

The Middle South as a Dairy Section.Editor of *The Progressive Farmer*:

In most respects, the Middle South is admirably adapted to dairying. On account of some of the disadvantages which this section has, dairying has often been unprofitable, and the progress has been slow, but the advantages are many, and it is destined to become one of the leading dairy sections in the United States.

BETTER CATTLE NEEDED

The cattle tick has probably hindered the progress of dairying more than any other one thing. This tick carries the germ of Texas fever, so well known in the South that it need not be described here. Animals which are raised South of the quarantine line are seldom affected, but those raised North of this line, and afterwards shipped South, are often seriously affected, causing usually about fifty per cent of the infected ones to die. This state of affairs has caused most of the herds to be less improved than they would have been had not so many of the pure bred imported cattle died. By this we mean that there are, comparatively speaking, only a small number of the Southern cattle which are pure bred. However, means by which the per cent of deaths may be decreased from fifty to five per cent have been discovered, and the herds are now being rapidly improved. Dairymen are learning the great importance of exterminating the ticks and improving their herds so that greater profits will be derived therefrom. In the past, and even at the present, the herds are not improved up to that standard where maximum profits are obtained. This is mainly because many of the very best animals have died of Texas fever and many of the present ones were raised from scrubs or animals which were not profitable for dairying. Now the use of the Babeok test is becoming familiar and the unprofitable animals are being disposed of, and from those which are most profitable only are animals selected for the future herd.

THE LACK OF EDUCATED DAIRYMEN

Another hindrance to the progress of dairying in the Middle South has been the lack of educated and experienced dairymen. The men who have had charge of the dairies and herds have been inexperienced and uneducated, and consequently they were not familiar with the small leaks in dairying, through which much of the profits go. To obtain the greatest profits in dairying the dairyman must be thoroughly familiar with the details of the business so that anything unusual will not escape his notice. Such men are now being educated and trained to observe the little things as well as the big ones, and to use the various ways of testing milk and cream and to judge a cow by her form and appearance. These young men are making first-class dairymen, and this disadvantage is fast being overcome.

The natural advantages of the Middle South are many. The climate

is mild and not extreme either in cold or in heat. No expensive buildings for protection against cold are needed as in cold climates. For seven or eight months in the year the herds may go without protection except against rain. Even during the coldest weather barns with only one wall are sufficient.

OUR ADVANTAGE IN ABUNDANT PASTURAGE.

The greatest natural advantage of this section, however, is not the climate, but that which the climate brings, namely, abundant pasturage for eight or ten months of the year.

The cheapest food for a dairy cow is that which she gathers herself by grazing. It is impossible to obtain the greatest flow of milk without some green or succulent food. Here natural pastures of Bermuda grass, herds grass and lespedeza and other grasses are plentiful and furnish the very best of succulent foods. If for any reason sufficient pasturage is not afforded, green crops may be had for feeding during the entire spring, summer and fall. Rye and crimson clover sown in the early fall will afford some grazing during the winter and furnish a heavy growth in early spring which may be fed green or cured for hay. By the time rye and clover have given out oats and vetch, sown in the fall, will be making a heavy growth which may be fed green or cured for winter feeding. Corn and millet planted in early spring will make a good feed to follow oats and vetch and may be supplemented with cow-peas during the late summer and fall months.

Now we have a complete summer ration if we had no pasture, and the surplus from the summer feeding may be cured for hay or put into the silo for winter feeding. You can, with ease, arrange a crop rotation so that two of the above crops may be grown on the same land each year and they can, therefore, be produced at a minimum cost.

Cotton seed meal, a by-product of cotton seed oil mills, and bran make a good grain ration to feed in connection with the above-named roughages. Cotton seed meal is rich in protein, making it one of the most concentrated feeding stuffs and is the cheapest source from which protein may be had. Now, with two crops of forages on the same land each year and cotton seed meal and bran each at \$24 per ton, we can easily feed a cow giving three gallons of milk daily for sixteen to eighteen cents per day, and often less.

THE HOME MARKET.

The Middle South has a good home market for all its dairy products and will have for many years to come, as the demand is far greater than the supply. Milk finds a ready sale, in nearly every town, for twenty-five to thirty-five cents per gallon. Since ice factories are numerous, ice may profitably be used in the manufacture of butter which brings from twenty-five to thirty-five cents per pound.

