

PROGRESSIVE FARMER

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Agriculture.

ROUGHAGE FEED FOR HORSES

Correspondence of The Progressive Farmer.

Were we to ask what feed should be given to farm horses and roadsters, the reply would invariably be, "Timothy hay and corn and oats." So universal is this practice, it has become considered almost the only rule.

But while such a ration is good, it does not necessarily follow that it is the only one to feed. If one cares nothing for the expense and cost of feed, all well and good. The majority of the farming class, however, must consider the financial side and the feeding of all farm animals so as to produce the best results through least cost of food. We have paid much attention to cattle feeding and sheep and swine feeding, but most of us are inclined to hold on to the proverbial timothy-corn-oats ration for horses.

Are there substitutes for timothy hay for feeding farm horses? At present prices we have several roughage feeds that may be used in place of timothy, among the many are the following important ones: Corn stover, cow pea hay, and clover hay.

The first named is an universal crop in America, and of it I want to speak. Few of us realize the feeding importance of this crop. In the South and West we waste corn stover. In the East we raise only enough for the silo. What are the results? We are obliged to feed a high priced food stuff in form of timothy, that has had a commercial value during the past two years of \$20 a ton throughout the Eastern and Southern States.

Now, if the reader will follow me I will mention the results of an experiment conducted by the writer while connected with the New Hampshire Experiment Station. The experiments with feeding horses extended through a period of two whole years and during the whole time all feed was weighed each horse, as well as the water consumed. The horses were weighed twice each week so as to have the whole facts complete. We long recognized the high value of corn stover as a food for all kinds of cattle, but gave it no attention as a horse food. To compare its value with high quality timothy hay, a part of the 1899 corn crop was cut and dried in the field, and after being husked the stover was taken to the barn and stored.

The stover was then run through the ensilage cutter and taken to the horse barn, where it was fed in comparison to timothy. The experiment lasted from January 26th until April 9th. Four horses were used: One was fed timothy, corn and oats; a second horse, corn stover, corn and oats; a third, timothy, corn and bran; and a fourth, corn stover, corn and bran. Thus we compared the hay and stover when fed with two different grain rations. And in both cases the corn stover proved of equal value to timothy hay and was furnished at but a fourth the cost.

When we consider the relative values of timothy hay and corn stover, commercially, we will realize then how important that the latter be utilized whenever it is available. We can grow from three to five tons of dry matter in form of the corn plant per acre, but scarcely a couple of tons per acre in form of timothy hay.

This gives a double reason for a more extended use of the corn plant. Let the city fellow pay twenty dollars per ton for timothy hay if he likes, but let the farmer grow plenty of corn, and then by use of the cutter or shredder prepare the stover for horse feed, which he can use when there is no excessive hard work, and he will feed the farm horse at an expense equivalent to but little over half as much as when timothy is used.

"A word to the wise is enough."

CHARLES W. BURKETT,
Experiment Station.

Christianity commands us to pass by injuries; policy, to let them pass by us.—Franklin.

HARRY FARMER'S TALKS.

Correspondence of The Progressive Farmer.

WANTED: A MAN

There are about 1,000 townships in North Carolina, and each township needs a MAN, or ten men would be better.

We saw in a recent article in THE PROGRESSIVE FARMER the statement that there are about 5,000 young men who commence farming in North Carolina each year, which gives to each township an average of five young farmers. Suppose each one of these were well trained in farm work, and had in addition to this training from one to four year's schooling in some good agricultural school, like the A. and M. College, of this State. What would be the results? Words could but faintly tell their importance.

Wherever you find one up-to-date farmer in any community, you will see his neighbors will first condemn his work, then note his success, adopt his methods, and finally praise him for his enterprise. There is an opening in each township for such a man and our people in the depths of their hearts are constantly crying, Give us a man. We have all the diamonds in the rough that we need, but they need polishing so that they will reflect their light in every direction to attract the attention of all around them. These young farmers need to read not less than three good agricultural journals like THE PROGRESSIVE FARMER and many others.

We are an imitative people, and all we need is to be shown improved methods and it will not require much persuasion to make us imitate Mr. Enterprise. But here is our weak point, it is getting these young men to strike out on these new or improved ways. It takes a horse to lead, any mule can follow. Here is where we need the man.

A young man in a neighborhood by his enterprise would get all the young men in a literary society and discuss questions relating to his work and then stimulate all around him. It would lead to the purchasing of a school library. It would show the young that there was something more in farming than making a little meat and bread for the "old 'oman an' the young uns," and cotton and "terbacker" enough to buy some coffee and a little whiskey to get drunk on and calico enough to dress the "gals" a little. Old hedge rows would melt away. Fine stock would drive out the scrubs that often cost more than double their value.

