

# PROGRESSIVE FARMER

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

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## Agriculture.

GRAIN-RAISING, HAY-RAISING, STOCK-RAISING—THE MOST PROFITABLE BRANCHES OF FARMING.

Address of E. L. Daughtridge, Before Edgecombe County Farmers' Institute.

Every farmer should be his own judge as to what crop he should cultivate with all the lights before him. So do men of other vocations in life. For instance, one merchant takes the line of hardware, another a line of shoes, and so on, that he may not come in direct competition with his neighbor or next door merchant. Shall the farmer act less wisely and plant the same crop, to the exclusion of all other crops?

The farmer should inform himself as to the crops that are in most demand, and that will give him something to sell all the year round, and that can be made and saved with the smallest cost, and least amount of labor. He should also learn the different kinds of soil on his farm, and adapt his crop to the most suitable lands for same. If we do not know the nature of the different soils on our farms, and the kind of fertilizers required on them for different crops, then we are groping in the dark, and will not succeed to any great extent. When a man plants a crop on a piece of land and expends labor and manure, if he is an intelligent and up-to-date farmer, he knows, and has a right to know, what to expect from that crop if no unusual act of Providence interferes.

The day is coming and now is, when only intelligent and up-to-date farming will pay. We should no longer adhere to the one crop system and plant all of our best lands in cotton, and go to the West for our meat, grain and hay, but should diversify our crops and make everything on our farms, as near as possible, that we may need at home; and we ought also to be able to supply our cities and towns with all the hay and grain that they may need, without having to get their supplies from the West and having to pay such enormous freight rates.

It has been my experience that our lands in Edgecombe are well adapted to grain and hay crops, and stock-raising, and that these crops are as profitable considering the cost of cultivation and harvesting, as cotton or tobacco. It requires very much less labor to cultivate these crops and we can utilize the most improved and best labor-saving machinery, both in seeding and harvesting the same, thereby eliminating to a great extent the drudgery and toil of seed time and harvest.

Grain-raising, hay-raising, and stock-raising, go hand in hand and are to my mind the most profitable lines of agriculture in this section of the State. By raising an abundance of grain and hay, we can keep our cattle fat, and by raising stock, we can keep our lands rich.

Let us for a moment consider the relative cost of production of some of the different crops of this county, and as cotton is King, will give it the first estimate:

Preparing land and planting, \$3.00 per acre; hoeing and plowing, \$4.00 per acre; fertilizers, \$4.00 per acre; picking (1,000 lbs. average), \$3.00; ginning, \$1.00; total, \$15.00 per acre. 333 lbs. lint at 7½¢, \$25.00; 22 bushels seed, \$4.40—\$29.40; net profit, \$14.40.

### WHEAT

Preparing land and seeding, \$2.75; fertilizers, \$4.00; harvesting, threshing, \$1.50; total, \$8.25.

20 bushels wheat at 90 cents, \$18.00; 1,000 lbs. straw, \$5.00—\$23.00; net profit, \$14.75.

### OATS

Preparing land and seeding, \$2.25; fertilizers, \$4.00; harvesting, threshing, \$1.50; total, \$7.75.

30 bushels oats at 50 cents, \$15.00; 1,000 lbs. hay, \$5.00—\$20.00; net profit, \$12.25.

### CORN

Preparing and planting, \$2.50; hoeing and plowing, \$3.00; fertilizers,

\$4.00; harvesting, shredding, \$1.50; total, \$13.00.

5 bbls. corn, \$20.00; 1,000 lbs. shredded fodder, \$6.25—\$26.25; net profit, \$12.25.

### PEA VINE HAY.

Preparing and seeding, \$2.00; harvesting and baling, \$3.00; total \$5.00. 2 tons hay at \$15.00, \$30.00; profit, \$25.00.

### GRASS HAY.

Preparing and fertilizers, \$5.00; harvesting and baling, \$3.00; total \$8.00.

2 tons hay at \$15.00, \$30.00; net profit, \$25.00.

The above estimates are based on land that will make with \$4.00 fertilizers and proper cultivation, 1,000 lbs. seed cotton. Of course if the lands used are more fertile, the relative values will vary to that extent. Some lands that are very fertile will produce very little cotton and will produce a heavy yield of grain. We can best judge our lands each one for himself, and should plant our crops on lands that are best adapted for same.

I am quite sure our aim should be to raise those crops that are in most demand and that we can market with the least cost and labor, as you will all agree with me that the labor question is getting to be one of very great importance in our section of the State. With the use of the latest and most up-to-date machinery for seeding and harvesting grain and hay crops, an ordinary family with two or three boys, can seed and harvest a crop of grain that will equal in value a cotton crop that will take fifteen or twenty hands to plant, cultivate and house, besides, the boys enjoy the work with the machines and teams. I have a boy that is just fourteen years old, that has done all of my mowing and harvesting, for the past two years, on my home place.

