"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., JULY 27, 1897. No. 25

THE NATIONAL FARMERS' ALLIANCE AND INDUSTRIAL UNION.

President—Mann Page, Brandon,

Vice President—C. Vincent, Indianapolis, Ind.

Secretary Treasurer—W. P. Bricker, Organ Station, Pa.

LECTURERS.

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

NATIONAL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE.

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

JUDICIARY.

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

NORTH CAROLINA FARMERS' STATE ALLIANCE.

President—Dr. Cyrus Thompson, Scotlands, 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, Villanow, 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. English, Trinity, N. C.; James M. Worborne, Kinston, N. C.

THE ALLIANCE JUDICIARY COMMITTEE.

John Brady, Gatesville, N. C.; Dr. J. Harrell, Whiteville, N. C.; T. J. Idler, 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.
Hickory Mercury,	Hickory, N. C.
Messenger,	Whitakers, N. C.
Cleveland Home,	Beaver Dam, N. C.
Robesonian Populist,	Lumberton, N. C.
Mecklenburg People's Paper,	Charlotte, N. C.
Cabarrus Vestibule,	Concord, N. C.
Wilkes 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 readers can now see what papers are published in their interest.

AGRICULTURE.

In the hot weather of this month see that the horses are not neglected. Water them regularly, and see that they have a good rest about noon. Give yourself a rest about noon and work during cooler hours.

Much on the time of cutting and manner of curing largely depends the feeding value of the hay secured. If the clover or grass is cut too soon it will be deficient in nutriment and be light in weight. If allowed to get too ripe, a large per cent. of the nutriment in the stalk turns to woody fiber and is indigestible and is of no benefit to the stock.

Speaking of the little worries, an exchange says that the missing fence rail of the broken wire will give the owner trouble before he is aware of it. There is no loss of time to attend to these things at once, for if left unrepaired they will require more time; and when you do find the breach the loss will be greater.

Any person will take the trouble to investigate the matter, he will find that the prosperous and successful farmer is the educated farmer. About a century ago the most of the people thought a grubbing hoe and jumping shovel plow were about all the tools necessary for a farmer to possess. And if he was the owner of a wagon and a yoke of cattle, with which to haul his produce to market, that he was "right in the procession." Such farmers with old ideas and ways are fast falling in the rear of the procession when they come in competition with the educated farmer. The old time farmer will often say thus in regard to his boys: Now my son don't seem to take an interest in the farm, so I guess I'd better send him to school, give him a good education and make a lawyer or doctor out of him, while John sticks to the farm like a bee to a sweet clover blossom, so it will not be worth while to waste any time in sending him to school as he will make a farmer just like his dad.—Ex.

THE HELPLESS FARMER.

In a recent issue of the Ruston Leader the editor remarks that cotton is the most helpless crop that can be raised upon the farm. Corn, wheat, oats, hay and nearly everything else, when the market is over supplied, can be fed to the stock and to the family. These things make not only the farmer in a measure self supporting, but are powerful elements of independence to the country in which they are raised. The Ruston Leader could hardly have written a truer paragraph. It is one of the most conspicuous facts in our Southern agriculture that when the season is finished and the crop has failed to be lucrative, the Southern planter is greatly distressed in his endeavors to effect credit arrangements for the coming year. With diversified agriculture, producing several crops, some of which will almost surely succeed, and with the production in particular of all those articles that are consumed at home, and which can be produced with reasonable economy, the farmer acquires a degree of independence that no other class of men possess. The absolute helplessness of the man who produces but one crop, and that a crop that he cannot feed to his stock, and which can only be sold into the markets of the world through the usual channels, is a feature of our Southern agriculture which we trust will be less conspicuous in the future than in the past.—Southern Farmer.

WIDE VS. NARROW CORN ROWS

To Turn Pea Vines of Rank Growth.

Correspondence of the Progressive Farmer.