The plow boy was sought so much was so hard to find in the late winter or early spring because following a mule all day long plowing a narrow strip of land at each furrow is not a very desirable job. Mount a sulky plow or outaway harrow with two or four horses and plow nearly as much in one day as the old turn plow would in a week. It would leave the plowman in a condition to attend to any meeting or business after the day's work was done, instead of being compelled to lie down to rest his weary limbs so that he could work on the morrow. The boy would delight to drive the mower and cut eight or ten acres of hay in a day, while if he has to use that old grass blade, he will long to be an engineer or follow something that will give some chance to think and use his higher powers instead of being a machine himself.

These are some of the things that we long to see changed. Some old fogies cry out that it will cost too much to get these improved tools. Here are 50 acres of land to plow every year—50 days' work for the average horse and plow. A good outaway plow can be had for \$25 or \$30 which will last five to ten years and with two to four horses do the work in ten days or less and only one plowman. Do you see the point? Make your own calculation.

We cannot keep our boys on the farm and grind them down at hard toil all the time. Then let us work to get as many of these young, trained farmers as we can, for it will pay us a hundred fold in years to come.

HARRY FARMER,
Columbus Co., N. C.

FARMING IN DUPLIN COUNTY.

Correspondence of The Progressive Farmer.

I live in the northeast corner of Duplin county, seven miles southeast from Mt. Olive. Our section, as well as many others of our State, has suffered very much this year from rain. We fought "General Green" all summer and whipped him this fall by making good hay of him. There has been much hay saved in our section this year, and it is well that it is so, for nearly all fodder was practically ruined by rain.

Corn is about one fourth of a crop in this section; cotton is no better; while tobacco was one-third of a crop, and brought fair prices. Corn is being sold at 70 cents per bushel.

The boll worm made its appearance in our cotton this season for the first time. It enters the boll at its base, or near it, and literally riddles the inside of it. I believe most farmers lay by cotton too soon, as I experienced some this year, and where I left it clean I got 40 per cent. more cotton than where I didn't.

Sweet potatoes will make a fair crop. Some are being dug.

Many of our farmers have given up their crops to the landlords, and quit farming; some going to saw mills, and others to the towns, while many aim to hire out next season to larger farmers.

Our dear old State went a long time without calamities, but it has had its portion this year. Did it ever occur to you, dear reader, that God sent these things on us for a purpose? You remember that last year our people were ready to kill each other over politics, so perhaps these calamities were sent to remind us. As this has been an off year in politics our people are more friendly than they were last year. As 1902 will be campaign year, let us say and do nothing that would hurt the feelings of our neighbor, remembering he has the same rights as we.

RANDALL H. FUSSELL,
Duplin Co., N. C.

SOME NOTES FROM THE EAST.

Correspondence of The Progressive Farmer.

A few words from this section may not be unfavorably received by your readers.

Our crops, in Lenoir county, have not turned out as well as we should like. But I must say that, long ago, we had given up the hope for even two-thirds of an average harvest, especially for cotton. But the good prices received for tobacco, sold in the warehouses here in Kinston, have had a tendency to buoy up the spirits of our farmers and to make amends, somewhat, for shortage in the cotton. It is wonderful and very gratifying to our Lenoir farmers and also to many who reside in neighboring counties, to see how well the prices for tobacco have held up on the Kinston market—even for very inferior grades.

HAY.

It was, for many years, the talk that hay could not be raised to any considerable extent anywhere in Eastern North Carolina. But it has never been true. It is true that not many farmers made an effort to cultivate this crop or to save the native grass that grew without cultivation. But, for several years past, we have frequently seen magnificent loads of splendid native hay coming into our town. Ten times as much could easily be produced with little effort. One of our physicians, who is also a farmer, makes a very large crop of mixed crab grass and cow pea vines, on his place near town. The crab grass requiring no seeding, the ground is well plowed in the spring and the peas broadcasted—that's all. The yield is enormous in weight and exceedingly nutritious. Abundance of hay can be made in Eastern North Carolina.

THE PROGRESSIVE FARMER AN EDUCATOR.

The more I read this paper, the better I like it. Every week, it comes loaded with solid, substantial, intellectual food. You get the news that is worth reading, with no dirt in it. It is most essentially a clean paper. All the contributors seem to be serious men. Their agricultural articles are full of information—

written in excellent English and unusually lucid, so that one of ordinary education can readily and clearly understand them. The man with the scissors, who presides over the Selection department of the paper, has rare gifts in his special line. It is the paper specially needed in the home of every farmer; and I cannot understand why it has not a very large circulation. If a man read this paper and no other, he would be a wide-awake, up-to-date man of intelligence and information.

