

"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.

FEEDING EXPERIMENTS.

Correspondence of The Progressive Farmer.

Bulletin 143 of North Carolina Station, relates to the feed, milk production and care of cows, and is offered with the hope that it will prove interesting to those who are studying these questions. The old plan of feeding was to give to stock not only feed for consumption, but a large quantity also to be tramped under foot. When the profits from farming were much larger than at present the loss was not so serious as it is now, although it was probably as great. It is the desire of the experiment station to call attention to the waste which comes from feeding a badly "balanced" ration, and to suggest a better and more economical proportion between the different feeding stuffs used. The first portion of the bulletin contains the results from feeding ordinary substances grown upon North Carolina farms, with the addition of easily obtainable substances such as corn silage, cotton seed meal, wheat bran, sweet potatoes, cotton seed, corn fodder, cow pea meal and soy bean silage, corn shucks, wheat straw, etc. The conclusions are:

1. The ration of sweet potatoes, raw cotton seed, pulled fodder and cow pea meal gave better results than did corn and soy bean silage and cotton seed meal, with wheat bran mixed in ratio of one to two by weight.

2. The corn and soy bean silage, with cotton seed meal and wheat bran, gave a better result than did sweet potatoes and corn shucks, with a mixture of cotton seed meal, corn meal and cow pea meal mixed in the proportions of six, two and one.

3. Cotton seed hulls and meal, for butter production, leads corn shucks and wheat straw with corn meal, ground wheat and cotton seed meal mixed in proportions of two, three and five. The latter made the most milk, however.

The second portion of the bulletin is also a feeding experiment, but in this case pigs are used instead of cows, and the feeding stuffs are arranged with the object of contrasting skim milk and butter milk from cream (not from whole milk).

Fifteen thrifty young pigs were purchased to test separated or centrifugal skim milk against butter milk churned from sour cream, for making pork. The pigs were farrowed September 4 and 11. Their breeding by the two dams, which were litter sisters, was exactly alike. They were taken from the sows at six and seven weeks old and fed about what they would eat

clean of a mixture of meals containing wheat middlings and bran, corn and linseed meals. The males were castrated while on dams. The pigs were fed as litters of eight and seven until November 19, when four litters were made weights. The ground feed was mixed with the milk. A condition powder or cholera preventive was kept before them, made of a mixture of 1 peck hardwood ashes, 1 peck charcoal, 1 pint fine salt, 2 pounds coppers, 1 pound black antimony and 1/2 pound sulphur flour.

Pen No. 1 paid 20 8 cents per 100 pounds for skim milk during nine periods covering ninety four days. The pigs were about 8 1/2 months old when this feeding began.

Pen No. 2 fed the same as to middlings, but which consumed 26 7 per cent. more skim milk than did pen No. 1, paid 20 08 cents per 100 pounds for what was consumed during the same time, and under exactly like conditions as to housing.

Pen No. 3, consisting of three pigs fed on middlings and butter milk, the same weights of middlings and butter milk being fed as were fed pen No. 1 of middlings and skim milk, paid 19 87 cents per 100 pounds of butter milk fed during the nine periods covering ninety four days. During seven periods covering seventy four days the buttermilk was worth 30 cents per 100 pounds, but when carried forward to 131 days was worth only 12 cents per 100 pounds.

Pen No. 4, consisting of three pigs fed same as pen No. 3, except an excess of 20 07 per cent. of butter milk over what pen No. 3 consumed, paid 20 7 cents per 100 pounds for the butter milk consumed during seven periods covering seventy four days. The buttermilk was dropped for this pen of pigs at the end of the seventh period. A record was kept through two later periods, the eighth and ninth, after which it was resumed again for three periods of seven, ten and ten days, respectively. During the two periods of ten days each without butter milk, but getting practically all the wheat middlings they could eat, the three pigs gained only four and twelve and a half pounds for the three. Water was supplied in abundance. When butter milk was fed again the gains were thirty three and a half pounds in seven days, forty one pounds in ten days and ten pounds in ten days. On the whole feeding this pen of pigs paid 15 5 cents per 100 pounds for the butter milk fed them as the calculations were made.

There was a very great interference with growth by internal parasites. During those periods when the pigs made a thrifty advance in growth there is no reason to complain of the price of milk, but whenever the parasites seemed to get a strong hold little or nothing was received for the milk, and the gain was not enough in some cases to pay for the other food. This shows swine breeders a danger to be guarded against. Pigs should be cleansed of the parasites and the yards changed often, and long enough to have the old places purified and the vermin exterminated.

According to the statistician of the United States Department of Agriculture, there were in January, 1897, 2,654,000 farm animals in North Carolina. If by well balanced, careful and economical feeding an average of 1 cent a day can be saved on each animal it gives the State a net gain in wealth of more than \$10,000,000 a year, all of which the farmers may reap if they will.

