

PROGRESSIVE FARMER

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

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Agriculture.

THE FARMERS.

Some Thoughts Concerning His Trials, Duties and Blessings.

Correspondence of The Progressive Farmer.

Some people in our great land appreciate and respect the farmer, but there are yet very many who do not respect him or his vocation, not realizing that they are only a few months from starvation and that the noble farmer thrusts himself between these who lightly esteem him and their certain destiny were he not to stem the many disasters and provide for the physical needs of the otherwise helpless millions.

We have often heard of local disasters, some East, some West, some North, and some South, but we do not remember the year that has brought to the farmer more disasters than this year of grace 1901. They have occurred in the mountains and on the coasts; East, West, North and South, almost over our whole land we hear of disasters by flood, hail and wind, and occasionally all combined, and yet with these trials and losses confronting him the farmer generally is still on his feet and pushing on his work of feeding the hungry millions. What a noble place he fills! and how bravely he stems the disasters as they pass upon him! Surely the farmer deserves the respect and commendation of the world about him.

But there is one duty to himself and his fellow-farmer that he seems to forget largely; he seems to think that he is a little world to himself and forgets Romans 14:7. The greatest duty and highest privilege of the farmer just at this time is ORGANIZATION. How can we live as a craft much longer without thorough organization, when the men in every department around us are thoroughly organized to handle all our surplus, and leave us no voice in our own productions? A few men propose to say to us what we may have for our cotton seed. Surely if we were organized as they are we would say to them just what they could have them for; and not our cotton seed only, but cotton and every other surplus product which we have to dispose of. Some of us can look back with thankful hearts to the lesson a farmers' organization taught that great cotton bagging trust, and we ought to look forward with earnestness and determination to a perfection of the very best plan by which we can attend to our own affairs without having others dictate to us how little we may have after we have done the work.

Brethren, why not put our heads together and effect such an organization as will stand and help us to rightly use the privileges of our noble occupation? We can enjoy more of the blessings a kind Providence has put along life's journey than any other occupation known. We are in closer communication with the works of nature than it is possible for others to be. If we will we can study those laws which enable us to enjoy to a greater degree the development of those things which sustain life. There are really less temptations to evil in a well-directed community of farmers than with the same numbers of any other occupation.

We are, if we so desire, more closely allied in our work to the great Giver of all blessing as we study the soil and its needs, and then by supplying those needs in the proportion our plants draw from the soil; we drop the living seed into the earth and watch for development until we see the blade, the stalk and the full ear of corn. Who can study these things without growing wiser, better and happier, and surely so when the heat and burden of cultivating is over and we shout "Harvest Home" and see enough garnered for man and beast and some scattered about in the fields for the dear little birds that so kindly catch the bugs and worms that come to destroy our tender crops; and then as the long nights come we sit around the blazing fire in the old homestead, and with gratitude to our kind Father

for his continued and multiplied blessing, and with good will to all, we retire to rest with the peacefulness that the busy world of other crafts may not know, leaving all to Him who has promised us "seed time and harvest." If we are not content with such a life, we are ungrateful. D. L. Craven Co., N. C.

FARM NOTES FROM WARREN.

Correspondence of The Progressive Farmer. As I have not contributed to the columns of The Progressive Farmer in some time, I will let you hear from me again. I have been a subscriber to your paper nearly ever since it was first published by Col. L. L. Polk, and don't see how I could well get along without it. I like Harry Farmer's Talks—think them just splendid; hope he will continue to continue to contribute to these columns.

Our crops of all kinds, except grass, are very short. Cotton is being picked, but will be short work, there being only about a half crop in this community. Some few have not finished pulling and saving fodder yet. I say pulling fodder because some are still following the old plan of pulling or stripping off the blades, and I don't think they will ever learn or get out of the old rut until they die. Quite a number of the farmers in this community are practicing the new plan of cutting the whole stalk down, while others are cutting off the tops. A quantity of hay is being saved.

I endorse F. H. D.'s article in the last issue of your paper on farmers taking a vacation. I have in view some of our neighborhood farmers, young men, some of them married and some single, who stick so close to the farm and labor so hard that they seem to think that they haven't the time to lose a day, much less two or three days or a week, to visit their neighbors or to attend a protracted meeting a few days. And some of them have never visited the State Capital or gone on an excursion for a short distance to see any of the sights of the world. More than that, there are scores of boys and girls just growing into manhood and womanhood that never have been inside of a railroad car. If asked why, they will tell you that times are too hard. Go out, young man; it will help you, especially in gaining knowledge. J. F. P. H. Warren Co., N. C.

