

PROGRESSIVE FARMER

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

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Agriculture.

CONCERNING FALL GRAIN, CLOVER AND GRASSES.

Some Suggestions From Entomologist McCarthy That Our Readers Will Find it to Their Interest to Study.

Correspondence of The Progressive Farmer.

The time for sowing fall grain is close at hand. Thousands of dollars will probably be lost by careless North Carolina farmers who will sow seed infected by spores of smuts. Seedsmen should be required to furnish seed already treated to kill the smut spores. But as they will not at present do this, no careful farmer should sow any seed wheat or oats without treating them to prevent smut in the crop.

The following two fungicides are the best for treating seed grain:

- 1.—Blue stone (copper sulphate) 1 pound. Water 25 gallons for $\frac{1}{2}$ barrel.
- 2.—Liver of sulphur (potassium sulphide) $\frac{1}{2}$ pounds. Water 25 gallons or $\frac{1}{2}$ barrel.

No. 1 is for wheat. No. 2 is for oats. They cannot be used interchangeably.

Place seed wheat in a clean burlap sack—not a dirty fertilizer bag. Plunge sack into solution 1 and soak for 10 or 12 hours. Remove and drain sack for 10 minutes; then plunge into a thin whitewash made by slaking 2 pounds stone lime in 12 gals. ($\frac{1}{2}$ barrel) water. Soak 10 minutes. Now empty sack upon clean barn floor and spread the seed in a layer about 2 inches thick. Shovel grain over twice a day until dry. If a seed drill is to be used the seed must be quite dry, which will require 2 or 3 weeks. It may be advisable to dry in direct sun shine. To do this spread seed on sheets on a latticed stage. Take under cover at night and in wet weather. If grain is sown by hand it may be sown at once after removing from lime bath.

For oats treat seed in same manner, using solution No. 2. Soak for 24 hours. No lime water is needed in this case. If time is lacking, instead of soaking oat seed for 24 hours in solution 2, use 4 pounds of liver of sulphur to 25 gallons of water and soak seed only 2 hours. Then dry as above or sow at once.

These treatments are troublesome, but they often double the yield and should on no account be omitted. No farmer should purchase grass seeds or crimson or other clovers for fall seeding without first having a sample analyzed at the State Department of Agriculture. The market is full of poor and adulterated seed.

GERALD MCCARTHY,
Botanist N. C. Department of Agriculture.

A NOVEL FARMERS' ASSOCIATION.

Correspondence of The Progressive Farmer.

As The Progressive Farmer is interested in all farmers' organizations and in diversified agriculture, I will report a unique club that has been organized in the Lone Star State and that might do good as a feature of the Alliance or other farmers' clubs in the Carolinas and elsewhere.

This club is the Jackson County Produce Association, and it was recently organized at Edna, Texas, with 38 members, each of whom obligated himself to plant one or more acres in cabbage, with other garden produce. Some agreed to plant five acres, the aggregate being 102 acres, practically assuring a good home market for the produce raised. The members of the Association intend to market all their produce at home, and to this end they will adopt uniform methods of packing for shipment. They will also plant only one kind of cabbage. The Association elected the following officers: J. M. Lee, President; J. W. Bickel, Vice-President; R. B. Trayler, Secretary-Treasurer. The Association will hold its meetings on the second and fourth Saturdays in each month at Edna.

H. W. KING,
Red River Co., Texas.

Whitewash is a deadly enemy of insects, a deodorizer which kills foul odors and an antiseptic which drives away microbes. Use it freely about the poultry house.

AT THE NATIONAL CAPITAL.

The Good Work of Secretary Wilson and the Grange—Horses in Great Demand—An Interesting Report of Poultry Raising in Belgium.

Correspondence of The Progressive Farmer.

The farmers of the country have a number of able men always here looking after their interests. The Department of Agriculture is doing a great work, and we have probably never had a more efficient Secretary than the present incumbent, Hon. James Wilson. He is a successful farmer himself, and unlike many men that accept positions in agricultural colleges and departments, his heart is in his work, it is a labor of love, not a labor for money only.

