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# THE



# PROGRESSIVE



# FARMER.

Has the largest circulation of any family agricultural or political paper published between Richmond and Atlanta

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

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THE PROGRESSIVE FARMER is the Official Organ of the North Carolina Farmers' State Alliance.

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"I am standing now just behind the curtain, and in full glow of the coming sunset. Behind me are the shadows of the past, and the river. When I mingle with its dark waters I want to cast one lingering look upon a country whose government is of the people, for the people, and by the people."—L. L. Folk, July 14th, 1890.

## EDITORIAL NOTES.

The News and Observer sent a man down to Craven county to find out about negro road overseers. He should have gone to Chatham county under Democratic rule. There he could have found three in one township. "Oh! consistency," etc.

We have never said that a Democrat hired the negro editor to write the famous and infamous editorial in the Wilmington Record, but such language as the Morehead City Herald Dispatch uses in speaking of the editor in chief of this paper convinces us that there are animals claiming to be Democrats who are not so good to hire negroes to write such rot.

When the Hypocrite leaders who have howled themselves hoarse over the "Jim Young Inspection" scandal found their hypocrisy exposed in last week's PROGRESSIVE FARMER—

"They speak not a word But like dumb statues or breathless stones, Stared on each other and looked deadly pale."

They suddenly became as silent as the tomb as to this question. It was a great scandal as long as they could make people believe it "fusion" work; and these most righteous advocates (?) of good government could never support a party guilty of such things. But as soon as we proved it to be the work of the Hypocrites they concluded to swallow "nigger and all" for the sake of "white supremacy." Ask the News and Observer, Raleigh Post, and your county Hypocrite sheet if this is not correct. They can't deny it.

Mr. Bailey has written us a card in reply to a paragraph in our last issue. He says:

"In the first place I am not responsible for what use others make of my utterances. I am responsible for the truth of statements I make."

Good. And he ought also to have some evidence of the truth of rumors that he circulates. Next:

"In my letter of resignation I stated that I HAD HEARD that it had been arranged that Mr. John R. Smith should receive \$2,500 yearly salary as Commissioner of Agriculture instead of \$1,800, which is the legal salary. I did not say I had heard that appropriations of the Board of Agriculture were padded, as you have it."

Again Mr. Bailey is in error. We said the rumor was that appropriations were padded "in order to increase Smith's salary." That's the statement in full. We agree with him that appropriations are padded; there is no doubt about that matter. He quoted figures in his letter to show it. Here is what he says:

"I have been informed, and I give you the information for what it may be worth, since I will no longer be in position to watch, that while the salary of Mr. Smith as Superintendent of the State's prison \$2,500, whereas it is now as Commissioner only \$1,800, there exists and understanding that he shall illegally and immorally get \$2,500 per annum from the Board of Agriculture; that Mr. Smith would not agree upon the exchange until this understanding was reached. The padding of some items of the budget at the June meeting of the Board—to which I called the attention of the Board at the

time—may throw some light upon the matter. 'Gas, water and telephones' cost \$99 the last six months; for the next six months two hundred dollars is appropriated. Printing paper cost \$3,617; \$5,000 is appropriated. There is a 'special' appropriation of \$10,000; of this amount \$5,000 is for the experiment station work and \$300 for the museum, the balance of \$6,700 is for labor, fuel, repairs and such special appropriations as may be ordered. You see it will be very easy to carry out this understanding if it exists."

Mr. Bailey continues: "I intended this paragraph for the Governor's information. By mistake of the type writer it got into some of the papers. I remember that Mr. J. L. Ramsey, Secretary of the Board of Agriculture, prepared a statement in answer to the foregoing, in which he showed that under the Democratic administration the appropriations were fully as large if not larger. But that is no concern of mine. I undertook to show that the Budget was so padded that the plan of paying the Commissioner \$2,500 could easily be carried out. The above figures show that beyond question."

