

"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.

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

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AGRICULTURE.

MR. CUTCHIN TAKES ISSUE WITH MR. LANE.

Dependence of the Progressive Farmer.

Do not think I am a pessimist or a grumbler. My temperament is neither bilious nor very sanguine. I judge from facts and build on them. But what has gotten to pay the farm-writers of late? They seem to have turned out as learned as the issue of November 231, Mr. Lane is given by some one who

like Mr. Lane a caisy, as good authority for sticking to the farm. Now, have noticed that those who are making the farm so high and its bene- and profits are persons who made money years ago when prices were better or have "two irons in the fire" or "two strings to their bow" or are for pleasure, like Vanderbilt Carr. I believe every reader of THE PROGRESSIVE FARMER will agree with me again these writers put milk cents, eggs at 12 cents, chickens at 12 cents, tomatoes at 50 cents, wheat at 90 cents. And then they cry out what seed life is that of the farmer! Let me compare just a few things with the market. Milk is only bringing 10 cents a quart all the summer when eggs in any quantity were 5 cents, chickens at 7 1/2 cents from June to August; tomatoes 10 cents and wheat 90 cents—if we sell, but if we do not sell, we are out of it.

At a factory girl 10 years old or a one-horse store or a cash boy racket store, and at 35 cents per they can have everything Mr. Lane mentions to his heart's content, and a farmer get besides what he

two weeks ago the Bulletin quoted some experiment station down that there was a wonderful increase this year by use of 100 pounds of phosphate additional. Now it is that I used that 100 pounds of phosphate this year, besides extra corn and instead of a gain, I had a 10 per cent. Of course this was on account of the seasons, but something over which we have control.

As a farmer, and all I get comes from the farm, and I have nothing to say about what I can make that is edible, we need it; but, brother, when I go to sell, there is no comparison in the price that I get with the one I must when I buy. There is the great

trouble. I sell cotton at 6 cents and buy it back in sheeting at 20 cents when I have done as much work to get 6 cents as they do to get 14 cents.

There are some few who are always writing as though the farmers do not work over half their time, and when they do work have no judgment. Well, it may be true that a few do not work as they ought, nor use the judgment they should, but there is a certainty that a farmer never makes a failure like the reported failures of banks, railroads, corporations and merchants. And it is as usually certain the farmer feeds and clothes them all.

I am glad to see that the shoe factory is ready for work. It will lose a great part of the winter shoe trade by being late, but we are truly glad it has started. We hope it will run a thousand years. And now, as soon as it is well settled and equipped—running in good order—let us have a cotton factory! What say you all? This is the farmers' only way of salvation.

I wish I could say something encouraging about the Stany Alliance, but they are too weak and chicken hearted. I hope for better in the near future. Success to THE PROGRESSIVE FARMER. W. T. CUTCHIN. Shaikle, N. C., Nov. 27, 1897.

FARM LIFE.

Major General Nelson A. Miles, the famous Indian fighter, now second in command in the United States Army, says: "I lived as a farm boy the happiest days of my life. I think such a life laid the foundation for my healthful constitution, its simplicity and purity having a great influence upon my after success—greater than anything else. It taught me habits of industry and economy, and its freedom and independence caused me to acquire the habit of thinking for myself. The exercise of farm life gave strength and courage."

THE COUNTRY BOY'S OPPORTUNITY.

The boy raised on a farm has a better chance in life than the city bred boy. This is our profound conviction after years of experience and observation in city and country with young men in a wide range of industries. The farm bred boy almost invariably has the better constitution—those elements of good health and ability to stand hard work that mean so much in this life. He is usually endowed with a stronger moral character. We are shocked if a country lad in our employ goes wrong; city youth are more likely to be suspected. Absolute integrity was never in greater demand in young men.

The city boy often a pertness or "emart" air that country youth do not possess. But the latter more frequently develop the manly substantial carriage that denotes real character. His mind is better trained than the average town boy's. He may not be quite as glib in his book learning, but the farm bred boy, taught in Nature's school to observe and understand, has a rare foundation upon which to build a knowledge of industry, art, science or any branch of farming.

The boy on the farm doesn't appreciate all this, but he ought to be thankful for his country life. After he has had some years of experience in other vocations, he will realize how true these words are. The farm is the place to rear a family.—American Agriculturist.

COUNTRY LIFE AND CHARACTER.