Farmers in this vicinity frequently plant their corn, for one stalk in a hill, four feet each way, thus giving an average of about sixteen square feet for each stalk of corn. Thus arranged, counting 100 stalks for a bushel of corn, an acre will produce a little over 27 bushels.

Now if the rows be eight feet apart and the stalks one foot apart in the drill, we will have a stalk for every eight square feet. Consequently there will be double the number of stalks with a capacity for over 54 bushels per acre.

It has heretofore been shown that corn, planted in drills three feet apart and seven inches in the drill on land that was heavily fertilized and thoroughly broken to sixteen inches deep, eared well, producing 149 bushels and 2 quarts per acre. There was a stalk here for every 1¾ square feet (not feet square). At this rate an acre will contain over four and a half times as many stalks as the 8 feet rows, Consequently corn should never be so planted as to contain more than 8 square feet for each stalk of corn. As the land becomes richer the distance in the drill may be reduced to 6 inches, thus raising the capacity of an acre to 108 bushels.

An important advantage of the 8 feet rows is that at least three times the quantity of loose earth can be prepared for each stalk of corn that can be if the same number of stalks be planted in 4 feet rows. A strip from two to three feet wide midway between the wide rows may be plowed deep at every plowing, thus affording a much needed protection against drouth. Consequently, other things being equal, the wide rows will produce more corn than is possible with the narrow rows.

Another important advantage is that peas can be drilled and cultivated, there being alternately a row of corn and a row of peas, which will reduce the rows to four feet.

If the corn be planted early in the season and the peas not later than the 10th of June they will, at most, be in each other's way but very little, and consequently very nearly, or quite, a full crop of each can be grown. In the fall proper measures should be adopted for turning under the corn stalks and pea vines.

The corn, of course, will have to be properly fertilized. All of the available stable manure on the farm should be utilized for this purpose. It must be remembered, though, that stable manure, while an excellent fertilizer, is not properly balanced. By this we mean that the three essential fertilizer ingredients, nitrogen, phosphoric acid and potash, are not present in the proper proportions; there is too much nitrogen as compared with the phosphoric acid and potash. This, however, can be remedied so as to make a splendid fertilizer by applying in addition to the stable manure about 300 pounds acid phosphate and 300 pounds kainit to the acre. Another point to be mentioned in this connection is that stable manures when not properly taken care of, become heated and during the process of fermentation the ammonia escapes in the form of a gas, which of course greatly lessens the value of the pile. This escape of the ammonia can be prevented by sprinkling kainit over the heap. The idea would be to get about two or three pounds of kainit for the manure of each grown horse or cow per day. In this way the ammonia is saved and the value of the manure heap enhanced by reason of the potash added in the kainit.

The improvement of the soil should be the objective point of the farmer. No farming amounts to anything unless each succeeding crop leave the land in better condition than it found it. Kainit and acid phosphate, added as aforesaid, will increase the value of the manure immensely and consequently the plan can safely be relied on as a basis for future improvements.

TO TURN PEA VINES

Secure, preferably by clasping, a portion of a scythe blade to either side of a plow beam, the right side believed to be the best. The blade should stand backward slightly; the point should crook forward and extend into the ground sufficiently to gather the vines. If more convenient, the blade may be constructed of steel and confined as aforesaid. It is necessary to slant it backward to prevent the vines from slipping up to the beam and choking. Vines, however rank the growth, can thus readily be cut and turned. The plan has been thoroughly tested.

BRYAN TYSON.

Long Leaf, N. C.

The Western Plowman says: Good meat products depend upon good pasture, and no pasture that is not well nourished can be good. The scanty, half developed grass is proof that something is wanting in the soil. It may be moisture, and if it is the plant suffers for food elements that the moisture will supply or put into a condition that will enable the plant to take it up. If moisture is lacking, and we cannot irrigate, we cannot supply it. But we can supply by the application of fertilizers, the elements which the soil otherwise lacks. There is nothing in the healthy plant that the animal system does not need. Hence if the plant lacks the fullest supply of every element the animal must suffer. The old manure heap is not only unsightly, but its presence may be dangerous to health. Cart that out on the pasture and it will make more perfect grass; more perfect grass will make more nutritious meat, and more nutritious meat will make healthier and stronger people. In the interests of the human family, the pastures should be kept at their best. From a financial standpoint they certainly should be, for there is no profit in any meat except the best. We cannot make money on scrub stock prepared far market in a scrub way. We never could, and least of all now, when the public taste has become educated so that it knows what good meat is.

