

# PROGRESSIVE FARMER

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

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## Agriculture

THE SMALL FARMER

II.

Correspondence of The Progressive Farmer.

One of the hardest lessons the small farmer must learn in the very beginning is close economy in all things. If he be inclined to trade much at the stores and buy on time prices, he is a "goner" before the real fight begins. He must remember that no merchant will take the risks and "run" a poor fellow ten or twelve months without putting on a heavy per cent. With liberal buying at these high rates there is no possible chance for the small farmer to succeed.

Do not be enticed away from your fixed purpose of cash and cautious buying. Never put a mortgage on your cow or mule or crop to please anybody. If you will study and try hard enough, you may always find some barter or a little money to tide you over these hard places. I wish to call especial attention to this feature of the struggle, as herein lies the turning point for or against our man every time.

Of course the first few years are going to be years of much self denial, and some hardships must be endured, as the rewards offered to him who gains the victory are well worth the best efforts, in every way, of any man. A home of your own, with title unencumbered, with garrets well filled, with no fear of strikes and lockouts, is a lordly inheritance, and it should be the high ambition of every laboring man in our commonwealth to possess such a home.

Continuing along the same line suggested in a former article, we now wish to emphasize the paramount importance of producing in great abundance a variety of first-class stock feed. As soon in the spring as the soil is in a condition to work in good order, select a piece of ground, (the size to be governed by the number of cattle, horses, etc., to feed), as near the barn as circumstances will permit, and broadcast a good coating of barnyard or stable manure; then thoroughly plow and harrow until the whole surface is in first-class condition to receive the seed; then mark off the rows four feet apart and plant our common white corn thickly in the drill. Cultivate early, shallow and often. Bring to a stand of about one stalk to every ten or twelve inches. Prepare another piece alongside of the first planting to be planted in about two weeks thereafter, and so continue planting until the tenth of July.

When the first piece is in good roasting ear, begin cutting right at the ground. Run through a feed cutter stalk, ear and all, cutting only enough each day for that day's feed. This is a pretty well balanced ration and goes well with most any kind of stock, except driving horses.

When all the first planting is all out off, plow up the land nicely and sow in peas. The peas will make good feed, even if they do not fully mature. As each succeeding piece is likewise fed away, prepare the patches for crimson clover, rye, turnips or second crop Irish potatoes. Enlarge on these operations as the supply of manure increases and feed more stock—especially cattle.

For winter feed sow cow peas, any time after the first of June until the middle of July. When the pods begin to turn yellow, with now and then a ripe pod to be seen, mow when the mow is well dried off. The next afternoon, rake up and put in cocks and let remain, if the weather be favorable, for twenty-four hours longer. At this time, if there is no extreme moisture upon the vines, they may be put in the barn or stack. If handled properly pea vine hay makes one of our very best feeds.

The cow peas is not only valuable as a feed and for table use, but of very great value in improving the land. Therefore, plant and sow all the peas you will can. We usually prepare a small patch especially for table use, and so plant these about the tenth of May. The variety found to be the best for this purpose

is the large white pea with a black eye. They are medium early and are heavy bearers. A dish of well-prepared green peas on the dinner table is a sure sign of high life in that household.

Our common red clover is another very valuable forage crop to grow. It may be seeded either with wheat in the fall or with oats in the spring, and we some times get our best stands by sowing the last of March on wheat. Go over the field after sowing the clover seed with a light harrow or weeder; this not only covers the clover seed, but cultivates the wheat and helps it immensely. To make sure of a good catch of clover, whether sowed in spring or fall, always give a light dressing of fine barn yard or stable manure.

It is idle nonsense to expect paying crops without good tillage and a plenty of good manure. More about these things in our next article.

J. EDOM SMITH.

A North Carolina exchange reports a fertilizer drummer who has been in the business for many years, as saying: "I have never known such heavy sales of fertilizer up to this time, and yet I do not believe, take the whole State over, that there will be any great increase in cotton acreage. A great deal of it—more than I have ever before known—will be used on corn; and on cotton, more fertilizer per acre will be used than ever before. This of course means an increase in production, even if there is no increase in acreage."

### THE COTTON PROBLEM.

How Cabarrus Growers View It.

Correspondence of The Progressive Farmer.

Your last issue has two accounts, said to have been taken from a merchant's books, contributed by Harry Farmer. They strike me as very forcible illustrations of what the farmers can do, and they should be read by every farmer in our State. If such methods were adopted by them, the cotton problem would be solved and there would be no more complaint of low prices, and what was raised would be at a nominal cost.