This is nice, very nice, but Mr. Bailey entirely overlooks the question at issue. It is not "Were appropriations padded? It is 'Is there any truth in the rumor?'"

Mr. Bailey concludes as follows: "I believe Mr. Ramsey also alleged that I should have looked after this matter when I was a member of the Board. He is Recording Secretary of the Board and he ought to know that the Budget was approved while I was examining it, and that as soon as the vote was taken I asked for reconsideration, which was granted. That afternoon I read the Budget item by item and asked that the items above named be explained. I had not heard at the time of the salary arrangement alleged, if I had I would not have accepted the verbal explanations that were made."

We are very glad to give Mr. Bailey a hearing, even if he does persist in drifting entirely away from his subject in such a way as to convince us that as a preacher he would be a lamentable failure. Every one can see that he has entirely failed to give the name of his informant, or give the slightest proof that there is any foundation in the rumor. And that's the one and only important point.

We are indebted to the Raleigh News and Observer for Jim Young's report of his inspection of the White Bird Institution under orders of the Democratic chairman of board. It reads as follows:

RALEIGH, N. C., June 12, 1897. To the Trustees for the Deaf, Dumb and Blind, Raleigh, N. C.:

GENTLEMEN:—We, your Committee on Inspection of Buildings and Grounds, attended to the duty assigned us on Monday, May 24th, and beg leave to make the following report: We inspected both departments at the most inopportune time that could possibly have been selected. When we arrived upon the grounds at both the white and colored departments, we found the employees busily engaged in getting the students ready to depart for home. Everything was necessarily stirred up, though we found both departments in excellent condition, considering that the school was breaking up for the summer vacation.

We should feel like reporting unfavorably upon some of the sanitary conditions of both departments, were it not that new buildings are to be erected and modern sanitary appliances provided, as soon as the appropriations made for the same are available. We feel, however, that the best has been done that can be under the circumstances.

Respectfully submitted,  
JAMES H. YOUNG,  
CHAS. F. MESSEVZ,  
Committee on Inspection.

## THE BEST WINTER PASTURE.

Prof Irby Talks of Hairy Vetch. Correspondence of The Progressive Farmer.

Hairy vetch sowed with rye, barley, or white turf oats, makes the best winter pasture for the Southern farmer.

Time of sowing, August to November. Sow broadcast. Grows on any land that will grow peas. Grows in the winter, when the land would otherwise be uncultivated. Comes off in time to make almost any crop. Keeps the land from washing and leaching

in our winter rains. Makes a stiff heavy soil loose and porous, thereby draining the soil, and enabling the soil to store up moisture in spring for use in dry weather.

Graze until middle of April, and cut in June for hay. Makes a fine combination with Bermuda or wiregrass. Vetch can be sowed in corn or cotton field, just as crimson clover is sowed.

It is of course best to prepare the land for any of these crops. The vetch is one of the best renovators—makes poor land rich and rich land richer. Stores up nitrogen in the soil.

B. IRBY.

## QUESTION ANSWERED.

Correspondence of the Progressive Farmer. N. C. Experiment Station, Raleigh, N. C.:

GENTLEMEN:—I have a bottom that is subject to overflow, and is most too wet for corn. I wish to make a meadow of it. I want to sow grass that will give me no trouble to be rid of it in case I should want to work the land later, and one that will not spread all over the place. Please advise me as to what to sow.

Yours truly,  
P. S. B.  
Answer by Frank E. Emery, Agricultural Experiment Station

You will do well and save your hay when it is grown, by giving immediate attention to strengthening your stream where overflow occurs, and raising banks a little at the low places, so water may stay in its channel and dredge some for itself. Try straightening on your own land, and see if your next down stream neighbor will let you help him on his portion, and have a sort of jolly time doing it with a treat along with you for him and the boys.

This done prepare the land well for seed, and sow the following per acre:  
Red Top Grass, 14 lbs.  
Fowl Meadow Grass, 14 lbs.  
Timothy, 55 lbs.