JUDGING THE SOIL.

He is an expert farmer who can rightly judge the soil. It requires according to the Ploughman, long practice to determine when the soil is just right for planting, plowing or cultivating. There is a physical property, or a general appearance, which reveals the time when all manipulation of the soil should take place, but there are no terms by which these characteristics can be accurately described. They can only be learned in the school of experience. We have such terms as cohesion, adhesion and flocculation, the employment of which comes nearly expressing the required conditions. There is a general appearance that presents itself in a bird's eye view and shows at once whether a field or farm is in good heart. The proper manipulation of the soil not only increases its yield, but hastens maturity. It is easy to make a week's difference in the ripening period of corn by different management of cultivation. Irregularity in cultivation always retards growth and lengthens the period of ripening. The poor stand that often occurs is occasioned not by poor seed alone, but by poor preparation of the seed bed as well. The vigor with which a young crop rises from the ground depends largely on the manner of contact of the seeds with the soil and the uniformity of the depth at which they are planted. Some farmers work at their soil with out regard to weather or soil conditions. Such farmers injure the reputation of the State by cutting down the general average of crops.

THE ONION CROP.

The largest and best onions are grown for seed. While they can hardly be considered a certain crop, yet when anything like a fair crop is secured, they are a profitable crop to you. On account of the work and the cost of keeping the crop clean, it is quite an item to select a piece of clean land and for the same reason only well rotted and thoroughly fined manure should be used. To get the best results the land must be rich. It is always a waste of time to try and grow onions in any but a rich soil.

Wood ashes, poultry manure, guano or thoroughly rotted stable manure can be used as fertilizers, taking pains to work it thoroughly in with the soil. There is little danger of getting the soil too rich.

It is important that the seed be sown early. Securing the seed and manuring the land should be done in good season, so that the first favorable opportunity in the spring the seed can be sown. Have the soil as fine as possible when the seed is sown in order to secure a good germination of the seed and a vigorous start of the plants to grow. Be sure that the seed is of good quality. If the seeding is to be done by hand, work out the rows about eight inches apart and make the drills about one inch deep. Sow the seed as early as early as possible, two or three seeds to the inch. It is quite an item to get the seed distributed evenly in the drills. The advantage in using the drill is that the seed can be sown and covered more evenly with less work.

Some growers, in order to get the plants earlier and to some extent at least lessen the work of keeping the crop clean at the start, sow the seeds thickly in a bed or frame and, after they are well up, transplant them into rows where they are to grow.

When the seed is sown it is important to have the soil in good tilth. Work out the rows and then lay the plants not over two inches apart. It is better to use plenty of plants and thin out than to have vacant places in the rows.

If the land is not so rich as it should be it will be a good plan to scatter a good dressing of wood ashes or commercial fertilizer over the surface. The onion feeds very near the surface, and the necessary cultivation will work the fertilizer into the soil.—Massachusetts Plowman.

BETTER FARMING.

Relatively speaking, small farms pay better than large ones, acre per acre. The agricultural prosperity of the South will be greater when the farms average a smaller acreage. It is an exception when we find a man that can cultivate and manage a large farm as well as a small one. It requires no mean order of executive ability to cultivate a 1,000 acre farm with hired labor, and to make a good profit on the crops after expenses are paid, and at the same time manage the farm so that its fertility is maintained. Of course, we cannot call anyone a good farmer who robs the soil of its fertility year by year, paying back nothing. Good farming means raising crops that net a fair profits after expenses are paid, and at least maintaining the fertility of the land.