The National Grange also keeps its headquarters here. The Grange is growing steadily in the West and also has a good foothold in South Carolina. It exerts considerable influence in Congressional matters in a non-partisan way; and in such matters as the better regulation of railways, trusts, oleo frauds, good roads and free rural delivery, it always makes itself heard.

A lot of very interesting facts regarding agriculture will be brought out by the census of this year and the announcement of results is awaited with impatience by many.

That was good advice given in a recent issue of The Progressive Farmer advising farmers to pay more attention to horse breeding. Horses have rarely been in better demand than now. In Chicago good drivers sell at \$125 to \$500, according to breed and style. Carriage teams are in very good demand, and bring \$300 to \$600 per pair. A great many omnibus horses have been shipped from London to South Africa and American horses have taken their places, which has stimulated the foreign demand very much. The markets are full of foreign buyers. In nine months of the last fiscal year there were exported 4,721 horses, worth \$365,321. This year, to March 31, 30,269 were shipped, valued at \$2,098,283. Exportation has since been active, swelling the number very materially.

Several weeks ago I sent your paper an interesting report of an American Consul in China, giving the methods of farming in vogue in the Celestial Kingdom. As most Progressive Farmers also raise chickens, the following report of "Poultry Raising in Belgium," by Consul Lincoln, just received at the State Department here may prove of sufficient interest to warrant its publication. Mr. Lincoln says:

BELGIAN POULTRY RAISING.

It has been suggested that a report on the method of raising fowls for the market in this country would be of service, not only to those directly interested in the like business in our country, but a boon to the public at large. The succulence of the "poulet de Bruxelles" has a very widespread reputation, not only among gourmets, but among all who have had the good fortune to travel upon the Continent and meet the same on the table.

The difference in quality between the fowl above mentioned and one of the same age and size of the ordinary variety is shown by the fact that the first is sold in nearly all the markets in this country at double the price. For example, a young poulet de Bruxelles which we should consider about the size sufficient for a meal of two persons is sold today for 5 francs (96.5 cents), whereas one of the ordinary variety can be purchased for between 2 and 3 francs (38.6 and 57.9 cents).

The excellence of the fowl seems to depend, as far as can be ascertained, on the careful manner in which the sitting hen is treated, the cleanliness observed about her, as well as the careful feeding of the young chicken until sufficiently developed for eating purposes. Whether or not the methods pursued here differ from those followed by careful breeders in our country, it is impossible for me to say. Travelers almost invariably express their astonishment at its tenderness and juiciness.

The choice of eggs for setting pur-

poses is considered a matter of great importance, and the freshest obtainable are almost invariably used. The best breeders seldom take eggs older than eight days for raising the best quality. Care is taken that the eggs given to one hen should be of the same age. The eggs when collected are kept at a very even and medium temperature until given to the hen, and are turned daily. This measure is taken, I am informed, to prevent the yolk, which is lighter than the white of the egg, from adhering to the top of the shell. The eggs chosen for the purpose above mentioned are also of an average size, those above medium being rejected, as they often contain double yolks. Eggs received from a distance, and consequently exposed to more or less shaking, are allowed to stand a day or two before being put under the hen. Great care is also taken that the eggs should be perfectly clean.

The nest is prepared of straw or cut hay, perfectly clean, dry, and odorless. As a rule, the sitting hens are located in corners where the greatest quiet is obtainable, and are not exposed to great light. When so located they are not disturbed for any other purpose than the placing before them of their daily supply of food and water. As the hen leaves her nest at least once a day to search for food, to take exercise, etc., care is taken to put her food and water within reach of the nest, in order that the time that she is off the eggs may be materially shortened.

RAISING AND FEEDING.

When the young bird is hatched, it retains in its body part of the yolk of the egg from which it was produced, which suffices to nourish it for the first twenty-four hours, during which period only warmth is required, which is furnished either by the mother hen or must be afforded by a warm cloth, in case of the necessity of awaiting the hatching of the rest of the brood.