If you wish you can add three pounds of peavine clover and one pound of white clover. The latter may save your timothy after haying, if it starts to growing again then. You need not have fears about these grasses, and in your locality, if your locality, if your land is in good order, they should yield abundantly.

## POTATOES FOR PIGS.

The Michigan farmer, some years, is at a loss to know what to do with his potatoes. Thousands of bushels are thrown out to rot. This was the case in 1897 and 1896. It may not happen this way again for some years to come, and it may happen so again this fall. If it does, what can be done with the potatoes to avoid a total loss? For a man to go to the expense and labor of raising a crop of potatoes and then find absolutely no market for them is a serious question, to say the least, says a writer in Michigan Fruit Grower. If enough could be got out of the crop to pay the labor till it would certainly help matters some. I have always made it a practice to cook the unmarketable potatoes for the pigs, and in like the above mentioned have fed the entire crop to the pigs and cows. I was always satisfied that I got the labor cost out of the crop. In 1890 the Wisconsin Experiment Station made two feeding trials with boiled potatoes and corn meal compared with corn meal alone, as food for hogs. In the two trials it took 440 pounds of corn meal to make one hundred pounds' gain. In the first trial with potatoes it took 295 pounds of meal and 870 pounds of potatoes to make one hundred pounds of gain; and in the second, 234 pounds of meal and 702 pounds of potatoes to make the one hundred pounds' gain. Now, averaging the trials and stating the matter in another way, we find that 441 pounds of potatoes are equal to one hundred pounds of corn meal as pig feed, or one hundred pounds of corn meal are equal to about seven bushels of potatoes, and if corn meal is worth 80 cents a hundred pounds, then the potatoes are worth from 11 to 12 cents a bushel to feed to pigs. Or, the fact can be stated in this way: One bushel of corn is worth four and one half bushels of potatoes. Of course, this is not a high value for potatoes, but it is better than throwing them away.

The best of cooking potatoes is indeed very small. On almost every farm there are waste rails and pieces of board, rubbish enough to cook the potatoes, and the farm would look better

if it was thus utilized. As to the labor of cooking, it is no greater than that of hauling the potatoes out to be rotted. I do not want to be understood as advocating that it would be good policy for the potato "specialist," when he finds himself loaded down with hundreds of bushels of potatoes for which he can find absolutely no market, to buy hogs enough to consume his potatoes. But for the man who has hogs it would be policy to feed them all the potatoes he could, and thus make his loss as light as possible. It seems to me that this is an argument in favor of growing a few hogs with the potatoes, and then, if necessary, get the labor cost of growing a portion of the potatoes, at least, instead of throwing them away. Many a man knows from hard, actual experience that it is terrible risky to "put the eggs all in one basket," for many a time he has stumpled and fallen with the basket and lost his eggs. In one respect potatoes are worth more than the experiments would seem to indicate, and that is they furnish a variety. All stock will be thriftier in a long trial of feeding if it is furnished a variety of food than if it were confined to one or even two foods.

## NEWLY CLEARED LAND.

If any one wanted to know what difficulties the early settlers in wooded sections had to encounter, let him make a clearing in some wood lot and then try to grow a crop among the stumps. He will break more plow points and harrows working this land than the crop will be worth when grown. But the early settlers had at least one advantage, and that was that their cleared land was free from weeds. In all the older settled parts of the country there are many bad weeds among trees in the woods, the seeds of which have been carried there by birds or other animals.—American Cultivator.

## HEALTH AND COMFORT OF BEES.

A hive that is painted white or of a light color, placed in some cool and shady place, is not only attractive in itself, but it also tends to lighten the labors of its inmates and has a decided influence upon their health, is the opinion of Ambrrose L. Riley, in the "Busy Bee."

The hive should not be so complicated that it will not admit of any easy access to all its parts by the bees. If it is, all weak colonies, and some of the strong ones, will be damaged if not entirely ruined by those troublesome "worms," the moth.

