

# THE PROGRESSIVE FARMER.

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

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## AGRICULTURE

### Harry Farmer's Talks.

#### XCI.

Editor of The Progressive Farmer:

A few years ago we sowed some oats in November. The land was so dry that the plowman could not cut more than five inches at each furrow. We laughed at him because he made such slow headway. The first oats sown were up before the field was finished.

#### OATS SOWN IN DRY WEATHER

The crop grew rapidly and was larger at Christmas than the crop is usually by the first of March, and made the largest yield of any crop we ever had. What surprised us more than anything else, was to see oats come up in such dry soil. Oftentimes have we seen them fail to come in the spring on account of dry weather. This is something we do not understand. We notice that other farmers write about the same thing. There is no doubt that plowing land when very dry is best. It makes the work much harder, but the crops show the good effects.

#### A GATE WORTH PATTERNING AFTER

We noticed a gate a few days ago that could not be opened by educated hogs. The latch was nothing but a hasp with a pin to hold it on to the staple. It makes no difference whether the old sow tried to lift the gate up or pushed it she could not get it open. There is a hasp made with a latch to drop behind it when it is put on the staple. It will cost about five or ten cents, according to size.

#### USES OF RED PEPPER.

Mary Jane is stringing the pepper now and hanging it up to dry. It will not be long before we will need some for the sausage. And a little fed to the hens will help to make them lay. Pepper is one of the easiest crops grown in the garden, and every farmer should have a good supply on hand. Just before the first frost comes, gather about a quart of the young green pods and put them in a bottle and pour in some good strong vinegar and cork up tight, and you will have a nice sauce for use all through the winter. We like to add a little to our fresh pork and turnips. It seems to help digest the fats of pork.

#### KEEPING SWEET POTATOES

Did you lose any potatoes last winter? If you did, can you account for it? By careful management

there need be but little loss from rot. Rot in potatoes is caused by one of three things: housing while wet, exposure to too much cold, or housing them in warm weather in houses that are too tight. More potatoes are spoiled by being banked or housed so close that the potatoes get too hot and scald, than from any other cause. The most important thing to do is to keep the potatoes dry. Every farmer knows that they go through a sweat when first dug. The greener the potatoes the more they will sweat. In putting up potatoes intended for late use or seed, we sprinkle some dry dirt or sand all through the pile. This will absorb all the moisture, and should the potatoes get too cold and rot on the outside of the pile, the soil mixed with them will prevent the rot from spreading. We have often saved our potatoes this way. It is hard sometimes to know exactly how thick to bank, for when the thermometer drops to 10 above zero it requires a thick bank to keep the cold out.

HARRY FARMER.

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#### Cotton Acreage Must be Gradually Increased.

At the meeting of the New England Manufacturers' Association in New York last week there was an interesting address on "The World's Supply and Consumption of Cotton," by S. N. D. North, superintendent of the department of manufactures, United States Census, Boston. Among other things Mr. North said: "If the South shall continue its present proportion of the supply it will be growing fifteen million bales of cotton in 1925, the greater part of which will come from the fresher lands west of the Mississippi River, where cotton can be grown from one and a half to two cents a pound cheaper than in the States of the Atlantic belt. The conclusion is warranted, therefore, that the future of the cotton trade is securely within the hands of the American producers if they choose to have it. So especially clear is, that in order to gain the control of a crop which has been worth four billion dollars to the South 1878, there must continue to be a gradual increase and not a curtailment of the Southern acreage."

If thou wouldst be happy, learn to please.—Prior.

## NOW IS THE TIME FOR SEEDING OATS, RYE AND RAPE.

### Notes About Crops That May Partially Replace Corn.

Editor of The Progressive Farmer:

The corn crop of most parts of Alabama has failed. To take the place of corn there is need for the planting of a larger acreage of small grains and other forage crops than ever before. These crops should be planted earlier than usual and they should be fertilized with all the stable manure and lot scrapings obtainable.

Fall-sown oats at Auburn have yielded about 50 per cent more than those sown after Christmas, and the former can be fed several weeks before the latter are ready. It usually pays to sow oats in the fall, and to risk the danger of winter killing rather than to postpone sowing red rust proof until after Christmas. The danger of winter killing can be reduced by (1) sowing in October; (2) selecting a location protected on the north by woodland, or on a southern slope; (3) drilling the seed on well-drained land in shovel furrows only half filled in covering the oats; or (4) by leaving the ground rough or ridged.

The farmer can not afford for smut to destroy 10 to 25 per cent of his oat crop as usual. We prevent oat smut at Auburn by wetting seed for two hour in water containing 1 oz. of formalin for every 3 gallons of water, then sowing or drying the seed; or by soaking seed oats ten minutes in water between 130 and 135 deg. F., then cooling and either drying or sowing the oats.

Turf or grazing oats are somewhat hardier towards cold than red rust proof or Texas red oats, but less hardy than wheat. Turf oats require earlier sowing and richer land, are several weeks behind red rust proof oats in maturing, and are more liable to rust and for the heads to be incompletely filled.

Oats cut in the milk stage make excellent hay, and the straw is more completely eaten than if the plants are allowed to ripen.

Beardless wheat is hardier and sooner ready for use than any of the above. It should be largely sown this year for either hay or grain for feeding purposes. If rust threatens, cut it early. If cut in the early milk stage the entire plant is eaten with relish. Any good beardless variety grown south of the Ohio River (or even somewhat further north) will

answer. Among the well-tested varieties of this class are Purple Straw or Blue Stem, Fultz, Red May, and Currell.

Rye makes good pasturage or green feed, to be cut and carried to stock. Sown in September or early October, it is the first plant ready for cutting and for feeding green, on good land reaching a sufficient height about February. It can be cut at least twice. It makes very poor hay. It never winter-kills. Sow 1 to 1½ bushels per acre.

All the small grains intended for cutting early for feeding purposes should be sown thickly on rich or well-fertilized land. Those that are to be cut by hand and fed green should be sown in narrow drills. All require liberal fertilizing with nitrogenous material, as stable manure, cotton seed, or cotton-seed meal. If these are not at hand, apply in February or March, on the surface, 80 pounds per acre of nitrate of soda. Phosphate in addition to any of these fertilizers will on some soils increase the yield of grain.

Farmers having for sale seed of rye, oats, or beardless wheat, should be able to sell these to advantage by promptly advertising them.

Dwarf Essex rape has been repeatedly grown at Auburn for winter pasturage for hogs, which relish it, making good growth on rape pasture from December 15 to April 15, when supplied with a half ration of corn. Land must be as rich and as highly fertilized as for turnips, and preparation, sowing and cultivation are the same as with that crop, except that rape is not thinned. Sow 3 to 5 pounds of seed per acre in narrow drills between September 20 and October 20. Seed are cheap, 10 to 12 cents per pound, and they are sold by all seedsmen. We have also sowed rape in March, getting hog pasturage in May and June.

J. F. DUGGAR,  
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The State Horticultural Society will meet in the auditorium of the Agricultural Building, on Wednesday night, October 29th, of Fair week. The Society invites the apple growers of the State to meet with them, and to hear the addresses of Colonel Brackett, U. S. Pomologist; Dr. Bailey, of Cornell University of New York, and others, who will give practical advice to those engaged in fruit culture.