The third portion of the bulletin contains the record of milk and butter production of the experiment station herd during 1895 and 1896. There were difficulties to meet such as might be met by any dairyman. This of itself may prove a source of encouragement to one whose experiences may have been similar. The interest for one who cannot make a sufficient outlay for the purchase of the more improved breeds of stock may be increased upon learning that the herd was composed of common cows.

Of the fourteen cows in the station herd it was found that nine gave a profit ranging from \$3 05 to \$23.20, and averaging \$10 29 each. The other five each gave a loss ranging from 21 cents to \$10 32, and averaging \$6.46.

Of course these five cows that failed to pay their board should have been disposed of. When we consider that in this little herd of only fourteen cows such wide differences were found as one cow entailing a loss of \$10 32, while another produced a profit of \$23 20, it is apparent that every dairyman should

keep a pair of scales, a Babcock test and a careful memorandum and promptly weed out the dead beats.

This done and every farmer who keeps cows can rest assured that his crops are sold at home to customers that never cheat, but pay according to what they get, thus saving hauling, freights, commissions, bad debts, etc.

J. L. LADD.
Bay City, Texas.

THE ALLIANCE REVIVAL IN CUMBERLAND.

Correspondence of The Progressive Farmer.

The Alliance in Cumberland seems to be waking up and taking on new life. On Monday night, Dec 6th, Mr. John O. Bain, our County Lecturer, met with Stewart's Creek Sub Alliance according to appointment and delivered a most earnest and logical address to quite a number of good Alliancemen.

All who heard his address were highly pleased with it. Brothron McDuffie and Autry also made us interesting and instructive speeches. Our highly esteemed President of the County Alliance, Mr. J. W. H. Smith, was also with us; in fact, we had a regular love feast.

On the next day, Dec. 7th, Bro. J. W. H. Smith, Bro. Bain and myself went to McFadyers Springs, about seven miles distant, where we met a few good Alliancemen and re organized an Alliance. On our way back we stopped at the home of Bro. Richard Howard, the President of the newly organized Alliance, and after partaking heartily of Mrs. Howard's nicely prepared dinner, we bade them good bye and started for home, Bro. Bain having an appointment to fill that night at McLeas's Alliance.

Yours truly and fraternally,
H. M. FILLIYAW,
Dial, N. C., Dec. 11, 1897.

SOME HOLIDAY THOUGHTS.

Correspondence of The Progressive Farmer.

As we are on the eve of a holiday—a time when the Christian world stops from the regular business of life to celebrate the nativity of the Saviour of the world; it is a suitable time for general reflections; a time to lay plans, to adjust or correct wrongs to retrospect the past, and from it to draw conclusions for the future. Perhaps all business enterprise needs this retrospection, but more than any other the farmer needs it. This, then, is a suitable, a propitious time for the farmer to take his bearings and see what he is doing. He is the mainstay of the business world, therefore he should be careful to plan and execute; he will be recognized as filling and controlling the most important place in the vast machinery of social progress.

But if you go around and listen to the moanings of some farmers as they deplore the results of cotton at 5 cents a pound, you would suppose he felt nothing at all of the dignity of his high calling.

In the first place, the farmer is responsible for this price; he has expanded and continued to expand his broad acres and plant the fleecy staple, till here in Eastern North Carolina the farmer could barely get his cotton out ready for the Christmas holidays. There is a remedy, and that remedy is to plant enough for the world's needs and no more, and a few individuals ought not to expect to spread out over that area and leave the rest of the fraternity out, but let every one who desires to plant a crop of cotton, or any other marketable product, to consider the probable needs, consider his proportional share as to supplying from his farm these needs and then plant accordingly. Why should a cotton farmer plant more when the staple sells at 8 cents than when it goes at 5 cents the year before? Here is where the greed comes in, and it is the old story of the "dog crossing the brook with a fine bone in his mouth, but drops it to catch at the imaginary figure of another dog with his lunch." Of course he lost both, and so does the greedy farmer who puts in 100 acres of cotton because the price was higher last year, when 25 acres would have been his proportionate part of the crop needed.

Another error with the average farmer is his conclusion that if a small farmer can make cotton at 5 cents a pound on 5 or 10 acres of land, of course he can make it in the same proportion on 100 or 200 acres. This calculation generally results in failure.

This extensive system of farming does not pay in dollars and cents; neither does it pay in the general satisfaction and peace which the small farm affords.

When a man follows a vocation it ought to be one he is called to by such inclinations and preparations as will fit him for the work before him; then he may expect to have some social compensation as well as financial advancement.

While we are planning next year's work, and enjoying the Christmas holidays, let us remember, as far as possible, the needs of our land and seek to supply each his respective part of those needs.