The two great disadvantages,

namely, the cattle tick and inexperience, are now being overcome. Men are learning the great importance of the natural advantages of climate, pasturage, forages for green feed and for hay; also the cheap grain rations which reduces the cost of feeding to the minimum. Comparing the cost of feeding with the big prices received for dairy products, you can readily see that the Middle South is destined to become one of the leading dairy sections of the United States.

J. C. BEAVERS,
N. C. A. & M. College, West Raleigh.

Farmers' National Congress.Editor of *The Progressive Farmer*:

Arrangements are well under way for the 24th annual meeting of the National Farmers' Congress, at Niagara Falls, beginning September 22. To judge from the efforts put forth by the officers, an instructive and interesting session may be expected. President Flanders informs us that the following gentlemen have accepted invitations to deliver addresses: Maj. G. D. Purse, Savannah, Ga., "Sugar Supply in the United States." Hon. Timothy L. Woodruff, Brooklyn, "Agricultural Conditions Understood to exist in Our Insular Possessions, and the Possibilities in Their Development." O. P. Austin, chief of the Bureau of Statistics, Washington, D. C., "Farm Products in the Markets of the World." Dr. D. E. Salmon, Washington, D. C., "Infectious and Contagious Diseases of Farm Animals and their Effect on American Agriculture." Prof. T. M. Webster Urbana, Ill., "Diseases and Insect Pests on Plants and their Effect on American Agriculture." James Wood, Mt. Kisco, N. Y., "How Can We Enlarge Our Foreign Markets for Farm Products." Aaron Jones, South Bend, Ind., "Extension of the Facilities of Our Mail System."

Governor Odell will deliver the address of welcome, and the response will be made by Hon. Harvie Jordan, Monticello, Ga., first vice president of the congress.

Twenty-four years this national body has co-operated with the other organizations of the United States in the betterment of agriculture, and in making the life of the farmer more pleasant, more profitable, and, if possible, more honorable. You will notice by the subjects chosen, and the speakers assigned, that this organization is not an institute, but deals with the relations of the agriculturists to the other professions.

The delegates are commissioned by the Governors of several States, and any farmer is eligible to appointment.

For information in regard to appointment as delegates, write to John M. Stahl, Secretary, 4328 Langley Avenue, Chicago, Illinois.

Remember the date, September 22 to October 10, 1903.

Excursion rates on all railroads, on the certificate plan.

J. H. REYNOLDS, Treas.

The Farmers Should Organize.

We maintain that an organization of the farmers, as perfect as it can be made, will prove of vastly more benefit to the country at large and to the farmers individually than any other. The truth of the matter is they more than all others have the inalienable and primeval right to organize because upon their labors and the result of their labors depends the very existence of the country and the world.

When agriculture languishes all else, every other industry is affected. When the farmer thrives the entire country is prosperous, and every industry moves as merrily as a wedding bell. The farmer more than any other should know how many bales of cotton will supply the world, and how much the world can afford to pay per pound for that cotton. He should ascertain for himself how many pounds of tobacco the world can consume and pitch his crop accordingly, and should demand from the American Tobacco Trust, or any other trust, a fair price for that tobacco, and when he has made that tobacco and set that price upon it he should have provided himself with enough meat, corn and stuff at home to be able to set back on his haunches and demand what is justly due him, and it would take only a short while for the vampires that are living upon the farmer to understand that the farmer, as well as they, is figuring on a cold-blooded business proposition, calculating to protest his interests by a system of scientific division of acreage to control the yield and feeding of the production of his lands gradually into the channels of trade so it can healthfully assimilate same without depressing prices.

All last spring in almost every issue we wrote article after article telling the farmers tobacco would be low, and that in a large acreage would place them in the hands of the trust.

Effective organization, ascertainment and proper publication of the requirements of the trade, and proper division of the acreage and marketing the crop should not only regulate the price of tobacco but cotton as well.

Proceed as others do. The merchant buys his goods, lays in his stock according to his capital and demands of trade, if he does not, disaster and ruin follows. So it is with the farmer. Produce more than trade or conditions demand and prices decline and bad times stare him in the face, and unfortunately many times he looks for a remedy away off yonder when the fault is at his own door and of his own making.

Follow the example of the trust. Organize and dictate prices to them instead of their dictating to you.—Wilson Times.

Cotton is out of sight, but sad to say the fellow who loses the most sweat to make it has no cotton to sell at any price. These are the speculator's prices and not the farmers.—Davidson Dispatch.