

PROGRESSIVE FARMER

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

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We want intelligent correspondents in every county in the State. We want facts of value, results accomplished of value, experiences of value, plainly and briefly told. One solid, demonstrated fact, is worth a thousand theories.

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

"I am standing now just behind the curtain, and in full glow of the coming sunset. Behind me are the shadows on the track, before me lies the dark valley 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. Polk, July 14, 1896.

PRACTICAL FARM NOTES.

Written for The Progressive Farmer by the Editors and Prof. Guy E. Mitchell. An exchange truthfully says that people who don't read papers, and consequently don't know what is going on in the world, are the ones the gold brick, and three minute churn sharps inquire for when they go into a neighborhood. They want no other meat nor easier game to catch. Many men who poor to take a paper are really poor because they don't do so. A man who can buy intelligence for \$1 a year in advance and refuses to do so, is a sucker easy to bite at any bait that looks like a fly.

Commenting on the article, "The Best Breed of Hogs," which Prof. J. M. Johnson recently prepared for this paper, the Monroe Enquirer says: "The Assistant Agriculturist of the State Experiment Station is preparing an article on the best breed of hogs for North Carolina. Nothing will be said about the hog which spits tobacco juice on church floors and in public halls where ladies have to pass nor about the hog which orders the paper sent to him and refuses to pay for it, nor about the hog which lies around full of liquor. These breeds of hogs are not at all profitable, and the sooner they become extinct the better."

The Progressive Farmer's expose of the American Cotton Company's scheme to fool the people by buying up purchasable editors has almost ruined every chance of success that said lovely scheme once had. It has not only aroused the farmers of North Carolina, but those of other States. Last week's Southern Mercury, of Dallas, Texas, said:

"We ask the careful consideration of the article elsewhere in this issue headed, 'A Deep Laid Plot Exposed,' which we find in The Progressive Farmer of June 15th. Every cotton raiser in Texas should read it and put his spying cap on and find a way to escape the clutches of this giant monopoly, the American Cotton Co."

Some weeks ago Taos. Keady, Secretary of the Illinois State Grange, said:

"We have long boasted about the home owning and independent farmer being the conservative bulwark of the Republic, and should be on the alert for a continuance of conditions so full of the promise of peace and safety for the trust makers are abroad in the land and are consolidating their colossal millions of money to control our American industries. What if these greedy grabbers should mark agriculture for their prey, absorb the farms and turn the farmers into wage workers, with a woeful burden of strikes lockouts, blacklisting and sub-servience to money king bosses? Is there anything more than a fancied danger in that direction and do the farmers think it worth while to bother

their brains with considering the outlook and the outcome of trusts?"

And now a dispatch from Austin, Texas, states that an English syndicate with a capital of \$100,000 000 is securing options on all cattle and ranch property in Texas. It is said that the syndicate has secured options on eight hundred thousand head of cattle. It is believed the syndicate is endeavoring to corner the cattle market of the United States, and that it has agents at work in Western States securing options on cattle and ranch properties. Another syndicate is buying up thousands of acres of Kansas lands. Is this the first move toward that condition which Mr. Keady so fears?

We advise every farmer to hold on to his land with a death like grip. It is his only hope of independence.

A dispatch from Richmond, Va., June 27th, says: A large New York syndicate has obtained control of all the tobacco warehouses in Danville except one. It is the purpose of this trust to increase sales to seventy millions or more. It is said the planters are alarmed at this combination. For years they have antagonized the American Tobacco Company, on the ground chiefly that the corporation dictates the price of tobacco. So far did this feeling go that the Virginia legislature, by whom the American Company was first chartered, repealed its charter. It is believed that a movement will at once be started to organize an independent warehouse in the interest of planters.

The Progressive Farmer does not vouch for the truth of the following item. We find it in one of our usually reliable exchanges and anyone who cares to believe it may do so:

"Experiments in growing corn of 2,000 years ago is now in progress in Butler county, near Wichita, Kansas. J. L. Brady two years ago found corn kernels in a mound in Arkansas in which were bones and vessels of the period of 2,000 years ago. Last Thursday he decided to plant some of it, and inside of 48 hours the corn had grown one inch above the ground, and by Saturday night it was three inches high. Brady says it will be unlike any other corn ever grown, and he thinks it will grow three or four times as large as Indian corn."

A prominent farmer of Eastern Carolina writes us: "I have had no experience whatever with silos and ensilage, and this is almost the only thing in our section of farm work that I have not tried to experiment with to some extent."