Let us organize, that we may be better understood each other, and also understand the needs of our land.

Let us live and feel the importance of our calling, and so dignify the occupation that we may command the due respect of all other honorable occupations.

D. L. Bellair, N. C., Dec. 20, 1897.

CRIMSON CLOVER SEED.

In THE PROGRESSIVE FARMER several weeks ago there appeared a communication from Mr. Carl B. Cline, of Columbus, Ohio. In this letter Mr. Cline offered to send a sample package of crimson clover seed to all who would send 10 cents to pay postage. Prof. Frank E. Emery, Agriculturist N. C. Experiment Station, writes of Mr. Cline's promises, the way he fulfills them, and incidentally of the value of crimson clover in the November Bulletin.

Prof. Emery says: Who has tried Mr. Cline's offer of free crimson clover seeds for 10 cents, to pay the postage? Don't all speak at once, but some one tell us how many ounces of seed he got for 10 cents.

Remember, this is a farm crop, of which hundreds of bushels of seed may be grown on any large farm, and thousands of bushels ought to be grown and used for seed to improve "worn out" soils. How much fertility for 10 cents from Mr. Cline?

ONE MAN HAS TRIED IT.

There came one day through the West Raleigh postoffice a little package to R. E. L. Orenshaw. It was from Carl B. Cline, Columbus, Ohio. It was crimson clover seed. It is in my office, where the editor can see it. There are two little packages, such as the Delaware farmers used to mail out sample packages of seed, which they raise to sell to their customers. If you write one of these farmers for quotation of prices and for a sample of seed, he will send you as large a sample and expect you to buy a bushel or two; or, say 100 pounds, at about 5 or possibly 6 cents per pound. Some even send you directions for preparation of land, time to sow and what to do with the crop, or nearly this amount of information with the seed when you purchase it from them. Not so Mr. Cline. He is selling a novelty for which he must have a round price. The seed in the two packets weighed 25 and 26 grams. It takes 28.35 grams to make an ounce. Suppose when freshly put up and rather scantily weighed (no tinned added paper would bring the parcel under the United States postal law at two ounces), suppose, we say, it had been two ounces of seed. Ten cents, less two cents for postage, leaves eight cents for seed. The difference in weight can well pay for paper and clerk hire to put up and lick on the stamps, and Mr. Cline gets eight cents for two ounces of crimson clover seed!

This is four cents an ounce, sixty four cents a pound, and \$38 40 per bushel. Don't it pay to advertise in the right way? Six cent a pound seed raised to sixty-four cents! And this for a crop which ought to be as commonly grown as is corn and seed for home use and for sale as common as it is in Delaware.

Several years ago some one advertised a new coffee berry for seed—could be cultivated anywhere, made a good substitute for coffee, yielded well, etc., etc., all of which was true of the soja or soy bean, the kind of seed which was being advertised for sale under the new name of coffee berry at twenty five cents per pound. I believe the advertiser requested money or stamps for postage. He should have planted his first few crops and come out after this later illustrious seedman had paved the way for greater wealth under legitimate name.

Populists were working and voting for the free coinage of silver when all the prominent Democratic leaders were whooping things up for Grover, well known as bitterly opposed to silver. Probably there was one notable exception, but the Democratic National chairman fixed that by apologizing for his vote for Weaver—Woodbury Messenger.

LIVE AT HOME.

The following article, which we clip from the Laurinburg Exchange, contains some sound sense, and we commend it to the consideration of our readers:

"Live at home," is a motto, upon which a farmer can build for success, and never has the need of such practice been more clearly exemplified than in this year's business. 'Tis quite true that you cannot always "figure it out" that it pays a farmer to raise his bread and meat and other home supplies, but practical experience evinces the expediency. Scarcely anything has done more to depress the condition of farmers, especially small farmers, than has the wholesale absorption of the idea that cotton is the only "money crop."

Take the typical old farmer, who "lived at home," first producing his home supplies and then producing for market, and you will find, nine cases out of ten, a man who lived happily, died in peace and left a well provided family. A righteous fear of debt, close economy, "honorableness in all things and strict attention to business have made many such men rich and prosperous. "Get out of your daddy's old rut and live up to the times" may be good advice and it may not; certainly, it would be well to see that you are getting into a better rut, before you leave old one. It's not a bad idea to do as "the old man" did, especially if the old man did well.

Then look around you to day and see the havoc that has been born of this latter day new order of things. Watch the collector's wagon and see how it goes to the home of some and hauls off all except the dirt around the front door and then see how it passes others by. There is something in method and certainly no man needs more change in his method than does the farmer, who is suffering from the hallucination that cotton is the only crop.

HORTICULTURE.

EDUCATIONAL EXTENSION WORK.

Correspondence of The Progressive Farmer.

