

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.

CV.

Editor of The Progressive Farmer:

When you hang your meat up to smoke, rub the flesh side with borax if you want to keep off the skip-pers.

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Wet the pigs with coal oil (kero-sene) if they are bothered with lice. If you will spray or wet all the roosting poles and walls of the poultry houses, it will destroy all mites and lice.

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Prepare to set some hens early—say the last of this month or early in March for fall pullets. They will begin to lay in September and lay all the winter.

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Chickens will get higher towards Easter; so cull out all that are two years old and any others that you do not wish to keep, and get them in a nice condition for market. And if you have some pigs that will make good pork fatten them a little and sell while the price is good.

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Mules and horses are very high. Where you have land suitable raise a few mules and horses, and thus save some of this money at home.

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We heard a farmer say that cotton will bring a good price next fall. From the present outlook it may be true. Diversify. Do not put all of your eggs in one basket.

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One way to judge a milch cow as to butter making qualities is to put some of the fresh milk in a glass; then you can see the thickness of the cream the next day. If the cream is very thin you cannot expect much butter.

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Do not let that stump stay in the garden any longer to work around and give trouble, but take it out before you are ready to plant.

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When you clean out the stalls just take one at a time, and after all the manure is out, haul in clay to thickness of four inches and beat it down nice and smooth. Then your stall will be dry, and the manure will be worth a great deal more. Just try one and be convinced.

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Do you keep any account of the cost of your different crops? How do you know whether it pays you

to grow certain crops? Some farmers work all their lives making one crop pay the expenses of another—"robbing Peter to pay Paul"—when they ought to quit "Paul" if he does not pay.

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Do you can any any tomatoes to sell? They are in good demand at paying prices. Every farmer who likes them should put up enough for his own use. They have been high for the last two years. There are a great many cheap canning outfits now on the market, and it will pay many farmers to can all of their surplus vegetables and fruits. You cannot buy three-pound cans of tomatoes for less than \$1.50 a dozen. A bushel of tomatoes will fill about 12 or 15 cans, and the cans can be purchased for about 3 cents each, so you can see the profit in it.

HARRY FARMER.

Columbus Co., N. C.

COTTON STATISTICS.

Favorable Report Ordered on the Burleson Bill.

Washington, Feb. 14.—The committee on ways and means has authorized a favorable report on the bill introduced by Representative Burleson, of Texas, to impose a tax of one mill per bale upon cotton, to be paid by the ginner, for the purpose of enabling the collection and publication weekly of cotton statistics. The act making the census bureau permanent contained a provision for the collection and publication of cotton statistics, but the work has not been successfully carried on because of the large cost, estimated, under the provisions of that bill, to be in the neighborhood of \$400,000 annually. Under the Burleson Bill, it is said, the work can be done for a little more than \$1,000 a year, as the statistics are to be collected at the gineries. It is estimated that a tax of one mill per bale will yield a revenue of \$11,000 annually and the surplus is to be devoted to gathering statistics upon the anticipated crop.

Landmark: An earnest effort is being made to secure a bond issue of \$300,000 for public road improvement in Guilford County. Many other counties in the State are also devising ways and means for public road improvement. All these efforts are to be commended and we hope they will be successful. In a very short time a county that has not adopted some modern method of road improvement will be a back number.

Attention, Farmers!

Editor of The Progressive Farmer:

The business classes have been asking and receiving at the hands of the Legislatures of North Carolina for lo! these many years. After the expiration of two hundred and fifty years, for the first time, the farmers are asking the Legislature for recognition in the shape of an agricultural building at the A. & M. College so that our boys may go there and apply themselves to the study of agriculture.

Shall we have the building? It depends largely on whether we ask for it or not. "Ask and ye shall receive" may apply to this Legislature. Are you asking? If not, why not?

T. N. ALLEN.

Orange Co., N. C.

Nitrate of Soda as a Fertilizer.

Tests are reported by the Agricultural Department of the use of nitrate of soda, which shows the great virtue of this fertilizer for cabbage and cauliflower.

When no nitrate of soda was used there was a yield of but 910 prime heads of cabbage per acre, showing that the ground itself was "poor."

When 300 pounds of the nitrate was applied per acre on the same sort of land in two equal dressings the number of prime heads obtained was 3,260. When the same amount was applied in three equal dressings the yield of prime heads per acre was 5,390. On the plat which had received 400 pounds of nitrate of soda per acre in two equal dressings the yield was 4,160 prime heads per acre, and when this same amount was applied in three equal dressings 7,580 prime heads were obtained per acre. From these figures it will be seen that the use of the nitrate of soda greatly increased the yield of prime heads in every instance. It will further be noticed that when the nitrate was applied in three equal dressings the largest yields were obtained. Applying the nitrate in three dressings proved more effective in increasing the yield than increasing the amount 100 pounds. For example, 300 pounds in three equal dressings was more effective than 400 pounds in two equal dressings, and the best yield of all was obtained by applying 400 pounds of nitrate in three equal dressings. Not only was the yield much greater than on any other plat but the quality of the cabbage was much improved, the heads selling for 50 per cent more than those from any other plat.

Farmers' Clubs.

The Elizabeth City Economist contains a notice of the meeting of the "Pasquotank Farmers' Club." It says it will be a most interesting meeting and that farmers in large numbers are expected to attend. There will be a dinner served on the court-house square. The farmers of the county, we are told, are taking great interest in the meetings of this club. Why do the not the farmers in every county in the State form such clubs? They would find both profit and pleasure in them. The discussion of matters pertaining to their calling and the exchange of views on methods of farming and the introduction of new ideas could not but be advantage to them while the social side of the gatherings would be of vast interest and improvement. One great drawback to farming in this State is the isolation of the families of the farmers and the absence of social intercourse. This makes the lives of the wives and daughters of the farmers especially dreary and monotonous. This unfortunate and disagreeable phase of their lives could be greatly relieved were the men with their families to make a habit of meeting periodically in social intercourse. It would brighten the lives of these women and relieve them of a great deal of the monotonous drudgery of farm life.

The statistics of the State show that the larger percentage of our insane from the farms are women, and it is accounted for by the monotonous lives they lead, nothing but drudgery, the same routine work day after day, with nothing to take the mind out of the one channel of the everlasting daily routine of work; nothing to divert the mind, to divert the thought till finally the power to take interest in any thing beyond household duties or to desire to enjoy any diversion is lost, and the next stage is melancholia and insanity. What a relief to these women would be gatherings when farmers' wife would meet farmers' wife for a day of mental as well as physical recreation, the cares of house work thrown aside for awhile. If the husbands and fathers would look at this in the right way they would form these clubs. Once begun, the custom would never be abandoned for the good results would soon be seen and appreciated.—Wilmington Messenger.

The Supreme Court granted license to practice law to thirty-five applicants last week.