Dr. J. B. Killebrew in the Southern States Farm Magazine of Baltimore, for December says:

It cannot be denied that country life tends to strengthen character and to make men. It is not education, it is not knowledge, it is not brilliancy of intellect that makes the man of mark and influence, but it is solidity of character, strength of purpose, courage of conviction, resolution to do what is right and to shun what is evil. The young man who has been trained properly in his country home, and whose character has been shaped by the practice of industry, frugality and moral integrity, and whose notions of right have been uninfluenced by policy, is better prepared for life's duties than he possibly could be if raised up surrounded by every pleasure and gratified in every desire. Self-denial is a powerful factor in the battle of life; and, like all other qualities, it must be cultivated. The less temptation in early life the more surely will the average man be able to steer free from groveling vices that first weaken and then debase the moral sensibilities.

Notice! Please Read!

We wish to call your attention to our great offer. It is this: To any one not now a subscriber to this paper, we will send THE PROGRESSIVE FARMER every week until January 1, 1898 for only One Dollar.

We want 10,000 new subscribers under the terms of this offer. We want you to help us. This offer would not be a great one were it given by a paper that lives on campaign funds or is rehashed from patent outsiders or dailies. But for a paper of the size and character of THE PROGRESSIVE FARMER, it is a great offer.

It does not become us to boast. "We don't have to." Persons who know the paper know its merits. But as we are sending out numerous samples this week, we wish "to stake a few claims" as Klondykers say, and we defy any one to pull up these stakes. If you are not subscriber, please consider well the following facts; if you are a subscriber, you know the truth of these statements, but will you kindly call your neighbor's attention to them?

The following facts show just a few reasons why you should take THE PROGRESSIVE FARMER. After you have taken it for a while you can give many more reasons for saying it is the best North Carolina paper.

A Few Reasons

There is no other weekly of any size, shape, price or character in the State (except those weeklies re-hashed from dailies) that is—

- (1) As large as THE PROGRESSIVE FARMER;
- (2) That gives as full and complete a record of State news as THE PROGRESSIVE FARMER;
- (3) That gives as much general news as THE PROGRESSIVE FARMER;
- (4) That has as large a circulation as THE PROGRESSIVE FARMER;
- (5) That has firmer friends than THE PROGRESSIVE FARMER;
- (6) That has fewer humbug advertisements than THE PROGRESSIVE FARMER;
- (7) That gets less from campaign funds than THE PROGRESSIVE FARMER;
- (8) That owes less to rings, cliques or combines than THE PROGRESSIVE FARMER;
- (9) That contains more valuable farm hints than THE PROGRESSIVE FARMER;
- (10) That has as complete horticultural, farm, poultry, live stock, dairy, fun and religious departments as THE PROGRESSIVE FARMER; or,
- (11) That will please you, your wife and children—every member of the family—as THE PROGRESSIVE FARMER will.

Give us your support. We will fight for you and your interest and promise to keep the paper up to its present high standard. Send us a 'c'ub.

Yours for business,

The Progressive Farmer.

RALEIGH, N. C. NOVEMBER 16, 1897

DON'T DELAY!

PUT YOUR MANURE UNDER COVER.

Eds. Country Gentleman:—My barn yard is 60 by 60 feet, or 3,600 square feet; soil sandy loam, with some gravel; number of cows, 20 to 25. I wish to part soil and part pasture, yarding the cattle nights for two months. I wish to yard them 18 to 20 hours per day for five months, then all I can for five months more, when not too cold. In winter, when cattle are stabled, manure is hauled out and piled in the barnyard. Barnyard is cleaned June and October, spring and fall. What percentage of value do I lose in phosphoric acid, nitrogen and potash, at present prices, by not roofing the yard? Cost of roof, somewhere near \$300. W. R. C. Jericho, Va.

This case is of interest to many farmers, because many have similar conditions. The tests made at Cornell University Experiment Station to determine the loss of manures by leaching may be taken as a fair indication of the amount of your loss. March 21 to 29 a pile of cow manure containing five tons was placed out in an open yard where it would be exposed to all the rains and subjected to leaching similar to the conditions found in the ordinary barnyard. The manure as put in place contained the following quantities of excrements and absorbents: Excrement, 9278 lbs.; wheat straw, 423 lbs.; plaster, 300 lbs.; total manure, 10,000 lbs. The manure was analyzed before and after the experiment with the following results:

	Beginning.	End.
Water	81.40 per cent.	67.03 per cent.
Nitrogen	0.47 "	0.55 "
Phos. acid	0.32 "	0.51 "
Potash	0.48 "	0.85 "

The actual number of pounds of the various fertilizing materials, at the beginning and end of the experiment, and the percentage of loss of each, is shown in the following table:

	Begin'g.	End	Loss per cent.
Gross wgt, lbs., 10,000	5125	49	
Nitrogen	47	26	41
Phos. acid	32	26	19
Potash	48	44	8
Value per ton	\$229	\$160	30
*Value of what weighed 2,000 lbs. at the beginning.			