The food first given can be varied, but must be made up of ingredients containing large quantities of nitrogen, as this is required for the formation of the tissues. It is necessary, in fact, that the food should be composed of matter resembling in character an egg, together with milk. It is customary to mix with the food eggs, milk, and the blood of earthworms, field worms, and that of a commoner variety of fish; also to introduce, for the formation of bone, certain quantities of phosphate of lime found in grain and flour. In the early days, flour should be given, on account of the facility of its digestion, grain being substituted thereafter as the birds begin to gather strength. Wheat flour is generally used. The grain given is wheat, rice, millet, buckwheat, and corn, raw or cooked. Cooked potatoes are also often given, as a change of diet. It is customary to vary the grain diet as much as possible and to frequently administer it mixed. The food ordinarily employed is made up as follows: Hard-boiled eggs and wheat flour are mixed in milk, a little water being added. To this paste is added a small onion finely cut up, together with lettuce when green food is scarce. The mixture is ordinarily quite stiff, as too moist food is considered harmful for the young brood.

After the first few days, a small quantity of whole grain is mixed into the paste; but if rapid development is desired, the simple paste should be continued alone.

Great care is taken to keep the young brood in a dry, warm locality, which precaution, together with the proper food, prevents inflammation of the intestines and like troubles. As a rule, the birds are confined on wet days and allowed to run about as much as possible only in fine, sunny weather. In winter a more generous diet is given to enable them to withstand the cold. The daily ration of grain for the fowls is from $\frac{2}{3}$ to 3 ounces.

B.
Washington, D. C.

The difficult part of good temper consists in forbearance and accommodation to the ill-humor of others.—Empson.

SHEEP AND POULTRY PAY.

Correspondence of The Progressive Farmer.

Few things on the farm pay better than sheep or poultry. One of your Northampton county correspondents reported recently that sheep paid him better than anything else. And, when one thinks of it rightly, it is seen to be very natural that they should. Other farm products are made more largely from cash grains, while those from the sheep are made principally from pasture. There is no other product of the farm that has fluctuated so slightly in value as good mutton. By comparison wool costs nothing, for do not the horse and cow in shedding their coats waste what the sheep saves? Western North Carolina, especially, is a great sheep country.

And if we farmers would only keep accounts with our hens, we would soon realize the big profits from them. If the poultry business does not pay it will always be found that the fault lies with the owner and not with the business itself. Either he does not understand what he is about or he does not give it sufficient attention. There is money in poultry where proper attention is given it.

R. D. P.

Randolph Co., N. C.

LIKES THE PAPER.

I have been a subscriber to The Progressive Farmer almost ever since it had existence. I read several papers every week, and when I want the unbiased truth I go to The Progressive Farmer to find it. I was delighted with the conservative course it pursued in the heated campaign just ended. No farmer can afford to be without the paper. He can get information by reading the paper that he needs very badly in his line of business. As for the Chat column, it will pay all young people to read the interesting letters. The paper has a religious tone about it that I admire.—D. C. Ader, Davidson Co., N. C.

Every year, just before seeding time, run the seed wheat through the fanning mill twice, thereby grading out all the small shrunken grains, and saving the large, plump, heavy and healthy wheat to sow. Such seed will raise fine, large, heavy wheat, make a larger yield per acre and be almost free from smut. While many of the farmers around here are complaining of smut, ours is almost free from it. Smut, I think, is mostly caused by sowing the small shrunken grains, and taking the large heavy wheat to market.—John Hilderbrand.

For turnips select fresh land of a sandy nature, manure heavily with barnyard manure and plow under. Keep ground plowed at regular intervals of a week, or more, also harrow after each plowing. When ready to sow seed about the last week in August or the first week in September, lay off your rows about $2\frac{1}{2}$ feet apart; sow seed in drill thick enough to insure a good stand. Use fresh seed. Early Flat Dutch is an excellent variety. A little phosphate or good commercial fertilizer, applied to soil, would aid greatly in producing a good crop. When they are well up, set the cultivator and thin to 8 inches apart. Give them three or four good workings; this will produce a good crop.—G. F. Garner, Moore Co., N. C.