ALLIANCE PREMIUMS AT STATE FAIR.

Alliance men should notice the premiums offered by the State Alliance for best exhibits made at the State Fair this year by Sub-Alliances and individual Alliance men. They are as follows:

PREMIUMS FOR SUB-ALLIANCES.	
To the Sub-Alliance making the best exhibit, first premium	\$15.00
To the Sub-Alliance making second best exhibit	10.00
PREMIUMS OFFERED INDIVIDUAL ALLIANCE MEN.	
To the individual Alliance man exhibiting the best bushel of wheat	\$1.00
To the individual Alliance man exhibiting the best bushel of oats	1.00
To the individual Alliance man exhibiting the best variety of corn	1.00
The best bushel of meal (corn)	1.00
The best bushel of black peas	1.00
The best bushel of black eye peas	1.00
The best bushel of white peas	1.00
The best bushel sweet potatoes, yams	1.00
The best bushel sweet potatoes, any other variety	1.00
The best bushel of Irish potatoes	1.00
The best bale of crab grass hay	1.00
The best bale of hay from cultivated grass	1.00
The best bale of clover hay	1.00
The best tobacco wrappers, one pound	1.00
The best tobacco fillers, three pounds	1.00
The best tobacco cutters, three pounds	1.00
The best bale of cotton	5.00
The best bacon ham, made by exhibitor	1.00
The best 10 pounds of lard	1.00
The best butter, three pounds	1.00

PREPARING FOR WHEAT.

Correspondence of The Progressive Farmer.

By the time this reaches the readers we shall be hard at work cutting our pea vine hay and as soon as the hay is off we shall begin preparing the land for wheat. Our wheat will be sown on land that was in oats last spring, the oats being followed by cow peas.

Before I go any further, I must tell you a little about our cow peas, there is such a difference in their growth. It was caused principally by the manner in which the land was prepared. Part of the land we plowed thoroughly with a two horse plow, the peas being worked in with a outaway harrow followed by a smoothing harrow. The vines on this land are simply splendid. Now, on another part of the field the peas were plowed in with a scooter plow and the land harrowed over afterward. While the vines here are good owing, I am inclined to think, largely to the abundant rains we have had, still they do not begin to show up with the ones where the land was thoroughly broken. If we had had a drouth in August, as we some times do, they would doubtless have been a failure. I tell you about this, but I trust the reader will not think that we planted these peas in this manner ignorantly. It was simply a question of planting part of the field in this way, or not at all. The weather was turning dry in June when the work had to be done, and it was simply out of the question to do such a large amount of heavy breaking at that time. Still if it could have been done it would have paid handsomely, not only on the pea crop, but also in helping to prepare the land for wheat this fall. Where the land was broken with the big plow in June there are no weeds and scarcely any grass. Nothing but pea vines. The land has settled and become firm without being hard and is in an ideal condition for sowing wheat. All that will be necessary on this land after the vines are off will be to work up the surface thoroughly with a disc or outaway harrow, work in the fertilizer and let it stand two or three weeks before planting. It will not be necessary to re-plow.

On the other hand, where the peas were plowed in with the scooter there is considerable grass and quite a good many weeds. The physical condition of the land is poor and it will be necessary to re-plow. This plowing will render the land too loose for wheat, which requires a very firm seed bed. We will therefore have to do a great deal of work with outaway and roller before this land will be in condition to sow. Of course this extra work will liberate plant food. The weather is cooler now and we have more time; but where one has very much to plant, this matter of extra tillage becomes quite an item. It is doubtful also if this land will make any more wheat, if it does as much, as where it was broken thoroughly last June, and the surface simply worked up before planting this fall. The conditions on this land are right and it will be a hard matter to duplicate them.

This illustrates very clearly the fact that we are never working or fertilizing entirely for the present crop. Future crops will be benefited or injured according to the way we work now. Even if it does seem a little hard just at present, we are saving work for ourselves later on. We may therefore safely lay down the principle that it will always pay to prepare our land for each succeeding crop in the best possible manner.

In preparing for your wheat, friends, see that the conditions are right before you plant. See that your seedbed is fine and firm without being hard. Work it over until it is just right before you sow. It is also a good plan to work in the fertilizer about two weeks before planting. From 300 pounds to 600 pounds to the acre of a fertilizer analyzing 2 per cent. nitrogen, 8 per cent. phosphoric acid, and 6 per cent. potash, is about right for wheat on most soils.

