

PROGRESSIVE FARMER

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Agriculture.

HARRY FARMER'S TALKS.

LXXXIII.

Cor. of The Progressive Farmer.

Here is a farm that was bought several years ago at a low price. The people living near regarded it as a poor place. It looked as if the man might perish. But he went to work, he and his wife, with a vim. The old field had about grown up; besides it was very small. It was necessary to rent land for a year or two until he could clear land enough to farm on, which only required eight or ten years. Having been reared on a good farm which was naturally fertile, it was an uphill business to get good crops without heavy application of commercial fertilizer or manure.

THE STORY OF ONE FARMER'S SUCCESS.

Among the first improvements he made was a very large shelter to keep his cattle under in the winter, so that he could save all the manure. His neighbors preferred to let their cattle stay on the range, but he and his wife and children all liked milk and wanted it the year round and by housing the cattle in nice stalls, which were kept well cleaned, with good beds of straw and a small feed of cottonseed and corn shucks, it made it easy to get the cattle to come home every night. Of course, it took work and plenty of it to do this; but what a pile of manure was made!

SUNDRY IMPROVEMENTS AND WHAT CAME OF THEM.

And later the corn pile became a matter of wonderment to the neighbors around. The farm was soon noted for extra large ears of corn; the cotton crop above the average for the neighborhood; the watermelons were the finest seen on the market; the hogs were the fattest, and this caused the owner to sell meat and lard; the sweet potato crop was enormous, and the cane crop furnished a large supply of the finest syrup.

Soon a good supply of apples and peaches with other fruits was grown on the place. Then a large orchard of ever-bearing mulberries was planted to feed the summer pigs on. Oats are sown in the fall and begin to ripen about the same time the berries commence to fall, which makes a real Paradise for the hogs, chickens, geese, etc. The family suffered with fever some on account of bad water, but this was soon changed by a pump or artesian well which furnishes an abundance of pure water for man and beast. Among the last improvements was the enlarging of the dwellinghouse and beautifying the place by a nice yard or lawn.

EDUCATING HIS CHILDREN.

Moreover, his children have been fairly well educated. The school-being placed near the center of the district, it left this farmer to one side with a thick growth of trees and bushes and a low wet piece of land with a pond here and there to cross. He did not swear that his children should grow up in ignorance before they should go to school through such a place, but he hired a man to help him, and with a few sawed boards to cross some of the ponds, he opened a good path which only required a few hours work every year to keep it in good order. Of course, he was appointed on the school committee in due time, for "seest thou a man diligent in business, he shall stand before kings." Thus we see one of the most beautiful places in all the country made out of one of the poorest.

HIS CROP ROTATION.

His success was brought about by giving close attention to his stock and following a definite rotation of crops as follows: Corn and peas followed by cotton or oats. He planted one half to corn and peas every year and the other in cotton, oats and sweet potatoes.

This closes our journey, and we will follow with articles on subjects of vital interest to agriculture.

HARRY FARMER.

Columbus Co., N. C.

Late growth in raspberries is all right. Try it.

THE PROPER WAY TO CULTIVATE CORN.

Cor. The Progressive Farmer.

As I have been traveling in North Carolina this year and have watched with interest the way in which the farmers raise or try to raise corn, I now wish, in your valuable paper, to make some criticisms; these will, of course, not be in harmony with all farmers' views.

In the first place, the majority of farmers do not break their land deep enough in the spring before planting. Next, they plant about one-third too much corn to the acre. The rows for the average land should be at least four feet apart and the corn three feet apart in the drill and only one stalk in a place.

The first time it is plowed, it should be done with a long plow next to the corn. In some sections this plow is called a "calf tongue." Let this plow run deep. The other plow or plows should be wider and should run shallower.

The second plowing should be done with shorter plows and should not run as close to corn as first plowing. The third plowing should be done with still larger plows, which should be run shallower still than the second plowing, and should be run far enough away from corn as not to break any of the little corn roots, which by this time have spread out six or eight inches from the stalk.

The fourth plowing should be done with a turning plow of some kind in order that you may run far enough from the corn as to not cut the roots and still be able to cover up the large roots around the stalk, so that the hot suns of July and August will not cook them and turn the corn yellow or burn it up.

If you have time after this plowing, before the corn tassels, take a long shovel plow and run it through the center of each corn middle as deep as one horse can pull it. This plow should not be over five or six inches wide.

I know that my idea of raising corn is different from a great many theoretical farmers, but it is not theory that we want if it does not put the corn in the crib. I was reared on a farm, and know from actual experience that this way of cultivating corn is all right, no matter what kind of land you may be cultivating. I have also traveled over several of the Southern States, and have observed that farmers who cultivate their corn in this way always have plenty of corn to do them. I wish I could impress on the farmer (1) how very important it is not to plant their corn too thick on poor land; (2) that they should never run close enough to the corn with a plow to break the small roots of the corn; (3) that the last plowing should be done with a turning plow in order that the large roots around the corn could be covered up without running close enough to the stalks to break those roots.