But the best order of farming is not only to maintain fertility, but to increase it year by year. How is this to be done? On small farms, where a good deal of stock is kept, stable manure may materially aid. But for large acres of land, we must assuredly depend on a wise rotation and diversity of crops, and upon turning under green crops for fertilizing purposes, growing the clovers and other leguminous plants. Very frequently it will be necessary to supply some artificial or commercial fertilizers—those specially rich in mineral matters, where the soil is lacking in this kind of fertility.—Southern Farm.

A writer in the American Agriculturist speaks in behalf of the crows. He says they can be poisoned but they should not be. Sow a few quarts of corn on the surface about three days before the planted corn appears, and keep plenty on surface for about six days thereafter, and the crows will not trouble the corn plants. But they will labor for us in our fields the remainder of the 12 months, devouring worms, insects, carrion, etc. In some of the middle Western States there is a heavy penalty attached to the killing of crows and blackbirds. I would shake a boy as severely for killing these birds as for killing robins. We should not destroy our benefactors.

LIVE STOCK.

LIVE STOCK ITEMS.

We know of no way by which grass, hay, and grain can be made so valuable as by feeding them to a good cow.

Never neglect the calves. A calf which is half fed when young will never be the most profitable animal to keep.

A child does not need more careful treatment than a heifer with her first calf. Just a little bad treatment, a little hurt, may may a vicious cow.

If you have no thoroughbred bull, buy a calf and raise him. In eight months he will be ready for use. You will at once notice the difference in your calves.

The polled breeds of cattle are still on the boom, a great many farmers preferring them to the horned breeds. Either one will do. Just so it is a thoroughbred animal.

Scrub cattle are dear at any price, even as a gift. The best thing to do is to weed them out and replace them with a choice bred one. A thoroughbred is easily kept.

The owner has the opportunity from the day the calf is dropped until it is a full fledged cow to make it gentle. Kindness is an important item of the stock in trade on the dairy farm, as it is everywhere else.

In raising beef calves, let them run with the dam till they begin to chew the cud. This rule is also best where you are rearing purebred dairy calves to sell as stock animals. The calves must be fed beside—not to much, just enough—so soon as they are old enough to eat.

ANIMALS NEED SHADE.

All the animal world, if it could, would choose the shade during the extreme summer days. The dog following his master along the country road dips in the roadside pool, and the horse, if given the rein, will slow up to a walk under a refreshing bit of shade cast by a row of trees.

Is it any wonder, asks W. H Gardner, in Humane Journal, that the comfort loving swine has the cholera when we set them, by the hundred, in great fields with no better shade than a wire fence affords?

It is not many years ago that a prominent New York agriculturist—a large feeder and fattener of cattle by pasturage—cut down all his shade trees because his scales told him the cattle gained flesh faster in the fields having no shade. The cattle took too much comfort in the shade, did not eat enough to fatten as fast as in fields without shade. We believe this to be a mistaken theory. The more comfort an animal takes the faster it will lay on flesh.

The cow having access to quiet shade gives the most milk of the most healthful quality. The horse loves shade as well as the man, or the dog, or any other creature. Let it not be forgotten that when the sun's heat is oppressive to one animal it is to all. When the sun is a life-giving elixir to one it is likely to be to all. It costs naught but care and attention. Protection should be the first fruit of civilization.

SOME CHEAP COARSE CATTLE FOODS.