We have found a clay loam to be the best land for wheat, and from

October 15th to November 1st the best time for sowing the seed in our locality. We usually sow about one bushel per acre, although, if the seed is large it might be advisable to use somewhat more. Be careful to sow the seed as evenly as possible and work them in about two inches deep, unless of course if you have a drill for this purpose, which would be preferable. We like to roll the land after sowing, and then run the smoothing harrow over it lightly to scratch the surface.

F. J. MERRIAM.

Fulton Co., Ga.

HARRY FARMER'S TALKS.

XLIV.

Correspondence of The Progressive Farmer.

We mentioned a book on farming some time ago which was well suited to the average farmer, but we did not know anything about "Successful Farming," by Wm. Rennie. This book, while written by a Northern farmer, should be in the hands of every farmer. The illustrations are splendid. We were pleased at the cut showing a brush harrow. We had used one several times, but did not know how to make one. It will have to be seen to be appreciated. Everything most needed on a farm is illustrated by suitable cuts—ditching, fencing, harrowing, hay tools, &c. The book can be had of The Progressive Farmer.

As the weather grows cooler make a small bed, one 4x6 feet will do for a small family, and sow it in radish. It will give the children something that they like. If the sun shines very warm it can be shaded with bushes or pine boughs and watered occasionally, which will make them grow rapidly and be crisp. As many farmers will be gathering corn shortly, we would suggest that the seed for next year's crop be selected now. Go over the field and select the corn that comes nearest to your ideal. We have improved our corn by selecting the second ear from the top. This causes the corn to make two ears to the stalk. Label the corn so that next spring you can tell what kind it is.

Cow peas for table use should be gathered while they are bright. If they are left in the field and take several rains, it will make them unsalable, but will do little injury for seed purposes.

If you would keep up the flow of milk, feed the cows some every day. As the weather grows cooler and the ground dries off the pasture will fail and cows need feeding.

Cotton is selling lower than we predicted last spring, and the farmers that planted nothing but cotton are in a hole. It is unwise to put all your eggs in one basket. Mixed farming is always the best. It will help to keep up the fertility of the soil also.

We noticed a piece of corn a few days ago that was planted after cotton and it would do any farmer good to see the crop. The corn is good and the peas still better. That land with a little phosphate and potash will produce a bale of cotton to the acre next year. The cotton crop last year would not exceed 800 pounds of seed cotton to the acre.

Let the young farmer who would succeed make up his mind once for all to rotate his crops. This alone insures success. Without it, failure will be written on his farming sooner or later.

HARRY FARMER.

Columbus Co., N. C.

WE ARE LEARNING.

The Western farmers feed shredded corn stalks to their stock and sell their hay to Southern planters who haven't learned that corn stalks when shredded are worth as much as timothy hay—Mt. Olive Advertiser. But Southern farmers will learn after awhile that this method of saving and utilizing their corn crop—a large part of it at least—is as valuable to them as it is to the farmers of other sections of the country. And when they produce more feed of this kind they will produce more beef, and more cattle means richer and more productive lands. All of which means more prosperous farmers.—Henderson Gold Leaf.

Live Stock.

SHEEP IN THE SOUTH.

XIV.

Third Cross Successful—Why—Wooliness—Fat Lambs—Steamed Food—Express Shipment—Cheap Ewes Can be Had—Illustration Tabulated—A Medium Estimate—It Bears Investigation—More to Follow.

Correspondence of The Progressive Farmer.

Management and breeding with the Shropshire at the head of the flock for three more years brings us to the end of the ninth year with 200 half-blood Merino ewes, 205 half Shropshires, also 120 ewe lambs. By selling off the Merinos, a flock of 325 young ewes of Shropshire, Merino and Dorsett cross remain; that is of the third cross from the original, and perhaps as many as the owner will care to keep. If the foregoing suggestions have been adhered to, this high grade young flock will please the eye, attract attention and satisfy all, including the owner who will be proud of his business and success. Lambs from such ewes if made fat will find a market under only fair management. Assuming that the main purpose of the flock is mutton, I would secure another Shropshire ram of the same characteristics as the former only in a markedly higher degree of excellence if possible.

The question might be asked, "If mutton is the object, why not at first and all the time cross up with Shropshires?" I answer that, while mutton is the main purpose, yet wool is always an important secondary purpose; one in which the profits of the business, taking an average of years, may be increased without deduction from the mutton profits of a grade flock.

The ewes started with were perhaps the best common wool sheep to be had. The Dorsett improved the form and size of sheep, also the quality and weight of fleece, and increased the fecundity of the stock and rearing of twins, and give a most desirable flock of young ewes for the following Merino cross inheriting a tendency to wooliness.