I am satisfied that there has been at least 50,000 bushels of corn destroyed in North Carolina this year by the farmers laying their corn by with that old-fashioned double shovel plow, or some similar cultivator.

The above description as to cultivating corn does not apply where the corn is planted on a ridge or bed or in the water furrow, but only when planted on a level, as most farmers plant it.

T. J. WEAR.

Durham Co., N. C.

LATEST NORTH CAROLINA CROP BULLETIN.

In some localities local rains came too late to make a full crop of old corn, which was too much injured by drought to fully recover, but young corn has greatly improved; in many counties both early and late corn are reported to be in very fine condition still, and promise a large yield, as the ears are filling well. Saving fodder on forward corn has begun. Cotton has not been seriously injured by drought and where showers fell, its healthy appearance has been restored; cotton is forming bolls rapidly; in the

drought stricken sections shedding continues and rust has appeared. Tobacco is being cut and cured rapidly, and on the whole is curing well; but some farmers have been obliged to cut green to prevent firing, and this will give a light crop. Peanuts look fairly well; sweet potatoes will be late and short; rice is heading; threshing wheat is practically completed. Special reports on fruit indicate generally a very inferior crop; peaches are scarce; apples knotty and inferior, and the late apple crop continues to fall from the trees; pears are somewhat better; grapes are very fine and are coming into market in abundance. Farmers having bees will obtain a fine crop of honey of good quality.

REMARKABLE SUCCESS WITH IRISH POTATOES.

Cor. of the Progressive Farmer.

I planted one-third bushel Bliss Triumph potatoes on one-thirtieth of an acre, virgin soil. After getting land clear of all runners, etc., I then gave a broadcast of stable manure, laid off rows with shovel plow, drilled 20 pounds high-grade fertilizer in the rows and ran a furrow in that so as to mix fertilizer with the earth. Next I cut the twenty pounds of potatoes to single eyes and planted them 14 inches apart and covered level with two shovel plow furrows. Worked them one time and covered with leaves, then sprayed with the Bordeaux mixture and paris green until matured. Planted 4th April and they matured in ninety days. I then dug them. Got for my trouble sixteen bushels of fine potatoes.

This is a yield of forty-eight bushels to one, or two hundred bushels to the acre. It pays to spray, not only potatoes, but fruits.

J. H. TROLLINGER.

Catawba Co., N. C.

COTTON CROP REPORT.

Condition of 81.9, Below Ten Years' Average.

The monthly report of the United States Department of Agriculture shows the average condition of cotton on July 25 to have been 81.9 as compared with 84.7 on June 25, 77.2 on July 25, 1891, 76 on August, 1900, 84 on August 1, 1899, and a ten-year average of 82.8.

Except in Texas and Oklahoma, which report averages of conditions July 25 four points higher than last month, Indian Territory, where there has been an improvement of six points, and Missouri, where there is no appreciable change, a more or less marked deterioration is reported from the entire cotton belt, the decline amounting to 1 point in Virginia, 2 points in Arkansas, 4 in Louisiana, 5 in Mississippi, 6 in Texas, 7 in North Carolina, South Carolina and Alabama, 8 in Georgia, and 12 in Florida.

There is a marked absence of uniformity of conditions even in the States making the most unfavorable showing not a few counties reporting a condition far above the average and some even reaching the high figure of 100.

The condition in the principal States is reported as follows:

North Carolina, 86; South Carolina, 88; Georgia, 83; Florida, 84; Alabama, 77; Mississippi, 80; Louisiana, 81; Texas, 77; Arkansas, 92; Tennessee, 92; Oklahoma, 94; Indian Territory, 92.

DATES FOR HOLDING FARMERS' INSTITUTES.

The Commissioner of Agriculture, Hon. S. L. Patterson, has arranged a series of dates for farmers' institutes as follows:

Snow Camp, Alamance County, Thursday, August 14.
Guilford College, Friday, August 15th.

Rural Hall, Saturday, August 16.
Lexington, Monday, August 18.
Norwood, Tuesday, August 19.

Mt. Pleasant, Wednesday, August 20th.

Steel Creek, Thursday, August 21.
Other dates will be announced soon. Those who will participate are: Commissioner Patterson, Dr. B. W. Kilgore, Dr. Tait Butler and Prof. W. F. Massey.

NEWS OF THE FARMING WORLD.

Our Washington Correspondent Reports Several Matters of Importance.

Cor. of The Progressive Farmer.