The Experiment Station purchased last fall some corn stubble from a neighbor at one dollar per two horse load, and in another case has agreed to pay what the stalks were worth for feeding. When hauling the coarse stalks at one dollar per load, the loads weighed about a half ton for all that could be made to stay on. The stalks were cut down ready to be burned or plowed under, and were gathered in that condition. They were very dry, and when cut make a very fair absorbent to be used in the stable. The other lots were smaller and less bulky. They were cut and piled. Buth lots were sampled for analysis, but in order to pay for one lot we calculated the value on the digestibility of old corn stubble as determined at the Maryland Station and compiled in the North Carolina Station Bulletin, No. 106. Values were assigned to digestible protein and fat at 4½ cents per pound, and carbonydrates at 9 10 cents per pound. Then cotton seed hulls were calculated in the same way, and a porportion made between the calculated price of the hulls, the calculated price of corn stubble, and the prevailing price of cotton seed hulls at the mill, which is $3 per ton for loose hulls. Surely this is a fair estimate. Every corn raiser has his stubble left at home and must cut it to get rid of it. Is it worth anything? This comes home to many a Southern farmer outside of Noath Carolina. Are you wasting any available part of your corn crop? If so, how much! We calculate that for each 3 barrels of corn raised, there are 1,000 pounds of stalks left in the field. Allowing a feeding value the same as cotton seed hulls, the value of the stalks for each 3 barrels of corn would be $1 12. Who would leave that amount of money to waste, and yet that is what we do in allowing the corn stalks to remain in the field.—F. E. Emery, Agriculturist N. C. Experiment Station.

POULTRY YARD

HOW TO START.

A subscriber from Quarry, S. C., who wishes to engage in the poultry business, writes to Home and Farm for information on the subject. She, however, does not state how the ground is situated and the space to be allowed the fowls—the first two and most important considerations which the beginner must carefully study.

In the first place, a poultry yard should be situated on high dry land—not necessarily a hillside, but of sufficient slope to allow all the filth to be carried off.

In the second place, not more than two hundred grown fowls should be housed and yarded to each acre.

More than this number cannot, for any length of time, be kept on that amount of ground.

As regards the breed best suited for a beginning, let your own fancy be your guide.

The one you like most will be the one that you will give the most attention, but by all means select a pure breed and make no crosses. There is no cross that will equal a thoroughbred, and as to the cost, it will be cheaper to start with one pure breed and keep it so, than to buy two and cross them. The cross will in a few years develop mongrels, while the pure breed by careful mating, can be kept up to the standard for a indefinite length of time.

The cross you suggest, a Plymouth Rock and Brown Leghorn, will produce a black offspring which are always objectionable as table fowls. The same may be said of Black Langshans, though aside from the black pin feathers, they are an admirable breed.

There has never yet been any breed developed which excels in both egg production and table qualities, though some combine the two qualities in a very great degree. Among those which will, no doubt, prove satisfactory to you, are Rhode Island Reds, Buff, White, or Barred Plymouth Rocks, and White Wyandottes, either of which are handsome fowls of large size, good fall and winter layers, and excellent mothers. As chicks they are hardy, rapid growers, and are ready for the market earlier than any of the other large breeds.

But again, no matter which you select, let me urge the importance of keeping them in their purity. You will find the demand for eggs for hatching at two or three dollars a setting, or a cockrell or pullet at from one to five dollars each, will more than pay for the original cost of the stock. A trio purchased this fall will give you a good start next year, unless you desire to begin on a large scale, though this is not advisable. It is better to start in a small way and learn all the details as you proceed. Do not begin in July, as you suggest, except it be to arrange your hour house and yards. The season for hatching is past, and chicks are too small to judge of the quality. Wait until fall and buy the stock you wish to begin with next year. Give them the proper care, and you will get eggs during the winter and have early setters next spring. W. H. CAMBRON.

Our thanks are due Dr. H. B. Battle the efficient Director, for a copy of "The N. C. Agricultural Experiment Station during 1896." We are glad to see that so many of the bulletins seem of practical value to the farmers, and it is equally pleasing to learn that these farmers recognize them as such. Over 1,000 of North Carolina's tillers of the soil have written endorsing the work of the Station and giving the bulletins the highest praise. Nor are these thousand farmers alone in expressing their approval of the Station's work. People from 33 other States and from five foreign countries have joined in the praise, declaring the bulletins to be of great value to all interested in agriculture.