COME TO THE MEETING.

Correspondence of The Progressive Farmer.

To the Farmers of North Carolina:

You are especially invited to attend the sessions of the Second Annual Convention of the Cotton States Association of the Commissioners of Agriculture at Raleigh, N. C., on August 28, 29, 30 and 31, in the N. C. Agricultural Building. Many topics of interest to the farmer, gardener and orchardist will be discussed. The Hon. James Wilson, Secretary of Agriculture, will be present, besides many other distinguished men of science.

A rate of one and one-third fare has been secured, and in order to secure the benefit of the low rate you should purchase a straight-fare ticket from your station, asking for a certificate of purchase. This certificate will be signed by the Secretary of the Association at Raleigh, and will entitle you to a return ticket at one cent a mile. Be sure to get certificate when you purchase your ticket.

I hope many of the farmers of the State will attend.

S. L. PATTERSON, Commissioner.

Our Sharon friends are putting on airs. They have the rural mail delivery system. They are highly pleased with it. Let other sections of the county make application at once. You will be pleased with it. It will stop you from loafing round country postoffices, wearing out the bosom of your pants and whittling goods boxes.—Charlotte People's Paper.

Every indication is propitious for fall oats. It is time now to prepare the ground, if this has not been done before. Early in September is time for sowing. What a pasture for pigs would be secured by planting now, and how pigs would delight in it and grow in length, breadth, thickness and ability to digest corn early in winter when a coating of fat is desired!—Exchange.

In an address made by Prof. Jordan, of the New York Experiment Station, before the "New York Farmers," on "Fertilizers and their Application," he said, and said most truly, "The existence of commercial fertilizer should be no excuse for the lazy farmer, as I am sure they have been to some extent. The fact that it is possible to procure plant food ready for immediate use should be no excuse for wasteful and careless methods of handling and developing the resources of the farm. It is possible to maintain the farm in a high state of fertility without using a pound of commercial plant food."

The most extensive rural mail service in the United States went into effect August 15th in Washington county, Va. There will be 73 carriers and four traveling postoffices. The mail will be delivered daily to over 40,000 rural residences of the county. The expense to the government will be about \$40,000 per year. Eighteen postoffices have been discontinued in the county as a result of the service, and it is estimated that 50 of the 118 remaining officers will be abolished. A unique feature of the service will be an automobile mail car, to travel 24 miles over the old National road between Washington and Brownsville.

Horticulture.

WHEN TO PLANT STRAWBERRIES, AND HOW.

One of North Carolina's Largest Strawberry Growers Tells What Experience Has Taught Him.

Correspondence of The Progressive Farmer.

In growing strawberries a great deal depends on beginning right. More than with almost any other crop.

The strawberry plant is exceedingly intolerant of heat and drought. Its nature causes it to love moisture and coolness, or even coldness in preference to its opposite. If set in drought or heat, or if the setting is closely followed by drought and heat, not only a bad stand is likely to result, but the plants that live never do quite as well as those that are set under favorable conditions and grow off quickly.