The call of the cotton planters to meet on the 6th of this month for the purpose of reducing the acreage of cotton and to organize a "Cotton Planters' Protective Association," was responded to by a goodly number of farmers from all over our county. Much interest was manifested, and a good club organized, which many who could not be at the meeting have since expressed their desire to join. So we will have a thriving club to report at the June meeting in Raleigh. We agreed to reduce the acreage of the cotton crops of those present 10 per cent. They felt, however, that it only bound those present, and that their action would not affect the situation at all, but hoped the example might have some influence. They also felt that if their example is not followed, the crop will be a large one with low prices, and by our having more grain, we will not have to sacrifice what we do raise. I think it a wise course for us to pursue in either event.

The recent figures of the different size crops at different prices, make very interesting reading, and should be pondered over by every planter. Cabarrus Co., N. C.

Commissioner of Agriculture Patterson has received the following letter from the animal industry section of the United States Agricultural Department: "Dr. Murray J. Meyers, Assistant Inspector in this bureau has been directed to proceed in its interests to North Wilkesboro, which point for the present will be his official station. He is expressly charged with the duty in that vicinity of co-operating with the State authority in carrying into effect the regulations of the United States Agricultural Department concerning the inspection and movement of cattle." The Commissioner is greatly gratified at receiving this letter, as he regards government co-operation of high importance.

### BUILDING AND FILLING A SILO.

Correspondence of The Progressive Farmer.

The main thing in building any silo, either of staves or boards, is to secure timber that is free from rotten knots and decayed centers. Select good chestnut, which will out last most timber, and have it cut from comparatively old, well-matured trees. If well seasoned timber there will be little likelihood of the structure warping and drawing in summer when empty.

As a foundation for the silo make an excavation fully 3 feet in depth and at least two feet wider than the silo walls. Fill this excavation with small stones, and mix enough good cement with them to make it solid and firm. Then top over with a mixture of one part cement to two parts clean, coarse sand. On this foundation the frame of the silo can be built. Such a flooring will be permanent and not give way until several structures have rotted and tumbled down. With good staves or lumber fitted and matched snugly together the silo will be well built and air tight. The inside of the silo should be painted with hot gas tar and the outside with metallic paint. The roof should be made double, with roofing paper spread between the walls and painted with graphite paint. In this way the silo will shed water and prove practically as tight as needed. Tarring the inside of the silo not only helps to exclude air and moisture, but it prevents rotting of the wood and destroys insects that live in many woods.

In filling the silo the corn should be cut at the glazing period. The cutting and filling should then be carried on as rapidly as possible so that the last of the crop will not get too old before it can be harvested. The corn for the silo should be planted in rows about three feet apart and one foot apart in row. It properly planted and replanted early enough every stalk should reach a good size and produce an ear. The silo should be filled as soon as possible after the corn has reached the proper stage, and then if handled rightly not a pound of it should be wasted. A good deal of the waste in the silo comes from carelessness. The rain, moisture and air must be excluded from the silo, but freezing and thawing should not injure the ensilage in winter or spring. Good ensilage should be as nourishing and palatable in the spring in the early part of winter.

JAMES S. WILSON.

### GROWING THE SOJA BEAN.

Prof. Irby has already impressed upon Progressive Farmer readers the importance and value of the soja bean as a stock food and a soil renovator. In one of our exchanges, Mr. W. A. Wilson, of Norfolk county, Va., gives his method of growing the crop as follows:

I have many letters asking me to give my method of planting, cultivating, harvesting and threshing the soja bean. First, I prepare the land for soja beans as I do for corn. For seed, plant any time from the last of April to July 1st, in rows 3 1/2 or 4 feet wide. I put two or three beans in hill, 12 or 15 inches apart, and work as I do a corn crop. I let all the leaves shed so the beans will get their full growth and then dry. I take my bramble hook or mower and cut in the morning while the dew is on them, because they will "pop out" during the middle of the day. I take them up with hay rake, haul them up in the afternoon to the barn or pound lot, make a rail pen and thresh as fast as they are hauled. If I had plenty of barn room I would haul in and thresh after I got through cutting.