Colored labor will not do to operate improved farm machines, and I think our white boys should be encouraged to do this work, and I am quite sure that when this plan of farming is adopted in our country, the boys will not leave the farms and go to the towns seeking employment, as they have been doing heretofore. I have three sons at present, they are desirous of being farmers, and would not go to town under any consideration. I must say, too, that I am very glad that their inclinations are that way.

We should also remember that we can market our produce with much more facility, over our present roads, in summer than in winter, and that the dollars we get in the summer months are worth more by 6 per cent than dollars we get in the winter months.

I think it is safe to say, with the same manures and cultivation for grain crops, as for cotton and tobacco, we will one year with another get more net profit from grain and hay crops than we will from cotton and tobacco, and am sure we will have more and better stock, and more manure to go back on our lands.

I have received the past year for grain, hay, beef-cattle, and butter over \$2,500, and I am sure over one-half of this amount is net profit. I do not mention these facts in a boasting way, but simply to show to my neighbors, and the people of the county, what can be done along these lines. If we would raise enough of these crops to pay our expenses through the year, then cotton and tobacco crops would be entirely clear, and we would be more able to keep our plantations in good shape and to beautify our homes and make them more attractive. If these conditions were to prevail throughout the county along with good roads, good schools, good society, and civilization, our boys and girls would stay on the farms, and good old Edgecombe would blossom as a rose; for her lands are the most fertile, her daughters the fairest, and her sons the truest and bravest. Her name today is the most exalted of all the counties of this great State of ours, and she leads in everything that pertains to building up and maintaining the honor and fair name of the great Commonwealth to which she belongs.

## FARM NOTES FROM ALAMANCE.

Cor. of The Progressive Farmer.

Fine rains have recently fallen in Alamance, Orange and Caswell. The outcome in crops of all kinds has been very great. I have seldom seen corn appear better at this season of the year. Crops, notwithstanding scarcity of labor, have been well worked.

Wheat harvest is over, and the crop is much better than was expected. Winter oats were nearly all frozen out and little spring oats sown. It headed well.

The apple crop is more abundant than for many years. There are but few peaches.

Farmers finished planting tobacco last week. Tobacco will mature, if the season is good, within ninety to one hundred days. Much of it will be endangered by early frosts. The first crop of worms was numerous, and it will be difficult to keep the second crop from injuring the late planted tobacco.

The first crop of clover and grass was light. Unless fodder corn is planted, forage will be very scarce next winter.

Acorns are abundant, but hogs to eat them are not numerous.

B. F. WHITE.

Alamance Co., N. C.

## MR. ALEXANDER ASKS A QUESTION.

"Why is Chess Always Found in Fall or Winter Sown Oats, and Never in Spring Sown Oats?"

Cor. of The Progressive Farmer.

I see in your valuable paper of June 17th an article taken from the Stanly Enterprise, which says that Stanly County is infested with some farmers who still believe that oats will bring forth chess.

I want to say to the eminent agriculturists that Mecklenburg County has men by the hundreds of the same faith, and we are likely to die in our sins unless we shall have a better and more satisfactory explanation than the mere fact that like begets like. Now those of us who hold the plow know that plant life degenerates. We have this law set forth in the days of the Apostles when they suggested the idea of pulling the tares from the wheat or grain that was sown. That answered to our chess. It seemed to come in as mysteriously as our chess at the present day. Some thought it the work of an enemy, but that was not satisfactory.

Now if the eminent agriculturist will explain to my satisfaction why it is that chess is always found in fall or winter sown oats, and never in spring sown oats, I will then reverently take off my hat and give him audience. I have been a farmer for sixty years of my life, and have been a close observer of plant life all the while. I can tell all the different grains by the blade as soon as it is up and begins to bunch. I have known practical farmers that could not tell wheat from oats nor oats from barley by the blade. I have had fields of oats that were as perfect oat-blade in the fall and winter as ever grew, and yet in February or March there would come a severe cold spell and kill the oats down until they were brown, and you could set fire to some of the fields. After this the whole thing would be changed. These are the fields where you will find the chess.

You can tell every bunch of grain that will produce chess and every bunch that will make oats before it heads, if you are a close observer; and if not, don't put yourself down as an agriculturist. Since the eminent agriculturists have thrown down the gauntlet, and we want them to show up or shut up. What we want is a thorough explanation, and also the whys and the wherefores.

J. P. ALEXANDER.

Mecklenburg Co., N. C.

Laurinburg Exchange: We hear general complaint from the farmers on account of cotton lice. Some say that the damage has already been considerable from this cause.