"I have been trying to keep something green and growing all winter for stock, and if I can succeed entirely (I have partially) I shall feel assured that my stock can gather the food cheaper than I can house it as ensilage. My efforts have been in sowing crimson clover in summer or early fall, and oats in September for grazing. I have not succeeded every year, but most years I have good grazing for my stock all winter, and I shall try a few more years before I resort to the silo. If I make a complete success of the former I shall see no need of resorting to the latter, as I am already assured that if winter grazing can be kept up, it can be maintained more cheaply than ensilage and with no more hurt to the land."

According to the calculation of the New York Experiment Station, the value of the manure of different farm animals for one year, as compared with the price of commercial fertilizers, is as follows, as per 1,000 pounds of live weight:

Horses	\$37 74
Cows	29 27
Pigs	60 88
Cattle	24 45
Sheep	26 09

It would be well to keep this item for reference.

The Year Book of the Department of Agriculture for 1897 says: "In the case of many cattle foods, the fertilizing value of the manure may be nearly equal to the commercial value of the food. The manure should be considered just as much a part of the return from feeding farm animals as the meat and milk."

Number One Hundred of the farmers' bulletins of the Department of Agriculture is being prepared for publication and free distribution. It will bear on its title page the legend, "Hog

Raising in the South," from the pen and experience of S. M. Tracy, late Director of the Mississippi Experiment Station. Treating especially of conditions in the South as affecting hog raising, it is nevertheless of very general interest to all pork producers. Here in the South, however, more pig is used than all other meats combined. "Hog and Hominy" is a familiar Southern menu and in all our country stores "salt meat," "fat meat," or "white meat" is as much a staple as sugar or flour.

"For successful hog raising," Mr. Tracy says, "almost any locality is suitable where there is a fertile soil on which food crops can be grown at small expense and where an abundant supply of pure water can be secured. Large streams are objectionable as germs of anthrax, cholera, swine plague and other contagious diseases are often carried long distances by water. Shallow, stagnant pools should not be allowed. It is not necessary that hogs should be provided with places for wallowing in the mud as they will seldom wallow unless suffering from heat. As hogs do not perspire, however, they feel the effects of heat very quickly and if the only relief from the hot sun is for the hog to bury himself in mud, he will naturally do so. In the shade of a tree the hog will always be content. Hogs always do better in small droves than in large ones."

Mr. Tracy discusses the varicous breeds, but thinks as Prof. Emery and Johnson, of our State Experiment Station, have recently said in these columns, that management and feed are more important than breed. "The value of a hog of any breed," he says, "is measured by his ability to make good pork and experience has shown that ordinary good pork can be produced more cheaply in a hog of a certain shape than in one which differs from the type to any to any great extent. The outline of a perfect hog should be, viewed from any direction, nearly that of a parallelogram with the corners slightly rounded. A large coarse ear, and coarse bristles indicate a coarse animal which will fatten slowly and mature late."

Of pure bloods, he says: "In general pure blooded animals of any preferred breed will be found more profitable than either crosses or grades though a poor specimen of a pure blood animal is no better than any poor animal. The fact that the animal has a long pedigree and is registered in a herd book does not in itself make the animal desirable as a breeder or profitable as a feeder. When given an equal amount of food the pure blood will weigh fully twice as much as the native hog at six months or more, and when slaughtered will lose only 20 or 25 per cent., while the native will ordinarily lose one-third of its live weight. The man who intends to follow hog raising as a business even if he does not keep more than a dozen animals, will find it both profitable and economical to buy a pair of pure bloods and then make his entire drove pure bloods as soon as he can raise enough desirable animals. By buying a young boar and a sow already in pig by a boar not related to the one purchased, the boar can be used on the offspring of the pure blood sow, as well as for other service, and in this way the pure bloods can be increased very rapidly. The hog raiser should certainly use a pure blood boar and buy a new one every season to prevent inbreeding."

Mr. Tracy discusses at some length the treatment of the boar, age at which to breed, care of breeding sows and pigs, castrating and spaying. Of spaying young sows, he says, "It is no more difficult and dangerous than castrating young boars and should be more generally practiced. Spayed animals are always more quiet and better feeders than open sows. A spayed sow weighing 200 pounds will dress from 10 to 20 pounds heavier than an open sow of the same live weight; she will have heavier leaf and inside lard and packers and butchers will always pay top prices for spayed sows because such animals are sure to be as good as they look, while open sows are subject to shrinkage." Mr. Tracy also treats of foods, the pasture question and various feeding crops, fattening for market and of diseases and insects. Kerosene, he states, is death to hog lice and should be applied in a dilute spray or with cloth. The application should be in the evening to prevent sun blister.

AGRICULTURE.

TRICKSTERS AT AGRICULTURAL FAIRS,

Correspondence of the Progressive Farmer.