I plant soja beans when wanted for hay in 2 foot rows, 4 or 5 beans in hill, 12 to 15 inches apart, and work twice with cultivator. I cut them any time after blooming. For cow feed I cut with mower two rows at a time and let it cure as I would any other hay. I plant a large patch of soja beans by the side of my pasture and find it a big help in August and September when hot and dry. I

cut them every morning and evening and throw them over to the cows, hogs and stock of all kinds. They eat it as eagerly as green clover. They will do as well on it as they will on clover.

I sow soja beans broadcast in my corn at the last working and gather my corn as soon as I can. Then I turn in my cows, hogs and horses. I let the cows and horses stay in the beans only a short time the first one or two days, for fear they will eat too much. After that there is no danger of their overeating. I use no manure or fertilizer of any kind for soja beans. I often plant them on my thinnest land to improve it. I turn the beans under or cut them early and plant a second crop. It is a splendid crop to follow Irish potato. I like soja beans better than any kind of pea, because they do not rot easily when they get wet and are left out for a short time.

The Progressive Farmer improves all the while. I hope you may receive such encouragement as to enable you to keep up its present high standard of excellence.—J. L. Butt, Beaufort Co., N. C.

### PEANUT GROWERS SHOULD ORGANIZE.

Peanut growing is an important industry in northwestern N. C. The Progressive Farmer is largely circulated in that section, and we think our readers there will find it to their advantage to ponder these suggestions from last week's Roanoke-Chowan Times. It says:

The peanut market is in a most satisfactory condition, and farmers are unable to get half value for the stock they have on hand.

This is an unnatural condition, brought about by manipulations over which the producer has no control. Cleaned and shelled peanuts are quoted at about the same prices as they were some months back when farmers were getting 2 to 3 cents per pound. Last year's crop was very short, compared with the year before, yet the prices rule much lower.

The peanut factories now have absolute control of the peanut market and are making an immense profit out of the business; they seem unwilling to divide with the farmer by paying him a fair price for his peanuts. This is natural, and the factories are not wholly to blame. If the conditions were reversed and the farmers had absolute control of the market there would not be much profit left for the factory people.

The profits in raising and preparing peanuts for market should be more evenly divided. How to do this is a question easily solved. Let the farmers come together and build peanut factories all over the peanut-growing sections. Every county in which peanuts are grown can build one or two factories.

Even without the factories the farmers could get better prices for peanuts by a change in the method of marketing them. All peanuts should be placed in the hands of commission merchants for sale, or none. It is detrimental to the best interest of the farmers to sell to the factories and at the same time ship to the commission merchants. The factory people compel the commission houses to take less than the market value or hold the stock, while the agents of the factories go over the country picking up the choice lots at a price way below the actual market value. The present plan is an injustice both to the commission houses and the producers.

The prevailing conditions call for organization of the peanut growers. What say you, brother farmers, to organizing a Peanut Growers' Association?

Those who believe in experiment farms and those who do not, will do well to drive by the State farm in this county to see the oats growing there. Numerous plats with varying fertilization and cultivation are to be seen, and the superintendent can tell just what has been done to each. Between some there is such a marked difference that one cannot fail to observe it.—Tarboro South-erner.

### HARRY FARMER'S TALKS.

XXIII.

Correspondence of The Progressive Farmer.

Manure or fertilizer the land very heavy for musk or canteloupe melons. It is a mistake to put a little handful of manure in a small hill when planting melons. I have noticed melon roots that extended further from the hill than the vine did. When planting very early make a cross on the hills and plant one part of the cross every four or five days so as to insure a stand. If you will make your cross north and south and east and west, it will be no trouble to tell which place you planted last; if you will plant the north branch of the cross first of every hill and then plant the east next, etc., until you have completed the cross, you will have a stand. Some times we have a bad stand from planting too early, and by this method almost a perfect stand can be secured. But it must be remembered that Harry Farmer lives in the Southern part of North Carolina, about the latitude of Wilmington, and that the successful methods here might be a failure further up the country.

This is the season for cleaning out all the manure, etc., about the barns and hog pens. Some times we find a hog bed infested with fleas. How shall we get clear of them is the hard question to answer. We have tried the following plan with success: Gather all the straw and loose dirt and haul it out in the field and scatter it over the land, then thoroughly wet the place with brine or scatter fine salt over it and keep stock away from it for a few weeks and you will not have any more fleas. A flea cannot stand moisture. It wants a dry place to live in.

As the weather dries off plant beds need watering. Always do this in the afternoon and be sure to stir the surface good next morning. If the top soil is kept loose and fine it is doubtful whether watering will do any good. A little experimenting along this line might be a great help in future work.

