nitrogen, or as a means of furnishing a hungry plant with nitrogen in a quick acting and readily available form) to any of the nitrogenous manures or fertilizers that are to be found on the ordinary farm or purchased in the market, and more especially is this the case with all light, loose, sandy soils. We believe that we have been affected with the "pea craze" quite as badly as anyone else, in fact, we haven't got over it yet, but we try very hard not to expect more of them than they are capable of accomplishing.

Peas furnish neither potash nor phosphoric acid; yet, because they extract from the surface soil, and pump up from the subsoil beneath considerable quantities of these manurial substances, they are often given credit for the full amount of both, as though they had enriched the soil to that extent, while the fact is (if the vines are removed from the soil in the form of hay) that they have actually impoverished the soil to that extent. Peas are greedy consumers of both potash and phosphoric acid, and these must be furnished to them in liberal quantities (never less than 200 pounds of acid phosphate and 100 pounds muriate of potash per acre, or its equivalent in kainit, while double that amount may be used with manifest advantage) if an actual increase in fertility is the object in view in planting them. Peas attract their nitrogen from the atmosphere and store it up in the soil in the form of "organic" nitrogen, and although we are well satisfied in our own mind that we have, in times past, gained an increase of 10, 15 and 20 bushels of corn per acre from a single crop of cow peas turned under, we are just as well satisfied that nitrogen obtained from any other source (as nitrate of soda, cotton seed meal, crushed cotton seed, rotted cotton seed, stable manure, etc.) will act quicker and give more satisfactory results as well as more profitable than if the cow pea vine had been turned under. We expect to make a liberal planting of peas every succeeding year; 1st, as an economical feed crop for hogs and live stock of all kinds; 2nd, to keep up a good supply of organic matter or "humus" in the soil; and 3rd, as a source of nitrogen, the comparative value being in our opinion in the order named.

We paid a visit recently to the Experiment Farm at Southern Pines, North Carolina, and we would advise agriculturists everywhere, more especially those of them engaged in raising either fruits or vegetables for market and who are located anywhere within the bounds of the long leaf pine belt, and whose soil is light, loose, sandy and comparatively poor, to thoroughly familiarize themselves with its workings and with what is being done there for their special benefit. We took particular notice of the fact that nitrogen is badly needed on this soil, and that where nitrogen had been applied in the form of nitrate of soda, the various crops responded in no uncertain manner. The same was equally true of potash in any and all of its forms, of phosphoric acid and of lime; but in

every single plot where cow peas were turned under and relied upon as a source of nitrogen, the crop, no matter of what kind, was invariably and positively inferior.

Theorize over this as we may, the fact remains, that organic nitrogen is slower in its action, and decidedly less satisfactory, as far as either immediate or final results are concerned, than are the more readily soluble and immediately available chemicals, as nitrate of soda, sulphate of ammonia, etc. In the instance of the Experimental Farm at Southern Pines, we think the land is too fresh (humus being already present in excess) hence already too open, loose, mellow and porous, which said "too loose and open" condition the pea vines would have a tendency to exaggerate. Possibly, as Prof. Massey and his very efficient assistant, Mr. Alexander Rhodes, are superintending the experiments at that place, these gentlemen may be able to throw some light on this question.

From the beneficial effects of lime upon every plot to which it has been applied, including those plots where pea vines had been turned under, we cannot avoid the belief that our theory as briefly outlined above is correct, but if not, we are open to conviction, and anxious to be put upon the right track.  
G. H. TURNER,  
Burgess, Miss.

## HOW TO DESTROY MOLES.

A subscriber asks how to destroy moles. We doubt very much the policy of killing moles. From very careful investigation made, it has been proved that their food is almost wholly insectivorous. They destroy in immense quantities the larva of some of the most destructive insect pests, and are always found working where these pests abound. We admit that they do some damage by uprooting plants and causing them to wilt and die by tunneling under them, but we doubt much whether this damage amounts to anything like the good they do by ridding the soil of the larval forms of insect life. They may be destroyed by setting steel traps in their runs, or by placing bisulphide of carbon in the runs. Any strong smelling drug, such as assafoetida, placed in the runs, will cause them to forsake the ground. In using bisulphide of carbon, be careful to have no lights around, as it is highly explosive.—Southern Planter.