In 1894, at the urgent request of the fruit growers of Western New York, York, the legislature appropriated \$8,000 to be expended by the experiment station in teaching horticulture to the people of that section of the State.

A test was made of five lines of work: 1 Local experiments by fruit growers under direction of the station professors, 2 The publication and free distribution of pamphlets on horticulture, written in language that all could understand, 3 A traveling horticultural school, remaining a week in each neighborhood, 4 Elementary instruction in the public schools, 5 Instruction in horticulture by means of correspondence and reading courses. Good results followed and the work became so popular that in 1895 the legislature doubled the appropriation, giving \$16,000, and the same amount was appropriated in 1896. In 1897 the amount was raised to \$24,000, and the scope of the work enlarged from horticulture to general agriculture, and the field was made to embrace the whole State instead of only the western end of it.

One fundamental difficulty with our agricultural condition is that there is no attempt to instruct the children in matters which awaken an interest in country life. And of course the children of a State cannot be instructed from the State Experiment Station. But the teachers can be taught by the station force how to instruct the children in their schools in these matters.

With this end in view a series of leaflets for the use of teachers has been prepared and placed in the hands of the rural school teachers. Courses of study have been prepared for teachers, and lectures have been delivered before teachers' institutes and summer normal and training schools. As a general rule the rural teachers have readily taken hold of this new line of usefulness.

This much to reach the young people. In order to reach and benefit those whose school days lie behind them, reading courses and correspondence schools were inaugurated by the station. The first texts used were bulletins 119 on "Texture of the Soil," and 120, on "Moisture of the Soil." After reading one of these bulletins the farmer receives a printed circular asking a number of questions which he is to think about and figure out for himself. His answers are corrected and

returned to him by mail. At the end of the first three months this course had 1600 correspondents and at the present rate of increase the number will reach 5,000 by the end of the first year.

The bulletin sums up results thus far achieved in the following language:

"Aside from the many horticultural investigations which are still continuing from Prof. Bailey's work, there are now more than 200 experiments with fertilizers on various kinds of crops in progress throughout the State among the farming community. Five hundred experiments in beet culture, with and without fertilizers, are also being conducted to learn if possible the localities in the State best adapted to sugar beet culture and to induce the farmers to investigate this new industry. Instruction is given as to soil, methods of tillage and fertilization. At the same time numerous experiments are being conducted at the university along lines similar to those mentioned. The college of agriculture has enrolled under the head of university extension work 15,000 pupils and 10,000 teachers of the public schools, and 1600 young farmers. The pupils and farmers receive guidance by means of printed circulars and the farmers report progress and difficulties upon special blanks which are furnished. Six instructors are employed throughout the State in conducting university extension work, and special teachers are employed from time to time as occasion requires. These instructors meet the teachers of the public schools in the presence of their pupils and at teachers' associations and institutes for the purpose of illustrating methods for teaching nature studies directly or indirectly related to agriculture. The leaflets furnished serve as texts for the subjects taught.

"The result of this pushing of the education motive into the rural communities has been a most decided waking up of the rural communities which, even if the work were to stop at the present time, would continue to exert an influence for a generation and more.

"All this work has been experimental—an attempt to discover the best method of teaching the people in agriculture. We believe that the most efficient means of elevating the ideals and practice of the rural communities are as follows, in approximately the order of fundamental importance:

"1. The establishment of nature-study or object lessons study, combined with field walks and in incidental instruction in the principles of farm practice, in the rural schools.

"2. The establishment of correspondence instruction in connection with reading courses, binding together the university, the rural schools and all rural literary or social societies.

"3. Itinerant or local experiment and investigation, made chiefly as object lessons to farmers and not for the purpose, primarily, of discovering scientific facts.

"4. The publication of reading bulletins which shall inspire a quickened appreciation of rural life, and which may be used as texts in rural societies and in the reading courses and which shall prepare the way for the reading of the more extended literature in books.

"5. The sending out of special agents as lecturers or teachers, or as investigators of special local difficulties, or as itinerant instructors in the normal schools and before the training classes of the teachers' institutes.

"6. The itinerant agricultural schools, somewhat after the plan of our horticultural schools, which shall be equipped with the very best teachers and which shall be given as rewards to the most intelligent and energetic communities.

"In conclusion, it must be said that the farmers, as a whole, are willing and anxious for education. They are difficult to reach because they have not been well taught, not because they are unwilling to learn. It is astonishing, as one thinks of it, how scant and poor has been the teaching which has even a remote relation to the tilling of the soil, and many of our rural books seem not to have been born of any real sympathy with the farmer or any proper appreciation of his environments. Just as soon as our educational methods are adapted to the farmer's needs, and are born of a love of farm life and are inspired with patriotism, will the rural districts begin to rise in irresistible power."

J.
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