May THE PROGRESSIVE FARMER continue to prosper and increase in its subscription list till there is not a county in the State where the best farmers in it are not subscribers. The number for October 29th is one of special interest. ARACHEL,
Lenoir Co., N. C.

FACTS ABOUT THE CORN PLANT WORTH KNOWING.

Prof. B. W. Kilgore, State Chemist and Director of the North Carolina Experiment Station, gives us the following facts in regard to the corn plant: Taking the corn plant as a whole, 46 per cent. of the whole is in the ear, including the grain and cob only, and 54 per cent. is in the stalks, blade and husks. Of the corn stover there is 60 per cent. stalk, 30 per cent. blades and 10 per cent. shucks, or husk. There is more digestible nutriment in the ear than in the stover, but they are nearer together than most farmers imagine. Of the digestible matter in the corn plant 51 per cent. is in the ear and 49 per cent. is in the stover. It is easy to see, then, that those who fail to make the best use of the stover are losing a very large per centage of the feeding value of the corn plant, and when this is reduced, by shredding, into a condition in which it can be consumed, there is an immense addition to the feeding value of the corn crop. And yet all over the great corn growing sections of the Central West what an immense waste of cattle food annually occurs from the stalks left in the field, which contain nearly one half of the digestible part of the corn plant! Shredding will go far towards correcting this. Cut down corn stover is hard stuff to keep, but the shredded stover is easily kept in stacks or ricks when shelter is scarce.—Prof. W. F. Massey.

NORTH CAROLINA FARM NOTES.

Sheriff Carol, of Wake county, an observant farmer, says much hay is being saved, and that he is informed by dealers in farm machinery, etc., that they have sold more mowers this year than in ten years past. Most of the buyers are using the machines to cut hay in their neighbor hoods.—Ex.

Danbury Reporter: Corn and wheat are both quoted at eighty cents per bushel in Danbury.—The large herd of Angora goats which were recently placed at the Wade Meum Springs are reported to be dying from eating ivy. Mr. John H. Sparks, the owner of the goats, will in the near future move them down on the large tract of mountain land which he has purchased a short distance west of here.

Sampson Democrat: That the cotton crop in Sampson is the shortest we have had in years, there can be no doubt, and the most conservative business men say that it cannot exceed one fourth of last year's yield, and that it is the shortest, by far, in their recollection. This is abundantly proven by the amount of work done by the gins, as well as the reports given by the farmers themselves and the quantity being marketed, etc.

A gentleman in Wilkes county sold his crop of apples on the trees for \$550. This looks like a considerable price for an apple crop, but there is no reason why fruit crops just as profitable should not be raised in this county. At any rate, experiment has never proven that it can't be done and until the effort is made and found to be a failure, it is as reasonable to suppose it can be done here as well as elsewhere. Our farmers should try it, anyway.—Lumberton Robesonian.

A PLAN FOR THE BOYS.

How Those on the Farm Can Make Some Money.

III.
(By A. H. Craig, Mukwonago, Wis., in Farmers' Voice.)

By the way, boys, I forgot to tell you the best way to set out strawberry plants. Not one farmer in fifty does it this way, so I will suggest the plan and ask you to adopt it. You are aware that good plants have roots six inches long; now to insure good results those roots should be set deep in the ground. You might take a spade and press into the earth for a hole, but I would prefer to make a long paddle-shaped instrument out of a four-inch board. The paddle end should be hewn with an axe to an edge and the top rounded a little to clasp with the hand. Now take a mallet, or some heavy hammer, and commence to make holes on your row. Drive down the required six inches, rock your paddle back and forth two or three times so as to make a good opening, then gently pull it out and make other holes about fifteen inches apart. When one row of holes is made set the plants before commencing on another. In setting be sure and get the roots down and the dirt pressed against them. A good way to press the dirt is to take a pointed stick and push into the earth and give a quick pry motion towards the plant and the work is done. Smooth with your hand and go on with the others. I will explain why you should do this instead of scratching out some dirt with your fingers and putting the plant in it. First, the roots are down in their natural position. Second, in case of dry weather they are not so easily dried up. Third, they grow faster and throw out runners sooner. This last spring I set out three rows across my garden (eight rods) and this fall you can hardly find a missing place, and yet the drought ruined many plants, gardens and fields everywhere. Without this deep setting three fourths would surely have died.