Wherever large numbers of people gather, a class of persons is usually found who make a living by deceiving the public. They have schemes and tricks innumerable that appear to be easy and simple; but in reality they are quite difficult and in some cases impossible to successfully perform. They have wheels and machines that are doctored to turn as the proprietor may wish to make them. They have coconut headed negro dodgers to arouse the brutality in men and boys. They have tewed shows which are disgusting in coarseness and vulgarity.

Among the throngs at agricultural fairs these leeches are out of place. They contribute nothing helpful or good. They do not add to the attraction of the fair. They do not bring desirable patrons. They do not swell the gate receipts.

They are not patronized by intelligent patrons of the fair. They are not wanted by honest farmers. They are shunned with fear by thoughtful parents. Because of their presence, even the fair is not patronized by many of our best citizens' families.

The harm accomplished by these self-invited fakirs would doubtless surprise us, were it possible to gather and trace back to their doors all the results of their work. They distract the thought, they divert the attention, they destroy interest in the real work of the fair. The competitive exhibitions, the meritorious displays, the awarding of prizes are all robbed of the undivided interest that belongs to them, and which the proprietors have labored day and night to develop.

The morals of the country suffer seriously, we believe, from actions and words that, without warning, are sprung upon inquisitive audiences in the tent shows.

We are glad to see that a strong effort is being put forth this season to keep these objectionable features out of the grounds, and the attitude of managers is encouraging. E. B.

A FEW NOTES ABOUT LIME.

Mr. Garwood Discusses a Matter of Vital Concern to Farmers.

Correspondence of the Progressive Farmer.

A well known institute worker in the course of a conversation with the writer recently, said that his father used lime at the rate of 150 bushels per acre regularly on his farm. He did it because his grandfather had done the same thing before him. When the father died and the institute worker took hold of the farm, he found out that this heavy liming was not bringing forth the same yield as his own father and grandfather had been in the habit of gathering, so instead of following in the beaten pathways so often adopted by others, he decided to do a little thinking and experimenting for himself. The result was that in his second year of farming the dose of lime was cut down to 4 bushels, the third year to 20 and the fourth year abandoned altogether and not renewed till several years later, and then on a different basis entirely. The lecturer had learned in the meantime the true value of lime, and found that its great worth was not so much as a nutritive but rather as a stimulant manure. The lime itself did not furnish the plant food needed by his crops, but by its action in the soil rendered available supplies previously existing there. The continued application of lime by his forefathers had almost exhausted the soil's natural supply of plant food, and as the lime itself did not add any, the crops were falling off for lack of sufficient nourishment.

Before changing the policy so long followed on the home farm, our friend learned the true value of lime, and found that if correctly used it is a very valuable material, but on the other hand if abused will disappoint the user. On a heavy clay soil he experienced that a dose of about 8 to 10 bushels per acre lightened it considerably, made it easier to work, and greatly improved its general condition. On a very light sandy soil (which leached readily) the lime compacted it and made it hold plant food better. On another class of soil very rich in vegetable matter, which had become "sour" through turning under too much green matter, our friend made an application of 40 bushels slacked lime with most

excellent results. The soil was sweetened, the decomposition of the organic matter hastened, and the crop returns the following year largely increased.

All these points go to show that it is to the interest of the farmers to become thoroughly familiar with lime. By using it intelligently it will prove a very valuable ally, but its value consists more in its effect in correcting some physical condition of the soil than in furnishing plant food proper, because most soils contain enough lime to serve the actual needs of the plants. It is now known that phosphoric acid, nitrogen and potash are the three elements of plant food which are most needed by soils, and if not present there and in available condition they must be applied artificially. The lime will make available the insoluble potash of the soil, but if continually applied and no additional potash be returned to the soil, it is only natural that the soil will in time give out of potash and the crops will fall off accordingly. It is better therefore and more economical in the long run to make small applications not only of potash, but also of phosphoric acid as well, and in this way gradually build up the fertility of the soil. A soil in first class physical condition will produce far more than a run down soil, and when a soil has once become run down or exhausted it takes considerable time, labor and expense to build it up again. The process of keeping a soil well supplied with nitrogen is not so difficult, because farmers now know that they can get this ingredient at very little expense by growing clover or cow peas. It remains only then to look after the potash and phosphoric acid and then make an economical dose of lime, say about once in every five years. This will correct all the physical irregularities which are apt to occur. Some farmers though prefer to make smaller applications and at more frequent intervals. This is a matter of experience, however, and each farmer can find out for himself which suits best. R. GARWOOD.

THE COW PEA AS A FORAGE, FEED AND FERTILIZER.

Correspondence of the Progressive Farmer.