## JULY ON THE FARM.

The hot weather of mid summer is now upon us, and it behooves the thrifty farmer to "make hay while the sun shines." Most of the upland hay crop is now harvested before the 4th on many farms, the swales, river meadows and salt marshes being usually left till the uplands have been harvested. The crop is better than the average on most farms in consequence of the abundant rains in May and June, and there will be no good reason for high prices or scarcity of fodder this year.

After haying is over there is often a comparatively leisure time on many farms; this is used to good advantage in clearing up waste land, and especially draining wet places and meadows. The springs and brooks are usually low at this season of the year, and for this reason it is easier to put in the drains than at any other time of year.

The small fruit grower will be busy harvesting his currants, gooseberries, raspberries and blackberries, and the wild berries of the pastures will give employment to many children and women. The harvesting of this wild fruit has assumed considerable importance in some of our hill towns, and more attention is being paid to the crop than formerly.

The market gardener is now busy with harvesting his crops of early cabbage, lettuce, onions, beans, beets, summer squashes, etc., and clearing up the land for the late crops, such as late squashes, celery, late cabbage and cauliflower.

In working the land at this time of year care must be taken in dry weather to prevent the rapid evaporation of the moisture from the surface of the land. The plow should be followed quickly by the roller to prevent this.

In setting out plants, it is of course well to choose a time after a rain if possible when the soil is moist and the air damp. But in case of continued dry, hot weather, plants may be set made to live by using proper care in handling them. The tops should be sheared off about half their length, the roots kept wet while planting, the earth around the roots well firmed after

planting by pressing with the foot at each side of the plant, and if water can be had the plants should be well soaked for a few days after planting.

Those who omitted planting a strawberry bed in the spring can still secure a crop for next year by setting the young runners this month or early in August. Of course the plants set thus late cannot be expected to run much; and it is therefore needful to set them about a foot apart and keep the runners trimmed; this involves some work and for marketing fruit for profit will not pay so well as planting in the spring; but very large and handsome fruit for exhibition or the table can be grown thus.

The comparative leisure of this season gives the farmer a good opportunity to take an outing and learn what other farmers are doing, and to meet people who earn their living in various other callings.

The business of farming has experienced in recent years quite as rapid changes as any other calling. The mowing and reaping machines, the horse rakes, sulky plows and numerous other improvements, together with the cheap and quick transportation of Southern and Western produce to our markets, has forced our farmers to abandon many old fashioned crops and methods of working, and to adopt other and more profitable plans. An observing traveler can learn much by comparing the methods adopted by others in this rapid change.—Massachusetts Plowman.

## HORTICULTURE.

An exchange says that apples may be kept two years by wrapping them in newspapers in such a way as to exclude the air. The newspaper, however, must be one on which the subscription is paid in full, or the dampness resulting from the "due" will cause the fruit to spoil.

Tillage, manure, care, are all important with an orchard. A man cannot expect to receive paying crops if he does not work and labor and strive and plan for the same. Do not hesitate to give the orchard at least as much attention as you would a crop of corn or potatoes. Not only is it wise to take care of what trees a farmer may have, but it will usually be profitable to set out new orchards.—Farmers' Advocate.

## APPLES AS MEDICINE.

The German analysts say that the apple contains a larger per centage of phosphorus than any other fruit or vegetable. This phosphorus is admirably adapted for renewing the essential nervous matter, lithicin, of the brain and spinal chord. It is, perhaps, for the same reason the old Scandinavian tradition represents the apple as the food of the gods, who, when they felt themselves growing feeble and infirm, resorted to this fruit for renewing their powers of mind and body. Also the acids of the apple are of signal service for men of sedentary habits, whose livers are sluggish in action, these acids serving to eliminate from the body noxious matters which, if retained, make the brain heavy and dull, or bring about jaundice, skin eruptions and other allied troubles. Some such experience must have led to our custom of taking apple sauce with roast pork, rich goose and like dishes.