Now I am going to tell you of a little dream I had the other night. I dreamed your father made fun of the idea that you could lay up \$50 from your berries and still have all the family could use. The curiosity of the dream is that it hits pretty close and contains a good deal of truth. But, boys, that is a very moderate amount, and I will tell you why. This year I had four rows of strawberries across my garden and Mrs. C. said she would pick some for the neighbors and call it pin money. Of course I got quite interested in her account and helped pick and run errands. The first pickings gave her ten cents per quart, but after that only six and eight cents. We filled the boxes full and got quite a run over store berries at five cents. I tell you it pays to put big berries in the bottom and fill the boxes up rounding. We gave away a great many boxes, ate saucerfuls three times a day, besides our winter's supply. Well, the pin money amounted to \$21.19.

In telling you about saucerfuls makes me think of a little incident that happened once. I had quite a quantity of celery, and in the fall took up a lot of the plants for storing in cellars. I visited a neighboring village and sold them by the hundred. One lady said she would take three dozen. The amount was so small I said something about it and by way of trying to increase the order said I should put down eight hundred plants. The lady looked up into the wagon where I was standing and said: "It makes a difference, Mister, whether you buy them or raise them." It is just the same with your berries. If you buy them the good mother economizes by using those little, stingy saucer dishes, but if you raise them then comes the fat shortcakes for dinner and the saucerfuls for supper and breakfast. That picture alone ought to inspire any owner of a Jersey cow to have a strawberry bed. My boys, do you know of anything as good as a big dish full of ripe strawberries with plenty of cream and sugar? They can be duplicated only by one berry,

and that is the Lawton blackberry. But if you have perfection in either you must keep the weeds out. One thing more and then we will set out some cabbage plants. In hoeing bring the runners of your strawberry plants into a row about two and a half feet wide. This will give you a good chance to mulch with straw for winter covering and raking between the rows for summer.

We will now set out ten rows of your early cabbage. It will take about 1,350 plants, as you will set them about 14 or 15 inches apart. Take that stick you made for pressing the dirt against the strawberry plants and make a hole for each cabbage. Give that same quick pry movement and the plant is set. Now, this setting wants to be done just as early in the spring as possible. The plants will stand lots of frost. I have seen them buried in snow and come out smiling. After they are set take a hoe and hoe them. Why hoe them so quickly? Because when you were down on your knees you didn't have time to smoothe the dirt properly. In a week hoe again, and if any plants are missing reset. The more you keep the soil stirred the faster they grow. Remember, a week in advance of others means a double price for your market cabbages. If it rains stir the ground as soon as it is dry enough. Heavy rains pack the ground and if it comes on dry the ground gets hard and dries out faster. Top dust will actually keep moisture in and prevent the terrible effects of the drought. I had a little experience of that last summer. My brother had a cabbage patch containing about 7,000 plants. Sickness in the family prevented him from setting them out and I volunteered to take charge of them myself. Well, you know how dry it was. A good many plants died, but I kept the ground cultivated and hoed. They were set in rows three feet apart, so it was not much of a job to cultivate. They grew in spite of the terrible heat and drought. Gardens around Mukwonago, in fact everywhere, were shy of cabbage, so we had the whole market on early ones. Most of his sales were made at \$5 per 100. The last were down to \$2, but they were the scrubs.

Now, raising early cabbages for market will depend upon three important particulars. First, are you located so you can get them to market? Second, get early plants all set early. Third, do not let the weeds grow, which means keep cultivating and hoeing, so as to force an early maturity. Of course, your ground is rich, for you made it extra nice by putting the manure on extra thick. The secret of good gardening is a rich soil and a good hoe with a willing hand to guide it. Let me tell you how to hoe. I learned of an Englishman when I was a boy, and to tell you the truth that Englishman was the only man I ever saw who knew how to hoe. Most people pick up the weeds and then set them out again by stepping on the moist earth. To hoe scientifically (now don't laugh, boys, when I say hoe scientifically, for it is just as much a profession to hoe good as to plow good or to do anything good) take a clean, bright, sharp hoe (always have your hoe clean), put one hand down half way, or a little more, on the handle, the other on the end, hold it stiff in the hands and draw the blade through the top of the ground about an inch deep. This cuts every weed off and the dirt slides over the hoe and it looks as though a weed had not been disturbed, but you have done the whole business at one sweep, and you take a step forward. Now, do you see the science? One motion swept through the ground the distance of two feet, the ground was stirred and the weeds fixed for good. It will require practice, but when acquired will be a very useful art. It is a little hard on the arms when there is a crust, but it is so much faster and better than picking that you will not care.

John Redmond, in a recent speech at Cork, said he would unite the world-wide Irish race for Ireland's freedom.