Farmers in the North do not as a rule, half appreciate the cow pea as a forage, feed and fertilizer crop. Really there is nothing they can grow on the farm that in all respects begins to equal it, and where conditions are anything like favorable, a good average crop is almost a certainty. As an upbuilder of poor, sandy, and over-worked soils, it is especially valuable. In all around value there is but one other legume that begins to equal it, and that is the Florida velvet bean. But for speedy growth and early maturity of fruit, the cow pea stands at the head. It is a wonderful nitrogen gatherer, and is therefore exceedingly valuable both as a green feed and renovator of the soil. They root deep, hence stand drought well in almost any soil. Twelve to twenty thousand pounds of green forage per acre, and twenty to thirty bushels of seed, is not an uncommon yield, and this mass of leaf and vine turned under as a fertilizer, or cut and cured as a dry feed, or used for silo, must necessarily be of great value. The matured pea is especially valuable for all stock on the farm, as every living thing will eat them as greedily as they would corn or oats. Hogs do especially well on them, and to turn them on to a pea field, they will fatten perfectly.

To grow a crop successfully plow and fit your ground nicely, drilling seed an inch or so apart in drill row, covering about three inches deep, or, if you like you can seed with common wheat drill, which will do just as well. When plants are up four or five inches run over field with weighted harrow, paying no attention to rows, thus freeing your ground of grass of weeds. If ground is not too foul this is all your crop will need.

But all of the cow pea family is quick in fruiting and maturity of fruit, rarely taking over sixty to eighty days from date of planting to maturity of fruit and harvesting of crop. This makes, therefore, a especially valuable crop for the central and northern section of our Union where seasons are inclined to be short and where crops so frequently fail. This legume will do well and will make you a crop on light, poor, sandy, or clayey soil, but do not fail to bear in mind that the richer the soil the better the crop.

As a rule plant this pea the same that you would corn, if you want to secure a crop of seed. If for forage, dry feed or fertilizer only, it can be planted much later. Any time between the first of May and the twentieth of July will do for the North, and any time after April first for the South. Much loss and disappointment may be avoided by knowing the varieties best adapted to certain sections of our country. In the Southern States the Unknown, Clay and Black, and in the Central and Northern sections Early Black, Blackeye and Whippoorwill are best. In all the varieties named I would use at least six pecks of seed to the acre to insure a good stand and best results.

Many inquiries are made as to best method of harvesting the seed. There are two ways. If crop is to be threshed by steam or horse power, then cut vines up with scythe or mower when pea is nearly ripe. After curing make into windrows, then haul and thresh, but be sure to reduce speed, and remove part of teeth from cylinder, to prevent breaking of peas. The other method is to pick pods from the vines in the field, then thresh by hand machine, two men easily turning out five to eight bushels of clean peas per hour. The writer used of the latter kind all of last season.

Another valuable legume is the crimson clover, and on good rich soil will yield from nine to twelve tons of green forage to the acre. The Florida velvet bean has proven a grand success in the Southern section as a forage, feed, and fertilizing crop, and as it becomes acclimated northward, it will prove equally so there. It has already revolutionized the green forage, dry feed, and fertilizing problems of the Southern States. Another valuable legume is the soy bean, and has great merit as a forage, feed and fertilizer, and having been acclimated in the North, is counted a valuable crop to grow.

E. A. WILSON.

Washington, D. C.

MAKES A DIFFERENCE.

A friend asks us why we do not "go for" the Round Cotton Bale Trust which threatens to bag all the cotton baling business of the country.

Ah, my friend, that happens to be our trust. The chairman of our National Committee is a large stockholder in this one, and possibly other members of the National Committee are likewise interested therein, and it would never do for us to condemn this particular trust. It is only the trusts managed by our common enemy of the other party that we must "down."

It will be remembered that some of our strongest anti trust papers not only uphold the Round Bale Trust, but the Associated Press Trust, both of which have been outlawed by the State of Texas.

While The Post is opposed to all trusts that restrain trade, create and maintain monopoly, etc., we must discriminate between those in which our own leaders—especially national committeemen—are interested and those organized by the enemy for their own selfish purposes.—Raleigh Post.

COST OF BAD ROADS.

Hon. George E. Boggs, of Haywood county, one of our most valued correspondents, writing in an exchange, says:

Our county is just in receipt of about \$5 000 worth of road-making machinery. Little did I ever expect to see this happy day for our county of Haywood. That she should make such an advance movement is not only a credit to her but a good indication of the heaven that is at work in our State in regard to good roads—a matter that not only concerns the economical but the social and religious life of our people.

For several weeks during last winter the roads of this county were virtually impassable. Traffic, social intercourse and attendance on religious services were suspended. During many more weeks they could be carried on only under many discomforts and at considerable loss from injury to stock and vehicles.

Many are opposed to any tax for road improvement and yet they are paying a mud tax that exceeds all their National, State and county taxes combined, unjust and heavy as some of them are. I would esteem it a privilege to be allowed to pay several hun-

[CONTINUED ON PAGE 8]