A good ripe, raw apple is one of the easiest of vegetable substances for the stomach to deal with, the whole process of its digestion being completed in eighty-five minutes.

In the Hotel des Invalides of Paris an apple poultice is used commonly for inflamed eyes, the apple being roasted and its pulp applied over the eyes with-out any intervening substance. Long ago it was said apples do easily and speedily pass through the belly, therefore they do not mollify the belly. And for the same reason a modern maxim teaches that "To eat an apple going to bed, the doctor then will beg his bread."

Fruits were given us before drugs, and they were all given some medicinal virtue. Prunes, apples, pears, figs, peaches, are all aperient, and how much better it is to keep the liver and bowels free from clogging by pleasant fruit laxatives than by resorting every few days to drastic saline purgatives, or to calomel and its various compounds.—Medical Summary.

Sheep delight in hilly pastures, and the protection afforded by sheltering the animals from chilling winds is no small feature of their adaptability to this industry.

## THE DAIRY.

### SOME DAIRY DON'TS.

Don't keep calves in dark, filthy places and expect them to thrive.

Don't be afraid to spend money for a sire from a first class family.

Don't think scrub sires can produce choice stock for any purpose.

Don't feed a calf grain before its age is sufficient to chew its cud.

Don't try to be called a large dairyman by the number of cows you keep.

Don't think that strainers or separators can take soluble filth out of milk.

Don't make your cows drink water that you could not drink yourself.

Don't keep a cow a month without testing her to see if she pays her way.

Don't run or worry cows going to and from the pasture or in the milking yard.

Don't think to raise a calf for a milch cow and feed it up to its time of parturition for a beef animal.

Don't have pastures so short that cows must work every hour of the day and night to get enough to eat.

Don't forget that a cow is decidedly a creature of that habit, and in all ways try to conform to her peculiar habits.—Ex.

### CARE IN MILKING.

Correspondence of the Progressive Farmer.  
By this I mean the attention we give our dairies during the heated period. Simply turning the herd to pasture twice a day and milking at a regular period is not all that is implied by the word "care."

Are you sure your cows have all the fresh water they will drink? Springs need cleaning out often. If they are neglected, a dirty scum often gathers upon the surface and the water is not pure. If the source of supply is a pond, it is doubly essential that care be used. The weeds and bogs should be kept well scraped out, so that there may be as deep a body of water as possible; and as such reservoirs quickly dry up in time of drouth unless they be fed by springs, they must not be forgotten or soon the milk supply will be shortened. Cows need more water than many of us think. They must have it or we suffer the consequences.

The feed supply must also be maintained. When running at pasture, cattle will soon exhaust a large range. There may be grass enough, but they have trodden upon it as they went along and the next time they come that way they will pass over large quantities of good feed. I like the plan of having two pasture lots for this reason. After running upon one field for say a week, I turn my cows into another field. There the feed seems much fresher, and it is, in fact. The dew and perhaps a shower or two have washed the grass so that it is sweet and clean. How the cattle do enjoy the change! And there is no question but that they do much better than when confined in the same pasture all the time.

Again, did you ever try it to see how much salt your cows will consume if they get it? If not, you would be surprised upon making the test. Under the basement of my barn, where the cows go in and out to be milked, I have nailed a board along the side of one of the sills forming a long box open at the top. In this I intend to keep salt so that my cows can have it all the time. They almost always stop to take a bite on the way in or out. They are healthier for it, and I am sure it adds to the quantity of milk produced.

Shade is an essential to the comfort of stock. In the heat of the day they spend many hours resting under the trees. Of late years, the horse fly has made life a burden anywhere unless we use means to keep it away. Some good preparations are now on the market, and we can ourselves mix oils and certain acids very cheaply so that we are able to do away with a great deal of the misery which would otherwise be caused by the flies.—E. L. VINCENT.