The total waste was scarcely half in the cow manure what it was in horse manure. The fermentation in the cow manure was not sufficient to cause any "fire fanging" at all. In this experiment the loss of potash was very slight in comparison with the loss of phosphoric acid and nitrogen; in other ex-

periments the heaviest loss was on potash.

The quantity of excrement from one cow is about eighty pounds per day. From your 20 cows the quantity of excrement would be about 1,600 pounds per day. The quantity of fertilizing material in the excrement of a cow is worth about ten cents per day; from your twenty cows, \$2 per day. For the five months the worth of the excrement would be some \$300. This manure in the yard is exposed on an average of probably three months during which the loss would be about 30 per cent., or \$90 during the six months it is exposed in the open yard. This amount would pay good interest on an investment of \$300 to build a roof over the yard, or to put the yard in such condition that there would be no drainage away from the manure. It is not the rain which falls upon the manure which does the damage, but the water which runs away from the manure, carrying the fertility with it.—Country Gentleman.

PRACTICAL EXPERIMENT IN RAISING BIG CORN.

The Illinois State Board of Agriculture offered a first prize of \$100 cash and a set of valuable scales for the largest yield of corn from one acre, the premium to be awarded at the late State Fair.

Such tests are interesting as showing what may be done with the corn crop in the way of increasing the yield, but their practical value is diminished unless it is provided that the contestants shall confine their operations to such methods as may be applied to practical field work on a large scale. This was not done by all the contestants in the late trial. Some of them followed methods that it would be impossible to apply to field work, while others conducted the whole work in a way that might be applied to the largest operations.

E. S. Fureman, of Woodford county, produced 160 bushels on an acre, and his story of how it was done follows:

"I planted the corn and made the trial of what could be done in corn culture for a lesson to myself and to try to advance the interest in agriculture. The land was common prairie soil, well tilled. It was seeded to clover in 1894, and laid in pasture during 1895, receiving while in pasture a good top dressing of stable manure. It was in corn in 1896, and yielded a very fine crop. This spring the stalks were broken down, raked up and burned. There is

ten acres in the field. It was all plowed at the same time about five inches deep, with a three horse plow, the first week in May. It was well harrowed and all lumps pulverized by running over the land before the planter with a heavy clod smoother. It was planted May 12th, with the common two horse planter and check rower, three feet six inches by three feet six inches, three kernels to the hill. Upon this one particular acre, as soon as the corn was up so that I could see the hills I planted two kernels eight inches apart and six ten inches from the hills planted by the planter. The seed used in the planter was the early white mastodon, a very large early corn. The kernels I planted between the hills by hand were Boone county white.

"When the corn was five inches high I went through with a hoe, stirring the ground between the plants and thinning out the hills to two stalks. The first plowing was done about May 28, with a common two horse cultivator, which we run as deep as possible to loosen up the ground, that the roots might have plenty of mellow soil. We followed the cultivator the next day with a plank smoother, which I made just long enough to pass between the rows, which we used with one horse. This smoother leveled and pressed the soil to retain the moisture. The second plowing was done June 10th, with the same two horse cultivator, running it about half as deep as we did the first time, and followed it with the plank smoother, which left the ground in splendid shape—fine, mellow, smooth, level, and slightly pressed—which acted like a blanket to retain all the moisture in the soil. The third plowing was done July 21, and consisted only in going over the ground with the plank smoother with a few No. 40 wire spikes driven into the plank to slightly stir the soil; but not deep enough to disturb any roots.

"After it was tasseled out, I went through and cut out any inferior tassels. I believe the secret of my success was in planting two varieties of corn in the same row, one being a little later than the other, which prolonged the season of pollenization, and made me a perfect ear upon every stalk. The deep cultivation the first time, followed up both first and second plowing with the plank smoother, crushed all lumps, leveled and pressed the light soil, and retained all the moisture. The balance of the field, nine acres of the early white mastodon corn, where I did not plant between the hills, with only common cultivation, will average about ninety five bushels to the acre, of very fine corn, and I believe if I had treated the whole field of ten acres the same way I did the one single acre, I could have made it average 150 bushels. It has been a valuable lesson to me, and I shall profit by it next year."