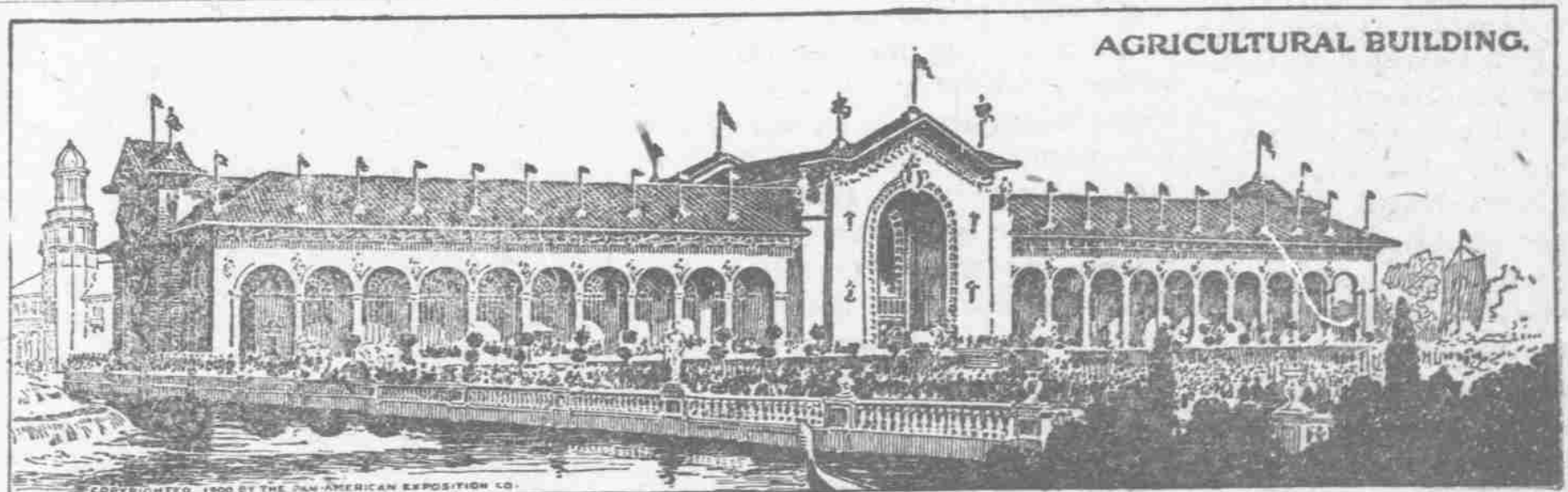
The way to avoid a set back of this kind is to select the right season to plant. Generally speaking, this season is the cool season. At that time the sun is weak. Plants grow off then without wilting.

This season for planting, which I have broadly designated as the cool or moist season, extends from about September 15th to about April 15th. At the far North it might be necessary to plant later in spring than April 15th. But throughout the whole United States, with this small exception, planting can be done within the period designated. South of the latitude of Washington D. C., planting can be safely done on any day within that period that the weather will permit—that is when the ground is not actually frozen. We do nearly all of our planting here in North Carolina in late October, in November, December, January, February or March. We could plant a little earlier in fall and later in spring, but during these months the strawberry plant is so easy to live that we never fail to get a good stand. In fact, though we annually plant from 100 to 200 acres in strawberries, we rarely find it necessary to do any replanting at all.

Nor do we have to rush the work or slight any part of it. The land intended for strawberries we plant in cow peas the previous summer. These peas are sown in drills and given two plowings, no hoe work being necessary. As soon as the pea vines mature they are turned under. They can be cut and dried for forage without much loss to the soil, as it is the roots in which the nitrogen, collected by the plant from the atmosphere, is stored. The turning under is done early in September. By the middle of October the vines have rotted, or at least, got tender enough to allow the thorough preparation of the soil.

We then replot the land, run it off three feet apart, sow in the drill 500 pounds cotton seed meal per acre and throw up a light "list" or bed on this. This list is knocked off very low and the plants set 15 to 20 inches apart in the row, as the soil may be more or less fertile, and the variety planted a more or less rampant grower. The other fertilizing properties needed—sulphate of potash and acid phosphate, are both applied as top dressings later on. Directions for these applications will be given in due time.

[CONTINUED ON PAGE 8.]



AGRICULTURAL BUILDING AT PAN-AMERICAN EXPOSITION.

The agricultural industry will have a fitting setting at the Pan-American Exposition at Buffalo during the summer of 1901. A commodious and richly proportioned building will be devoted exclusively to the interests of the farm.

The Agricultural building will stand opposite the Manufactures and Liberal Arts building on the north side of the Mall, its longest facades looking to the north and south. On the east wall will be the Live Stock Exhibit, to which about ten acres are devoted. On either side of the South entrance at the intersection of the eaves of the loggia are large consoles surmounted by figures representing the "Sower" and "Reaper." The Agricultural building is 150 by 500 feet, and contains exposition space to the amount of about 75,000 square feet.