

THE PROGRESSIVE FARMER

and The Cotton Plant.

PROGRESSIVE FARMER—VOL. XIX. NO. 49.
THE COTTON PLANT—VOL. XXI. NO. 48.

RALEIGH, N. C., JANUARY 24, 1905.

Weekly—\$1 a Year.

THOUGHTS FOR FARMERS.

Some Health Hints.

The diseases that threaten the Piedmont people at this season of the year are grip and pneumonia. Farmers often live several miles from a doctor. In case of a sudden attack of pain in the side or chest, preceded by a chill, a plaster made of mustard vinegar and white of an egg applied as soon as possible, may give relief and effect a cure. Every farmer should keep a good liniment, a box of ground mustard and a bottle of turpentine on hand for emergencies. Get the advice of your doctor and buy such specifics as he would recommend. Do not physic the family with every nostrum recommended in advertisements. Protect the feet well with thick shoes. When working in the field have your coat handy to throw on when you knock off. When resting never sit on the wet ground. To prevent typhoid fever look after the well or spring. See that no surface water has a chance to contaminate your wells. Around many country kitchens there are disease-breeding slop holes where all the refuse from the kitchen is poured out. A kitchen sink with an underdrain leading off one hundred feet or more from the house will make a clean, sweet kitchen yard. A garbage can or bucket should be kept handy for refuse matter that will not go through the strainer of the sink. A little timely caution will insure health and cleanliness, two of the greatest blessings that can come to any family.

Plant Oats.

Everywhere in the Cotton States farmers are passing resolutions to cut off the cotton acreage 25 per cent. Those who have sown no small grain have the land, the hands and the stock. What will they do with it? They must not be discouraged. Let them begin by selecting about four acres of good land to the horse, break well as soon as the ground is dry and plant with an oat drill, four to five pecks of Appler or Red Rust Proof Southern oats, using as much guano as they would on their cotton. Follow oats with a bushel of clay or unknown peas to the acre. The oats and pea-vine hay will cost no more to raise and gather than a cotton crop. At market prices, they can get \$30 to \$40 an acre. That will beat cotton. If one has a rich bottom not apt to overflow, let him sow two bushels of the Burt or ninety-day oats—February 15th to March 10th. They will come off in time to plant corn June 10th to 15th, which is early enough. The farmer who plants ten to twelve acres of cotton to the horse, and raises all the corn, small grain, hay, sorghum and potatoes possible, will be surprised at results.

Exhausting Land.

Several Spartanburg farmers have told the writer that they were afraid of exhausting their land by sowing oats, planting sorghum or double-cropping. Such cautious farmers will always have poor land and light crops. Where it is possible, Piedmont lands should be made to yield two crops

every year. This is possible, except in the case of cotton. Even with that crop, rye or crimson clover may be sown in September and make fair spring pasturage; or it will improve the land if plowed in. Deep plowing and double-cropping, with cowpeas planted or sown, will improve the land and bring in the ready money. A crop that will not exhaust land is not worth raising. The wise-farmer will supply the waste by judicious rotation and culture.

CHAS. PETTY.

Spartanburg Co., S. C.

A WARNING TO DAIRYMEN.

Oleomargarine Manufacturers are Attempting to Reduce Tax on Oleo and Southern Dairymen Should Send Representatives to Congress.

Messrs. Editors:—You remember when the oleomargarine bill was before Congress the Southern members of Congress did not stand by the dairy interest of the South and for pure butter.

The manufacturers of oleomargarine are now making a determined effort to have Congress reduce the tax from ten cents to four cents per pound on colored oleomargarine. Then, if they secure their reduction, they will come again and ask for the entire removal of the tax.

There are a few men in the Southern States who have worked hard to upbuild the dairy interest in our Southland. It is gratifying to these men to note the many improvements in dairying and to see that there is now more activity in this industry than ever before.

Now it behooves every butter-maker in the Southern States to take a part in this oleomargarine question before Congress. Be active, and act quick.

It is suggested that a representative dairyman from each Southern State be appointed to go to Washington and lay before each Senator and member of Congress from the delegate's State, the dairymen's side of the question.

Of course, no man can quit his work for ten days or two weeks and bear the expense of a trip to Washington. But every butter-maker can sell one pound of butter and donate the proceeds for their purpose, and he can send the amount to The Progressive Farmer and name the man whom he thinks best suited to interview the Congressmen on this important matter.

The Dairymen's Association of Mecklenburg County will contribute ten dollars toward bearing the expenses of a delegate to Washington. Let us hear at once from all parts of North Carolina, South Carolina and other Southern States.

Yours truly,
C. C. MOORE.

Mecklenburg Co., N. C.

Chatham Record: Few farmers have any idea how much cotton is left on the seed after the cotton is ginned. All this is saved at the oil mill here and it amounts to nearly a bale a day, which is quite an important item. On an average thirty pounds of cotton is saved from every ton (or 66 2-3 bushels) of seed. This is a practical illustration of the importance of saving in little things.

The Dairyman's Mistake.

Owners of milk cows often make the mistake of supposing that a young cow with her first calf will give only milk enough to keep the calf in good condition. And so the cow and calf are allowed to run together, under the impression that the cow can be taught all about submitting to being milked after she has had her second calf.

Two mistakes, at least, are made in proceeding according to this view. Cows are largely the creatures of habit. With the first calf everything is new and strange to them, and they then readily submit to be milked, regarding it as all right. But allow the calves to run with the cows the first season, and a habit becomes formed which may not be forgotten or overcome in a life-time. When they later submit to being milked, there is very apt to be an element of protest in the submitting. We thus see some of the effects of one of the mistakes.

The other, and perhaps greater, mistake brings us up facing the condition where the calf running with the cow draws milk every hour or two, so that the milk vessels are not distended with milk, though the quantity secreted in a given time may be quite large.

And yet this is the proper time for distending the milk ducts and expanding the udder to a good capacity for holding milk.

If the wrong course is taken about these matters trouble is almost certain to be realized when the next or second calf comes. Then the wish will be to have the milk retained for twelve hours.

If an error like that to which we have referred was made at the outset the udder is now more liable than it otherwise would be to become hard; perhaps milk will be found leaking from the teats; perhaps nature accommodates the quantity of milk to the capacity to retain it, and so the cow becomes permanently a smaller milker.

Much of the future character of the cow depends on the way in which she is managed and cared for when she has her first calf.—Home and Farm.

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