## HARVESTING THE KANSAS WHEAT CROP.

Mr. William R. Draper tells in the July Review of Reviews what the Kansas farmers have done toward solving the problem of labor supply in the wheat harvest. The article is suggestive, and full of fresh, first-hand information. That the problem is really a serious one may be guessed after reading this press dispatch sent out from Wichita, Kansas, a few days ago:

"Fifty tramps were captured by four farmers living near Pratt yesterday, and the tramps are now at work under shot-gun guard. They have made several attempts to escape, and the guards have been forced to injure two of them to keep them within bounds. The tramps were going through Kansas, bound for Colorado. The freight train upon which they were riding was wrecked near Pratt, and the tramps were captured and put to work. Hundreds of acres of wheat are going to ruin for want of harvest hands. The farmers are blaming the State agency for keeping the harvest hands out of Kansas, and claim it is a political scheme. The tramps are being paid \$2 a day for their work."

From Mr. Draper's timely and interesting article, we make the following extracts:

In the past five years the wheat acreage has been doubled in Kansas, Oklahoma, and Nebraska. With the increase in yield, there is a demand every summer for extra help in the harvest season. Farmers who own the land, or can secure a lease, sow from two to five hundred acres. The farmer with one hired man, four good horses and a gang plough and drill can do this; but to harvest the crop requires seven men, ten head of horses, and an extra woman in the kitchen to assist the housewife.

Importing labor into the wheat belt during the period of harvesting has caused a new and serious problem to the grower—that of obtaining the extra workers at the right time and at reasonable prices.

This is the era of large wheat fields in the prairie West. There are many places in Kansas where one can stand upon a knoll and count from eleven to fifteen quarter-sections in one field. The harvesters employed by one man often number a hundred or more. The labor problem of a community given over almost exclusively to wheat-raising is made more complicated from the fact that few if any laborers from the towns can go to work in the harvest fields. Abundant crops infuse the towns as well as the country with prosperity and bustling life. The towns boom while the farmers are gathering in their crops, and there is demand for every idle townsman. As few farmers employ more than three helpers the year throughout, a supply must be imported from outside the State. Kansas boasts of being the only community where a small army of harvest "hands" are imported annually, to the satisfaction of both the farmer and the laborer. Indeed, the plan is quite new to the Sunflower State.

Wheat-growers pay the laborers from \$1.50 to \$3.50 a day. Some, more expert than others, earn \$4 a day. The cost of growing an acre of wheat is divided as follows: twine, 25 cents; ploughing and harrowing, \$1; drilling, 40 cents; seed, 50 cents; cutting \$1.25; hauling, \$1.50; threshing, \$1.75; total \$6.65. If sold at 60 cents a bushel, the farmer doubles his money. Machinery saves much to the farmer, but the day laborer yields him even a greater profit. A binder will cut 15 acres a day. The twine costs 25 cents an acre, the binder driver is paid \$1.50, and the hire of the team is \$2.50. In some sections the header is used instead of a binder, thus eliminating the cost of twine.

The total expense in cutting 1,000 acres is \$600, of which \$410 goes for horse hire and twine. However, the farmer pays larger wages to those who do the harder work of the harvest field. The binder driver sits under a sunshade, riding upon his machine. His work is frequently given to young women when there is a scarcity of men in the field. Those who shock the bundles of grain, tramping through the wiry stubble all day long, are paid \$2.50 a day. Stockers and haulers earn a similar sum.

## Live Stock and Dairy.

### PREVENTING ANIMAL DISEASES.

Cor. of The Progressive Farmer.

Summer and winter diseases of animals as well as of human beings can be prevented in many cases by a little intelligent application of sanitary and hygienic knowledge. Swine cholera is a disease of filth and improper feeding. Give the hogs all the blood-heating foods they can devour in hot weather, and sooner or later they may come down with the cholera. Likewise feed the cows with a heavy grain diet and deny them the sweet, succulent grass and roots of summer, and they will have hot feverish blood which may show itself in milk fever or any other trouble. Keep the sheep in hot, stifling, ill-vented, foul-smelling sheds these hot summer nights, and we can not expect them to escape skin disease which may spread from one to another and ruin half the value of the flock. If the poultry is kept in similar unsanitary quarters summer or winter, they will be infested by lice, ticks, and other diseases, which will keep down their weight and prevent good egg-laying.