The work in the apiary should be done cleanly, neatly and orderly, for by so doing, the temptation given to the bees to mar and deface the complexion of the apiarist will be prevented to a great extent.

I have frequently visited some bees' yards where the weeds, sunflowers, plum sprouts and other things too numerous to mention, surrounded the hives so thick that it was a hard matter to tell just where the man's bees were, until you were in a good kicking distance of them.

An apiary should not present such a desolate, dismal appearance, uninviting and comfortless, deterring bees rather than enticing them to it. The weeds and grass should be cut down before they ripen to seed, thus preventing them from sprouting the next season.

The hives should be repaired, and if you have time, sawdust, coal cinders, or much better, coarse gravel should be placed near the entrance and around the hive, which will save the trouble of cutting the grass and weeds that abound.

Always have an abundant supply of water near your bees. This spring an old fellow who claims to know it all about bees came where I was sitting up a watering trough in place and said: "Well, I never knew before that bees would go that close for water." I suppose he thought they had to go eight or nine miles after it.

Again, there are some meddlesome ants that worry the life out of bees. (Does any one know what ants are good for?) A cloth wrung out of coal oil and applied to the outside of the hive where the ants travel will soon stop the annoyance.

Evidence of short memories will be common this fall. Nine out of ten of us will have forgotten that we need to build an ice house, by the time snow falls.

## THE DANGER OF RUNNING DOWN.

Virgin soil contains many elements of fertility and mechanical conditions that are difficult to replace after they have once been exhausted through an ignorant system of farming. Science can do much toward renovating worn-out soils, but it is doubtful if they can ever be returned to the same conditions they were in when man first started to till them. At least it would take many years and generations of farming after the most approved methods to restore a run down piece of land to its early primitive condition. We may add manure, green crops, mineral fertilizers, and all the artificial manure mixtures ever invented, and, valuable as these substances are, it is not likely that the soil will be made just right.

Virgin soil of great fertility is the product of many thousands of years of building up by nature's slow but sure method. Vegetation of season after season has rotted and decayed in the soil, and this has been buried out of sight by succeeding generations of plants. The roots of these millions of plants drew from beneath rich stores of potash and phosphorus acid, and the leaves and branches gathered nitrogen from the air. The animals helped to enrich the primitive soil with their excrements and decaying bones. The burrowing animals brought up from the subsoil mineral fertilizers and new earth, which became mixed with the soil.

During this slow process of soil building and enriching the fertility increased steadily and gradually. It was not the work of a day or year. The food that was added to it was digested slowly. The plant food was assimilated by the soil, and was ready for absorption by other plants. All it needed was the stirring of the soil to make the stored up fertility ready for use.

We build up our soils after this same process as nearly as we can imitate it, but we never duplicate it entirely. It is not always possible to add just what Nature intended should be put in the soil. Moreover, our methods have to be quick. We cannot wait ages for the soil to digest and assimilate the food given to it. Herein is the danger of permitting any soil to run down. It takes only a few years of steady dropping to exhaust the fertility of the best virgin soil, but it will take generations to restore it. It is easier to maintain the natural primitive fertility and mechanical conditions of the soil than to restore them after they have once been lost. We should practice preventive measures, and then curative remedies will seldom be required.—C. N. Walters in American Cultivator.

## SAVING THE CORNSTALKS.

Some investigators think the grain but half the value of the corn plant, while others, more conservative, estimate the value of the blades and stalks at one third the total value of the plant. At the lowest estimate the value of the blades and stalks is great enough to make it an object to save them. They are practically wasted if the stalks are left to stand in the field, says Farmers' Voice. When left standing the blades become dry and are blown away, being altogether lost, and the sugar, gum and other valuable constituents of the stalks and husks are washed out by the rain and lost, so standing cornstalks are of very little value by the time stock is turned on the fields. About the only use they are in this condition is to furnish wadding to prevent the grain ration from packing in the stomach, and for this purpose straw or swamp grass would be of more value than weathered corn stalks.