The Department of Agriculture has collected and analyzed a large number of samples of insecticides and fungicides now for sale throughout the United States. Of some 300 samples received, those were rejected which did not give fairly complete data as to the price paid, name of makers and name of retailer. After sifting down the samples, 57 were finally chosen for analysis which it is thought fairly represent the present state of the market in the country.

The results are given in a bulletin which is now in the hands of the government printer. This will enable any farmer to thoroughly understand the composition of the insecticides or fungicides he is using and in case of failure to have some idea of the cause.

In preparing the bulletin, the author, Mr. J. K. Haywood, of the Bureau of Chemistry, sent a letter to the various manufacturers of the compounds, enclosing in each the result of the analysis of his particular product and asking for comment on the same before publication. This part of the bulletin is very instructive as it gives the maker's reasons for the presence of undesirable ingredients; at the same time the effect has been to cause him to remedy the evil.

The Koch theory that bovine tuberculosis is not communicable to man has again found an echo in press dispatches in the newspapers during the past two or three weeks. A Northern doctor has always combated the theory of Dr. Koch, and in order to prove the fallacy of such a statement, had inoculated a young girl with bovine tuberculosis, assuring her that he would be able to cure her in case tuberculosis developed. A short time later true tuberculosis appeared, but the physician was unable to cure her and in a moment of despondency, she committed suicide.

Another well-known physician of New York City, on the other hand, believed as did Dr. Koch, and to prove his version inoculated himself with the disease germs. In a short time tuberculosis ulcers appeared and according to last reports he is critically ill with a genuine case of tuberculosis.

At the recent session of Congress, a small appropriation was made for investigations of silk culture. In this connection, Dr. L. O. Howard, Chief of the Division of Entomology of the Department of Agriculture, has sailed for Europe, where he will make an extended tour through the silk worm raising countries.

Certain classes of eggs contain disease germs. These should be avoided as it is through them that many an epidemic is inaugurated. Dr. Howard's endeavor will be to obtain fertile eggs immune from the various diseases affecting silkworms. He will investigate the various mulberry trees raised by the silk culturists; on this tree the silk worm subsists and where good results are obtained from certain varieties of trees, experimental plantings will be made in this country. The mulberry is easily propagated from cuttings.

Dr. Howard will make investigations of every feature of the silk worm culture. Heretofore the obstacle in the way of furthering this industry in the United States has been the high price of labor, but Secretary Wilson believes that the Southern negro can readily apply himself to this industry and increase his worldly capital.

Consul Fee at Bombay reports the government wheat crop estimated for India at about 220,000,000 bushels, which is some 40,000,000 less than the crop of last year. The area planted in wheat is given at 23,000,000 acres showing a small average yield per acre.

GUY E. MITCHELL.

Washington, D. C.

A healthy toad would take care of the insects in one hot bed.

"CABBAGE SNAKES."

Cor. of The Progressive Farmer.

Last year considerable was said in the press of the State in regard to cabbage snakes, especially in the cabbage sections of the western part of the State. Recently an item has been going the round of the newspapers concerning a supposed poisonous "cabbage snake" found in a head of this popular vegetable by a lady in Swain County, North Carolina. The alleged snake was sent to the North Carolina Department of Agriculture for identification, and proved to be the common and inoffensive "Hair Snake" or water worm—*gordius variabilis*.

This is not a snake but a nematode worm which during some part of its life is an intestinal parasite of the cabbage caterpillar, grasshopper and some other insects. It is often found in samples of water from shallow wells, horse-troughs and ponds. Its presence in water indicates that the water is not fit to drink, but the worm itself is not poisonous nor in any way dangerous to human beings. The popular name "Hair Snake" is given to this worm on account of its great slenderness, which has given rise to the fanciful idea that a horse hair has been transformed into a worm or "snake." Though this worm is often a foot in length it is never as thick as a knitting needle. Its color in water is usually drab, but when it lives secluded from the light it is generally white, hence the specific name, *variabilis*.

Snakes properly so-called, belong to the backbone or vertebrate series of animals; whereas the true worms belong to the backboneless or invertebrate series. We have no snakes as slender as a knitting needle, or in any way resembling a slender worm. We have no nematode worms which are visible to the unaided eye that are parasitic on human beings. Neither are they venomous or poisonous. They are, in fact, useful, in so far as they destroy noxious insects like cabbage worms and grasshoppers. Even should such a worm be left in a cabbage, cooking would render it unnoticeable, and as it is not poison no one need be afraid to handle or eat cabbage on account of the mythical "cabbage snake."

The Station will be pleased to identify further specimens, and would be glad to have any assistance or suggestions that will enable it to obtain definite information regarding cases of poisoning from "Cabbage Snakes."

GERALD MCCARTHY,

Biologist, N. C. Dep't of Agr.

AUGUST FARM NOTES.