A large proportion of animal diseases come just from such simple causes. A little neglect and carelessness in hot weather may start the whole trouble. The diseases can be prevented largely by keeping the animals in clean, cool places day and night throughout the summer, feeding them with cooling and nourishing foods, watering them with clean, fresh water regularly, cleaning their skin and hair if necessary very often if filth and dirt accumulate there, and above all by catering to their comfort so far as possible every day. If in spite of all these precautions diseases do appear in the flock it is better to make a change immediately. Single out the two or three that show the first signs of any distemper, and put them off by themselves. Change the quarters of the rest of the flock, and watch carefully for any signs of disease among them. The animals that show the first symptoms can then be treated separately according to some home method, or by one who has made a specialty of such matters. Very often a dose of some simple medicine to clean the blood and stimulate the digestive organs will put the animals back into their normal condition. The symptoms and course of such complaints should be watched closely. Contagion in this way may be checked at the outset. It is not safe to leave with the flock any animal that shows signs of weakness, dizziness or sickness. Separate the animal immediately, even though it prove nothing but common stomach trouble or a slight fever. It is always best to keep on the safe side.

E. P. SMITH.

### IMPORTANCE OF THE WAR AGAINST CATTLE TICKS.

The last number of the Burke County News contains an article by Dr. Tait Butler, from which we quote the following extract, which we commend to all our readers in the western counties.

"With a view to placing before your readers the objects and ultimate benefits to result from the efforts of the North Carolina Department of Agriculture to clear Burke County of cattle (distemper) ticks, I beg a little space in your next issue. In the first place it may be put down as certain that, no matter what we may think about it, so long as ticks remain on even a half dozen farms the Federal authorities are going to maintain these annoying and expensive restrictions on the cattle traffic of Burke County. These quarantine restrictions are not only a perpetual source of annoyance, but as stated, mean much in dollars and cents to every man who has a single animal for sale. If the cattle of Burke County could now be sold west of the Blue Ridge, their natural market place, their value would be increased not less than one cent per pound. The same sort of restrictions were placed upon a part of

Henderson County this spring and prices dropped to 2½ cents per pound. Through the efforts of the North Carolina Department of Agriculture the removal of these Federal restrictions was obtained, and as a result the price of cattle at once jumped to 4 cents per pound. For verification of this statement I refer you to Hon. A. Cannon, President of the Henderson County Cattlemen's Association, Horse Shoe, N. C. This is just what the removal of the quarantine restrictions means to Burke County. Is it not worth striving for? Is it not worth an effort on the part of every cattle owner in the County to help the Department of Agriculture in its efforts to exterminate the tick? It seems to me that the tax of one cent per pound which is levied on every animal in the County and collected by the ticks on a couple of dozen farms ought to arouse the active interest of every cattle owner.

### STOP RAISING PLUG HORSES.

The horse raising industry in the United States has in the past ten or twelve years undergone a decline, so severe that it made a great many people, both in and out of the business, believe that horse raising could never again be made profitable. The change of street car locomotion from horse power to electric power was probably the great blow to the sale of horses; and this followed by the very general adoption of the bicycle as a means of rapid getting about for both pleasure and business, made it seem that horses were going out of fashion for everything except for farm use.

But horse breeders and others are now beginning to think differently. The sudden development of war on both this side and other side of the Atlantic, suddenly reminded people that the army use of horses and mules would certainly for many years to come be kept up, and then the bicycle was found, after all, not to catch people to any great extent who were in the habit of using horses. So the horse as a means of pleasure in riding and driving has fully recovered his lost ground.

But a lesson has been learned that may well be remembered. That is, that the "plug" is doomed. People who use horses as a luxury of course want the best that can be had and can pay for them. To this demand, of course, none but the best style of horses can cater. So the demand for high class saddlers and drivers will certainly go on as long as men and women like to ride and drive. For race stock there has, of course, been no cessation in demand. When it comes to draft animals, it is possible that, by and by, automobiles will make some difference in the demand, but it is not very probable.

As to the use of horses and mules on the farm, we do not see that anything is likely to happen that will in any way lessen the demand. But we are sure that with the passing years the demand will more and more be made for better and heavier horses. The necessity therefore, for raising only the best will be greater than ever before. As commercial changes take place and profits in trade grow smaller, the necessity of reducing expenses grows greater, and inasmuch as the cost of drayage is decreased with the size of the loads that can be hauled, merchants and manufacturers will be obliged to have the most powerful teams they can get. It is, therefore, of the utmost importance that every farmer who undertakes to raise even a single colt, should see to it that his mare is bred to the best stallion of his class that he can find.

This fact has made some impression already on some farmers and they are asking the question, Is there any law to prevent the use of inferior stallions for breeding? There is no such law, probably no such law could be enacted that would be constitutional; but one thing can be done that will serve the purpose, and that is to require the payment of a license for standing a stallion, and making the license so high as to shut out the scrub. Of course this would make stud fees higher and owners of mares would kick, but it would pay handsomely in the long run.—Journal of Agriculture.