

# THE PROGRESSIVE FARMER.

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

Volume XVIII.

RALEIGH, N. C., TUESDAY, MARCH 31, 1903.

Number 8.

## AGRICULTURE

### HARRY FARMER'S TALKS.

CXIII.

Editor of The Progressive Farmer:

The Raleigh correspondent of the Wilmington Messenger says:

"Cattle fattening on a large scale has been begun in Hyde County. Mr. James Sprunt, of Wilmington, owns some 50,000 acres of land there, and is going to wire fence this, dividing it into five sections, each of 10,000 acres. Around one of these the fence has been put up, and 900 head of high grade Shorthorn cattle from Iowa and Illinois have been placed. Mr. Baker, of Illinois, is associated with Mr. Sprunt in this business of raising beef cattle. The range for cattle there is an excellent one, and this is the beginning of what will be a great industry."

#### CATTLE RAISING IN THE EAST

Hyde County is not the only county in the eastern part of the State that has land that can be utilized for this purpose. We advocated this industry in these columns last year, as many of the readers of The Progressive Farmer remember. There are thousands of acres of land that have all the timber of any value, like cypress, pine, etc., cut off, land now lying idle, that could be made to pay its assessed value every year in feed for cattle. For instance, swamps where the cypress and juniper trees have been cut and have now a growth of cane on them; then there are the savannas which have had all the pine timber cut off and every spring have a crop of grass that looks as well as an oat field. Three acres of cane or ten acres of savannah or pine land will support one beef handsomely. It is surprising that more attention is not paid to this industry. As Mr. Sprunt has blazed the way more will follow.

#### SOME INQUIRIES ANSWERED.

A Pitt County reader of The Progressive Farmer writes:  
"Will some one please inform me what time to sow clover in the spring, and how many seed per acre? Also how to sow rye for winter pasture for cows: will it be too soon to sow it when I sow peas after wheat? Will it head in fall? The land produced 654 pounds lint cotton last year (per acre, we suppose.—H. F.). Should the clover be manured? Please answer through The Farmer."  
You do not say what kind of clover, but suppose you mean com-

mon red clover. As you are in the eastern part of the State, we doubt the advisability of sowing clover unless it be crimson clover. The drouth in the spring here will kill clover unless it is sown in the fall. We infer from your letter that you want to have feed for dairy cows. Unless you have seen others have clover in your neighborhood, we would advise you to try red clover on a small scale, but sow in the fall on well-prepared land at the rate of 12 or 15 pounds per acre with about three pecks of turf oats. Cut oats after they get about two feet high, with a mowing machine and leave them on the land as a mulch for the clover. By this plan you may be able to get a good stand. The yield of cotton shows your land to be in a high state of fertility, but if you want to manure the land spread the manure on the surface after the clover gets to growing in the spring. Of course, the manure will have to be fine and spread thinly.

Rye can be sown in September if the land has plenty of moisture in it; if it is dry, sow later. Turf oats could be sown among the pea vines and will give early fall pasturage. We would sow two pecks of rye and four pecks of turf oats among the pea vines and pasture the cows on the peas or leave the pea vines on the land and gather the ripe pods; by this plan you can have a nice winter pasture. To sow oats in June when wheat is harvested, they would head in the fall and the rye would not grow unless the season was very moist. We have a white clover that grows in the fall and winter and dies down about the first of June that makes a very good pasture, but crimson clover is better.

We are glad that you are trying to improve on the old way of managing cattle in the eastern part of the State. If you have some light warm soil plant some early cow peas about the 20th of April to furnish feed the last of June, and all the month of July. Some of the early sugar canes make nice cow feed for about the same time as the peas just mentioned. Our experience with cattle feeding is that the cows will not eat one thing long at a time, and to get the best results, it is necessary to have a variety.

HARRY FARMER.

Columbus Co., N. C.

[It is said that Mr. James or Alex. Sprunt, of Wilmington, owns the land used for the great cattle farm, but the managers are Western men, Messrs. Russell and Baker.—Editor.]

### The Fertilizer Tonnage Tax and Some Other Matters.

Editor of The Progressive Farmer:

Allow me to thank you for the bold stand that you have taken in the interest of the farmers in regard to the expenditure of the fertilizer tax by the recent Legislature. I think that you are entirely correct in all that you have written about the matter, and it is my decided opinion that the tax should be reduced to 10 cents per ton. I trust that the subject will be discussed and properly adjusted by the next Legislature.

Surely Harry Farmer doesn't expect his brother farmers to take seriously his remarks about raising the rate of interest, for any man that can give bankable paper can get money as readily at six per cent as at eight.

I am planning to build a horse barn, and would be pleased to have suggestions as to plan of building for ten horses; with special regard to an economical use of a hay fork or sling.

JOHN McDOWELL.

Mecklenburg Co., N. C.

### The Rural Science Club of the A. & M. College.

Editor of The Progressive Farmer:

The Club held its last meeting Wednesday night, March 18th. Three new members joined the Club, increasing its membership to fifty-six. This being the first meeting of the spring term, new officers were elected. Mr. J. C. Temple, of the junior class, was chosen president, Mr. I. T. Bailey, of the sophomore class, vice-president, and Mr. A. L. Paschall, of the freshman class, recording secretary. The corresponding secretary was re-elected.

After the election of officers, Mr. Kerr, of the junior class read an instructive paper on "Plant Food in the Soil." He named the essential elements of plant food found in the soil; and pointed out the ones usually deficient. He also discussed the methods by which plant food in the soil can be made available, and the best and cheapest ways of adding plant food to the soil.

The query for debate was:

Resolved, That the use of commercial fertilizers should be abandoned in growing staple crops.

The debaters on the affirmative were, Messrs. Lych and Warren; on the negative, Messrs. Smith and Wharton. The decision of the judges was two to one in favor of the affirmative.

Through the efforts of our Professor of Agriculture, six valuable prizes have been secured, from different firms dealing in agricultural supplies. The prizes are to be given to the member of the Club who writes the best essay on the subject given with each prize. The Club will give a public meeting in May, and decide who the successful contestants are. The Club is highly elated, and the contest will be a spirited one.

R. F. W.,

Corresponding Secretary.

West Raleigh, N. C.

### Cowpeas Immune to Wilt.

Editor of The Progressive Farmer:

In some sections of the State the cow pea has become subject to a fungous disease causing the plant to wilt. This trouble is known as "cow pea wilt" and is similar to the wilt of cotton, tomatoes, and melons. A strain of the Iron cow pea has been developed which resists the attack of the wilt fungus and the Department of Agriculture is in position to supply small quantities of this variety for experimental test to such farmers in the State as are troubled with the wilt of the cow pea. The Iron cow pea also withstands well nematodes and root knot.

B. W. KILGORE.

N. C. Department of Agriculture, Raleigh.

Wilmington Cor. Charlotte Observer 27th: The truck season is said to be at least two weeks in advance of last year by reason of the very mild spring. Large shipments of lettuce are now being made and also some asparagus and other vegetables are going forward. The first solid express train of the season went up the Wilmington & Weldon Railroad yesterday. The strawberry prospect is said to be very encouraging and some ripening is in progress in favored spots. A number of schools in the berry belt will close their spring terms this and next week to allow the pupils to assist their parents in marketing the crop. The season is not only well advanced, but the crop will be a heavy one.

Roanoke-Chowan Times: We have interviewed a number of our best farmers recently and almost without exception we find they are making preparations to produce more to the acre this year than ever before. They say it does not cost as much in labor to make a crop on good land, and as labor is scarce and high they will use more fertilizer and plant less acres than heretofore.