The offspring from the Merino cross are finer and with decidedly more density and weight of fleece than could have been had with two crosses of Cotswold. I believe we shall have gained two pounds of wool per head more than could have been gained by any other crosses.

This additional weight can be maintained and increased if the right Shropshire be chosen. Three hundred to six hundred pounds of wool clipped annually from a flock, is a considerable profit, while the quality will surely be improved and command a higher price per pound than that bred up from common coarse wools by the mutton breeds alone.

Now turning our attention back to the first start with 125 ewes and supposing the purpose in part was to furnish early lambs for Northern or even near-by city markets, the management of the flock would be much the same, except that the lambs shall all have come by the first of February. The lambs that are to be marketed should be in a flock by themselves, and neither docked nor castrated. Their mothers fed so as to produce milk as before suggested, only increased so.

Feed the lambs with great care from the start, and I insist that it will pay largely to cut and steam the feed for these mutton lambs and their mothers until they are marketed. Steam cookers can now be had reasonable. A large covered kettle set on a furnace and connected by pipe with a steam box is a convenient temporary arrangement.

Marketing the ram lambs from the flock during nine years of breeding up to a high grade standard, would develop into considerable of a business. The first requisite is to learn to prepare and have the lambs fat and of first quality to sell, and the man that can do this can soon find out ways and means, where and when to reach the best markets.

So I need not discuss that matter in detail further than to say that if the lambs are fair size, well quar-

tered and quite fat, early, say last of February to first part of April, it will surely pay handsomely to ship in small bunches to our farthest Northern markets, by express, in neat light boxes.

If five or ten planters in any county who are now growing and perhaps almost entirely depending on cotton would agree to go in the business; to meet together say monthly, to co-operate in buying and selling, finding and developing wool mutton and spring lamb markets, they would see in less than three years that they had established an industry worth tens of thousands of dollars to themselves and to the country in which they live.

Some may say, "But we can't get so many ewes." Well, I do not have any to sell, nor do I just now know who has; but let ten or twelve responsible planters say to me they want 1,500 ewes for the foregoing suggested purpose and I will take interest enough in the matter to put them in a way to find the sheep.

To place before the mind our illustration in business yet brief form, I will itemize and recapitulate as follows:

FIRST THREE YEARS BUSINESS.
Fleeces sold 670; 2,680 lbs. at 20 cents \$ 625
Cost of keeping three years 536

Keeping over wool income 89
Cost of 125 ewes at \$3 375
Cost of Dorsett ram 100

Amount of cost \$564
Old ewes sold 330
Dorsett ram sold 350
Weather lambs sold, 170 at \$3 net 510 840

Net income over all cost \$386
At end of three years have 150 one and two years old and 70 ewe lambs, all Dorsett cross.

SECOND THREE YEARS BUSINESS.
Fleeces sold 885; 4,310 lbs. at 21 cents \$ 905
Cost of keeping three years 880

Wool income exceeds keeping 25
150 Dorsett ewes sold; Merino ram sold with them 650
Deduct cost of Merino ram 100 550
Weather lambs sold 225 at \$4 net 900

Income over cost \$1,475
At end of six year have 160 one, two and three years old and 95 ewe lambs, all Merino cross.

THIRD THREE YEARS BUSINESS.
Fleeces sold 940; 8,460 lbs. at 22 1/2 cents \$1,908
Cost of keeping three y's \$1,299
Cost of Shropshire ram 100 1,399

Net profit on wool \$ 504
Weather lambs sold 290 at \$4.50 net 1,305

Net income \$1,809
Stock on hand at close of ninth year:

Merino ewes 200 at \$5 \$1,000
Shropshire ewes 205 at \$7 1,435
Shropshire lambs 120 at \$5 600

Amount \$3,035
The above table is the summing up of a nine years' business in breeding up a flock of high grades from 125 common ewes, given in three periods to show clearly the progress made by three crosses with a well defined purpose in view. The aim is high and the attainment clever.

However, it will be noted that medium rather than maximum prices have been observed throughout. The weight of fleece and price for wool may seem large to some, but surely not to those who have bred high grade sheep.

The cost of keeping is put at less than \$1 per annum for first three years and over \$1.25 per annum for last three years, not including the extra high feeding required for marketing the spring lambs. The cost of keeping increased as the size of the sheep and fleece increased; but the value of the sheep and the net income increased still more in comparison.

A study of this illustration will show that it would be more profitable to buy 125 ewes of the highest grade at \$7 per head and go on breeding and improving them for nine years than to have bought the 125 common

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