Plant a small dry plat of land in early cow peas for table use. Peas planted the last of April will be ready to eat about July 4th. It would not be a bad plan to plant some for the milk cow. There is no better feed for making a cow give nice rich milk. We noticed some hens eating the leaves from pea vine hay a few days ago. I don't see why they would not serve the same purpose as clover. Prof. Massey has never mentioned this. I suppose it is because he never looks at chicken except when they are on the table. If the farmers at the North can feed hogs and chickens hay to advantage, why can't we do it too?

HARRY FARMER.

Columbus Co., N. C.

A good system of rotation of crops is probably one of the best and surest ways to retain fertility in any soil. This can be done at little expense of either time or money. The main thing is to find the best system of rotation for the particular soil and then to stick to it. If this was practiced continually there would be less need of expensive outlays for fertilizers and less loss through crop failures.—C. T. White, Vermont.

### TO GUARD AGAINST DAMAGE BY INSECTS.

Correspondence of The Progressive Farmer.

As the spring has opened and crops are being planted, insects are again becoming numerous and their ravages will soon begin. We wish to urge farmers not to wait until a crop is ruined and then write for information, but as soon as an insect enemy is detected, send some specimens to this office, so that they may be identified and remedies suggested. The importance of the work against injurious insects is becoming more and more apparent. Everybody is invited so make free use of this office to obtain information regarding insect friends and foes.

FRANKLIN SHERMAN, JR., Entomologist Dept of Agriculture, Raleigh, N. C.

## Horticulture.

APPLE GROWING FOR NORTH CAROLINA.

The Raleigh Post recently published an interesting interview with Mr. T. K. Bruner on the above subject, from which the following paragraphs are taken:

As conditions now are vast quantities of the most choice apples go to waste throughout the present fruit growing districts and the farmers are glad to get even 40 cents per bushel for the small per cent. they do market. This condition is due largely to a lack of knowledge on the part of the growers as to how the fruit should be classified and packed for the market.

For instance the Raleigh market is constantly supplied with New York apples actually inferior in many respects to apples that waste in vast quantities in many orchards of North Carolina, while these New York apples sell freely on the Raleigh market for \$1.50 and \$2 per bushel. At the same time North Carolina growers sell the few they do market here for about 40 cents per bushel. Where is it if they would classify them and properly prepare them for the market they would command a much more ready sale, the best grades bringing prices equal to the New York apple.

The present North Carolina system of marketing apples is for the grower to dump them in a big wagon bed, all classes, sizes and conditions together, and jolt them thus over the long rough road to the market on which they propose to offer them for sale. Offered to prospective purchasers in this plight 35, 40 and 50 cents are good prices. While, if they would only exercise a little care in sorting and packing in barrels the prices would have been a dollar and upwards.

### PLUMS AND THEIR ENEMIES.

Correspondence of The Progressive Farmer.

The wild plum has a commercial value that is some times a little doubtful, but when choice varieties of cultivated plums are grafted on these wild stocks there is little question of their ultimate importance. The Wild Gooe plum holds considerable importance in the markets, and for canning purposes it probably has no superior. There is a peculiar flavor about it that makes it ever popular. The wild Chickasaw plums are early and hardy varieties that have in many places been improved by cultivation, and when new varieties were grafted on them they produced excellent crops. The wild American plum is even harder than the Chickasaw, and in some respects it is much superior to it. It does not rot for one thing nearly as quickly, and its fruit is better for shipping purposes. The sand plum and the beach plum have also their lovers, and they grow wild in thickets where they can be gathered in abundance. But nearly all of these wild native plums are disappearing. When land is taken up for cultivation, or the woods cut down, the trees and bushes of the native plums are generally destroyed too. In the gradual disappearance of these native stocks there is reason for a little regret, and it seems a pity that more of the trees and bushes are not transplanted to gardens and orchards. They would certainly furnish good stocks on which to graft other cultivated varieties.

The Japanese plums are not nearly so hardy as these native varieties, and during many of our severe winters they suffer considerable injury. Their fruit, of course, is larger, finer and more marketable, but the annual injury to the stocks must always prove a great drawback to their general popularity. What is needed more than anything else is the working of the Japanese plums upon the hardy native stocks. This may not at first prove satisfactory, but eventually there must be evolved from this combination trees that will prove far superior to any we have now. The hardy Russian varieties also furnish good stocks that can stand almost any climate, but as

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