It will be seen that the plan followed by Mr. Fureman entailed but little extra work, and the increase in the yield was sixty five bushels as compared with the remainder of the field, which was like the premium acre in every respect as far as the condition of the soil was concerned.

Ed. V. Bohl, of Fulton county, was another of the contestants for the prize, winning one of the premiums, with a yield of 150 bushels to the acre. He gives the history of his acre below:

"I took a field of mixed timothy and clover sod, putting on ten loads of stable manure to the acre. The latter part of April I plowed the land eight inches deep. I then rolled it down and worked up once with the St. Louis rotary hoe instead of a disc harrow. I then harrowed it once each way with an ordinary smoothing harrow, and rolled it down. May 11 and 12 I planted it with Maule's early mastodon corn, checking it three feet eight inches each way, three grains to the hill. After it came up, and while small, I cultivated it once each way with the St. Louis rotary hoe, and after that once each way with the ordinary cultivator, with large shovels on, but going shallow, and not riding up very much. The land is white oak soil and has been in meadow for the past years. No commercial fertilizers of any kind have ever been used on this land. The entire field of ten acres will yield same as the one acre that was husked. The cost per acre was only \$7.50, exclusive of gathering."

It will be seen by this that Mr. Bohl's prize was won by growing the corn by a perfectly practical method, and that

his prize acre was but one of several of the same kind.

The first premium was awarded to C. T. Wadsworth, of Ogle county for a yield of 188 bushels on one acre. How this great yield was produced Mr. Wadsworth tells as follows:

"I had an old millpond to begin on, and this is the richest land in the world. I plowed the ground with a walking plow, then took the disc harrow and went over the ground seven times. Then I took a spring tooth harrow and made it as smooth as a garden, and May 18 I planted it with a two-horse planter, driving with my foot. I dropped two and three kernels about eighteen inches apart, and then went back over the rows and planted it again. When the corn came up I hoed it, for it was so narrow a horse could not get through. The supervisor measured the land, saw the corn picked and weighed it."

Mr. Wadsworth won the first premium fairly, but his land was exceptionally rich in plant food, and his method would hardly succeed in practical corn growing.

All these letters are instructive, and may be studied with profit.—Farmers' Voice.

MAKE HOME ATTRACTIVE.

There is nothing that is acting so steadily and so powerfully to drive our youth from the country to the city as the inattention paid by a majority of our farmers to those little home comforts and enjoyments which, while costing but a trifle, would invest the country with a charm which all the glaring fascinations of a life in the city could not break. The study of agriculture as a science, a knowledge of the nature of the soils, and the adaptation of the various fruits and flowers and field crops to the different qualities of soil appeal sufficiently strong to the intellectual nature, but in the arrangements that surround our country places but little attention is paid to the idea of beauty or pleasure.—Southern States Farm Magazine.

HIS BARN GREW.

J. W. Feeler, of Morgantown, Ind., has a barn which threatens to develop into a "sky scraper," says Home and Farm. In 1891, having need of a new barn, he built a small structure, and in its construction he used green willow posts at the corners and along the sides. These he sank into the ground in the usual manner. For some time nothing unusual was noticed, but after a year he saw that, whereas, he laid the floor near the ground, it was above the soil. He discovered that the willow posts, instead of being dead, were alive, and had taken root and were growing. In their upward movement they carried the barn along. Last spring the barn was on stilts nine feet high, and he put in a new floor and surrounded the posts with a siding, thereby making it a two-story affair. There is now a space of seven inches between the new floor and the ground, and Mr. Feeler expects to have a three-story barn in the course of time.

INTEREST THE BOYS.

"Do you want to make farmers of your boys?" says the Crowley (N. M.) Signal. "If so, talk about farm matters to them. Give them your experience in cultivating and raising different kinds of crops. Explain your methods to them; arouse their interest in doing all kinds of work cheerfully and thoroughly. Point out your errors whereby you might have failed in making as good a crop as you should have done. Teach them practical ideas of economy in saving manures and applying them to the soil, in mending the harness and keeping it under shelter, as well as taking proper care of farming implement and machinery. One reason for there being so many slipshod farmers is the want of proper training and good example. Too many boys and young men are abandoning the farms for town and city life, where, instead of bettering their condition, they often contract idle and vicious habits that lead them to worthless and moral ruin. Make home and farm life attractive to your sons, because it is the happiest and most independent occupation in the world."

A firm faith is the best divinity; a good life, the best philosophy; a clear conscience, the best law; honesty, the best policy, and temperance, the best physic.—Franklin.