### THE MONEY IN DAIRYING.

When milk, butter and cheese reach as low prices as prevail this year the question of whether or not there is any money in dairying must be answered exactly as a similar one concerning farming might be answered. In both cases it depends altogether on the man who is conducting the business. There are dairymen who are making money in all the dairy counties of the West, just the same as there are farmers who are not complaining about hard times.

In such years as this no one expects to make large profits, but if by good management we can make both ends

meet, and leave a little margin on the right side of the books, we can go forward with cheerfulness, feeling that lower prices are hardly probable, and that with better prices our profits will be correspondingly increased.

The good dairyman will breed up his own herd, selecting each year the best, and setting his mark high in order that he may have something to strive for, and something to triumph in when he shall have reached the goal.

Heifers should be milked as long as possible the first year, for if allowed to go dry a long time the first year the habit becomes fixed and the cow is less profitable than she might have been.

Warm stables are absolutely essential to the greatest success, and these should have abundance of light, for no living thing thrives in semi darkness. Regular feeding and milking by the same persons, kind treatment, and plenty of feed must be the rule, and careful grooming and clean bedding also add to the returns.

There are a good many formulas for feeding dairy cows, but the best one seems to be plenty of feed in as great variety as possible. Anything the cow may relish should be given her, and with dry forage roots or ensilage in liberal quantities. For summer pasture to begin with, and as soon as that grows short it should be pieced out by feeding green feed of some kind. There is no loss in cutting green feed for stock, as recent experiments show that a field that is pastured does not furnish to exceed one third as much feed as one in which the grass is allowed to grow and is cut afterward. Bran oats and corn oats in the sheaf and corn in the ear or shock, Mr. Judd says, may be fed with profit.

Have the cows come in in the winter, as that is the time when prices are the highest, and brings the dry time just when prices are lowest, as a rule. A cow will give about so much milk in a year, no matter what time she comes in, and she should be bred so as to produce milk during the whole of the season of best prices.

By attention to all these details, careful feeding from an economical point of view, and a personal supervision, the dairyman can, even at present low prices, count on making a profitable year.—Farmers' Voice.

### HOW ABOUT YOUR WATER SUPPLY FOR YOUR COWS?

Success must be the watch word of all practical dairymen; and the higher success they achieve the nearer they will have come to realize the ideal of perfection towards which they must strive to reach. It will require considerable work, and constant daily attention to all the small details, if the highest standard of success is to be attained. But no ambitious dairymen can afford to neglect them. And still there are very few dairymen that realize the necessity of supplying the cows with sufficient water, especially in the winter. Milk contains 87 per cent of water, and a cow that weighs 1,000 pounds, when in full milk, will drink about 11 to 13 gallons of water each day, if she can obtain it whenever she feels inclined to drink. But if she cannot have access to water more than once a day, she will drink a very large quantity when thirsty, and then again on cold stormy days go thirsty from the trough, after drinking a few mouthfuls. Now, if a cow drinks as much as 12 gallons of icy cold water at one time, it will give her a terrible chill, from which it will often take the cow several hours before she regains the animal heat necessary to make her feel comfortable, and no secretion of milk can take place before she has assumed her natural temperature. Besides, a very large quantity of water taken at one time makes the food in her stomach so liquid that it cannot be raised for rumination. Of course, nature soon removes the surplus, but the process continues, and the contents of the stomach become too dry and solid. So the cow is handicapped both ways, when, if the necessary water was at hand, the cow would take a little at a time when needed for the best result.

Dairymen who have supplied their cows with sufficient water in the barn, find that the same lot of cows will give from 10 per cent to even as much as 20 per cent more milk, on the same food, and no dairymen who keeps cows for profit can ignore such results. Dairymen that have not provided for watering devices in their barns should not fail to do so as soon as possible. For this purpose a V shaped trough running the whole length of the stable, immediately over the center of the manger will be found very convenient. Place the water trough about 34 feet above the floor of the manger. It will thus not inconvenience either cow or attendant, and the water can easily be let into it from a tank, or pumped directly from the well into the trough. If water cannot be constantly supplied to the milch cows, it should be given to them in the barn at least two or, still better, three times a day.—Lewis O. Follow, in Hoard's Dairyman.