In the East, where such things are more closely looked after, the selling value of corn stover, well cured and bound in bundles at the time of husking, is about \$3 per acre, when timothy hay is selling at \$6 per ton. In other words, feeders willingly give half the price of a ton of timothy hay for an acre of corn stover.

When stover is cured and fed on the farm its value is great enough to add materially to the amount that may be realized from the crop of corn. Cattle and young horses may be kept through the winter on it without other rough feed, and they will come out in the spring with round bodies and sleek coats, for the stover keeps their diges-

tive organs in good condition, preventing constipation.

Ten years ago, or even later, cutting corn was pretty hard work, and, excepting threshing, the most disagreeable job done on the farm. Now, thanks to the American genius, the corn harvester works to perfection, and the cutting of corn has been reduced to a matter of driving a team and setting up the bundles.

Prof. Henry, in "Feeds and Feeding," gives the proportionate value of the corn crop, counting only the digestible nutrients, as being divided into 63 per cent. in the grain, and 37 per cent. in the stalks. In other words, a corn crop that yields sixty-three bushels of corn to the acre has in the stover or stalks the value of thirty-seven bushels of corn if it is properly cared for. This is equivalent to saying that a field of corn yielding sixty three bushels to the acre has the feeding value of 100 bushels of corn if the stalks are used to the best advantage. This showing, which cannot be successfully disputed, is enough to indicate any careful farmer to save his cornstalks.

## SPLENDID TOBACCO CROP.

The Finest Ever Known in the North Carolina Piedmont Section.

A special from Winston, N. C., says: This year's tobacco crop in the Piedmont section promises to be fine, and the leaf exhibits at the annual fair to be held the first week in November are expected to be full and of the choicest selections. The planters are required to pay no entrance fee, and besides, are offered liberal money premiums. The Winston manufacturers, who had such exceedingly and unique display of their goods last year, are determined to out-do their former efforts. Manufacturers of tobacco from other cities, and makers and dealers in tobacco machinery and supplies, will likewise be well represented at the fair and will contest with the honors. Arrangements are being made for full assortment of meritorious auxiliary attractions, including a midway, races, gorgeous street parade, theatrical performances, and the like. Ample accommodations will be provided for the accommodation of the thousands of visitors. This will be unquestionably the greatest fair of any kind in North Carolina this year. All persons interested in the tobacco industry throughout the United States are invited to attend, and will be repaid for the journey and expense incurred.

## THE POULTRY YARD.

### SKIM MILK FOR HENS AND CHICKENS

Correspondence of the Progressive Farmer.

On our farm we set a high value upon skim milk for feeding hens and chickens. The only trouble is that we do not begin to have enough milk to spare a great deal for this purpose.

If any one doubts that it is a kind of food which chickens greatly enjoy, let him try putting a few quarts into an old pan or kettle and setting it where the fowls may have access to it. The amount of milk consumed in this way by a flock of fifty hens and chickens is simply astonishing. They seem perfectly wild to get it, and will troop after the person who supplies them this delicious drink in a great swarm. Care must be taken not to have the milk too deep in the pan, or some of the chicks may get drowned. A shallow vessel is best for this purpose.

A little meal or middlings mixed with the sour milk will add to its value. It may be clearly demonstrated that this milk has just the elements chickens and hens need to produce good results. Let one flock of hens be kept supplied with sour milk and another be deprived of it and the supply of eggs will soon convince the most skeptical that the milk possesses a high value for feeding purposes. In the same way, let a flock of chickens, five or six weeks old be fed liberally on sour milk and another be given none. At the end of a few weeks weigh the chickens and note the result in favor of those fed with milk.

Sour milk has lost only the butter fat it once contained. It still contains all the flesh and muscle producing elements it ever did. On some farms I know of, no store is set upon this "waste milk product" as they call it, and it is thrown away when not needed for the calves and pigs. Here is a serious loss, and I am convinced that

[CONTINUED ON PAGE 8.]