Sand vetch, sometimes called hairy vetch, can commence to be sown this month, and may be sown up to the end of October. This crop makes a more certain stand than crimson clover—indeed, it rarely fails. Sow 20 pounds of seed to the acre with half a bushel of wheat or winter oats. It makes a great crop for cutting for green feed in the spring or for hay. In an experiment made in Tennessee sand vetch grown alone yielded 7½ tons of green forage to the acre and 1¼ tons of cured hay. It is valuable as an improver of the land, making an excellent green fallow to plow down for the corn crop. An average crop will supply as much nitrogen to the acre as a ton of cotton-seed meal.

The work of preparing the land for the wheat and winter oat crop should receive attention. Although much too early to think of sowing these crops it is none to early to begin breaking and preparing the land. Experiments made in many different sections all emphasize the fact that early plowing and frequent and perfect cultivation of the land for a period of six weeks or two months before sowing the seed has more influence on the yield of the wheat and winter oat crop than even the quantity of fertilizer applied to the land. Set the plows to work as soon as the land is in good plowing order, and plow deeply. Follow with a heavy harrow as soon as possible so as to break the furrow

slices, and thus conserve the moisture and encourage the germination of weed seeds. If at all cloddy, roll and then harrow again. Repeat this as often as can be conveniently done, and thus get rid of weeds and secure a fine compact seed-bed. These are essentials to a good wheat crop.

Do not let weeds seed on your stubble lands or on lands which were seeded with grass and clover in the fall or spring. Run the mower over these before the weeds are in bloom, and leave the cut weeds for a mulch.

Turnips should be sown this month. They make the best bulbs grown in rows two feet six inches apart, and thinned out so as to stand eight or ten inches apart in the rows. The land should be made rich with farm-yard manure and acid phosphate and be reduced by frequent cultivation to a fine state of tilth. Two pounds of seed will sow an acre in drills. Three or four pounds should be sown broadcast. Keep free from weeds and cultivate frequently. We have grown twenty tons to the acre, and ten ought easily to be grown.

Rape may be seeded this month for a sheep and hog pasture. It is best grown in rows like turnips and cultivated once or twice, but will make a fine crop sown broadcast. Sow two pounds of seed in rows, or three to four pounds broadcast.

We see the advice given frequently to sow turnips (cow-horn turnips) as an improver of land. Do not listen to this. It is a fallacy. We have grown hundreds of acres of turnips but never yet were able to do so without first making the land rich with manure and always finding that the crop had largely exhausted this when harvested. Turnips add nothing to the land but what they take from it, and are therefore not improvers.

Do not pull any fodder but cut the corn up at the root as soon as the ears are glazed and dented, and set in shocks to cure. Fodder pulling injures the yield of grain and leads to the wasting of a large part of the crop. Nearly one-half of the nutritive value of the corn crop is in the stalk, shuck and blades, and this ought all to be saved and fed.—August Southern Planter.

DELEGATES TO NATIONAL FARMERS' CONGRESS.

The Governor appoints the following delegates to the Farmers' National Congress at Macon, Ga., October 7th to 10th: State at large, W. R. Cox; by districts, J. R. Coffield, R. H. Ricks, J. M. Wood, W. P. Batchelor, J. S. Carr, S. H. Strange, W. L. Everett, J. P. Allison, S. B. Alexander, G. F. Weston, S. L. Patterson, G. T. Winston, B. W. Kilgore, A. D. McNair, W. A. Graham, J. A. Long, J. Van Lindley, William Dunn, P. H. Hanes, Henry Stewart, C. H. Nimson, N. L. Barnard, Benahan Cameron, S. H. Webb, J. W. Norwood, J. H. Mott, R. H. Speight, J. J. Laughlinhouse, Frank Wood, W. H. Williams, H. G. Chatham, Tait Butler, W. C. Petty, J. N. Holmes, Charles McNamee, W. R. Capehart, T. B. Parker, Franklin Sherman, L. Banks Holt, Garland Webb, Arthur Williams, R. J. Breward, T. L. Emory, C. E. Foy, C. H. Poe, W. F. Massey, Andrew Joyner. These men are recommended by Benahan Cameron, vice president for this State.

Grapes are coming in, the luscious Delawares and the cool-looking Niagaras. Time was, and not ten years ago, when there were half a score of vineyards literally in Raleigh's suburbs. Of these only one remains. One of the big vineyards contained 125 acres and as an experiment there were something like 75 varieties of grapes therein. All save one are cut down, and crops now occupy the land. Most of the grapes now vended here come from Southern Pines, which also furnishes the peaches. The latter are superb. Elbertas are the variety now chiefly on sale and a basket brings 40 cents—say 20 cents a dozen.—Raleigh Cor. Charlotte Observer.