

# THE PROGRESSIVE FARMER

and The Cotton Plant.

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## The Progressive Farmer

AND THE COTTON PLANT.  
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### NOTES FROM PROF. WILLIAMS.

#### About The Progressive Farmer, A Valuable Free Book for Stockmen, and Alfalfa Growing.

The best thing in the papers this week is the announcement that Editor Poe declines the offer to the editorship of the New York magazine and will remain in charge of The Progressive Farmer. It is my conviction that no place in the world to-day is so inviting to a young man of constructive mental power as the South. Great things are to be done here in the present generation. We have come into our constructive period. And the South intends to deal well with those of her sons who love her and know how to serve her. I believe the Progressive Farmer is a valuable circle. They are wide awake and keen to go forward. They will support you, Mr. Editor.

If I may pass from this pleasing fact to stock-raising, I should like to say that if you wish a valuable book, write to your Congressman and ask for a copy of the Twentieth Annual Report of the Bureau of Animal Industry. This report contains an article of one hundred pages on the management and feeding of pigs. You will get valuable information from it. And if your Congressman is as good a one as mine, he will be glad to send it to you.

Another thing I have learned is how to get a good field of alfalfa. Try this plan, if you are interested. Select a half acre near your feeding place. It must be well drained and good land. Give it as much stable manure as you can spare this spring. It is a little place, so plow it deep and harrow it fine. Then sow cow peas on it. Then in September, if the cow peas are not too rank, plow them under, running a cutaway harrow over them first. Then make a solid, fine seed bed and sow 10 pounds best alfalfa seed. In May this plot should be ready for mowing. And you can cut it every thirty days. Whenever you can spare a load of stable manure, spread it on the alfalfa.

H. H. WILLIAMS.

University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill.

#### A Progressive Farmer's Comments on Our Last Issue.

Messrs. Editors: I send my renewal for this year, 1905; I am more pleased than ever with the paper. The last number, January 24th, was one of the best of all the good numbers.

Charles Petty has some good ideas on health, planting oats, and exhausting land. Deep ploughing, thorough harrowing, and double cropping with cow peas and clover is fine.

Our dairyman friend, C. C. Moore, is a plain, pointed, spicy writer, and always gives good advice. He is small in stature, but has a large brain, and full of energy. And all farmers should take

his advice about cows and keeping farm accounts. I have been taking an inventory of my possessions twice a year (January 1st and June 1st when I list for taxes) every year that I have farmed for 40 years, and when commenced planting, etc., amount of crops made; and all the important events and work done on the farm. I often refer to it to know what laborers, stock, etc., employed that year and the number of horses, mules, cattle, etc.

I practice Professor Burkett's advice as to feeding the cotton seed to stock, and it pays better than any other plan.

Dr. Freeman always gives something good about home comforts, health, terracing, deep plowing etc.; and he writes like he talks, in an open, frank, honest style.

H. W. King's advice about saving money is good. The farmers lose a great deal by not reading our agricultural papers, by which they would often avoid the impositions practiced on them by unscrupulous agents. And when you want anything go to your own merchants or manufacturers and buy a good article and pay for it, and he will always give you satisfaction.

Your editorials this week are grand and good. And as long as you write that way, we cannot spare you. Stay with us in North and South Carolina, and help us to fight our own battles and develop this goodly land of ours. And it will soon suggestions of last week in "The Remaking of a Rural Commonwealth"—"Improvement of Public Roads;" "Better Methods of Rural Education;" "School Libraries;" "Rural Mail Delivery and Telephones;" "Farmers' Clubs;" "The Old-time Farmer and his Modern Prototype"—all of which I enjoyed so much and will file away and read it over and over again.

I hope our farmers will take Brother Parker's advice and stand pat; hold fast to the cotton and reduce the acreage. They have been talking it for years, but every one thinks the other fellow will get ahead, and so they go on in the old rut until they have cut it so deep that they can't travel it now. Twelve years ago I cut my cotton crop one-half to ten acres to the horse, and doubled, the corn, wheat, oats, hay, cattle, hogs; and have been making an independent living, educating the children and improving the land.

And if Sam Archer will come to see us, we can set him down to some good country hams and sausage, some good home-made patent flour ground at the Mecklenburg Roller Mill, and home-raised corn bread, and a mess of big or lye hominy, with a dessert of peaches and Jersey cream, or strawberry pie.

Have sold more than half my cotton at 10 cents and have the balance stacked away, and will hold on with tar, pitch and turpentine grit, notwithstanding I held some last year from 16 cents to 11 cents.

So you see I am truly a loyal farmer. And I have no idea now of going back to the ante-bellum or extensive cotton planting system of farming, but will continue to work less land and more thoroughly, raise more provisions, more stock, more manure, and use improved implements with modern, practical methods. I would like for our farmers to try this plan for a few years, and they will be in better condition.

Well, there are many other good articles that I would like to notice from your good correspondents, but it would make this letter too long, and I am afraid the reading would be dull. But I enjoy them all—the Home Circle, Social Chat, Reading Course, and all. With good wishes for them all, and great prosperity for The Progressive Farmer—and may its field of usefulness be greatly enlarged.

W. E. ARDREY.

Mecklenburg Co., N. C.

### THOUGHTS FOR FARMERS.

#### Give the Girls a Chance.

The daughters of well-to-do farmers do not have full work. They cannot do ordinary farm work with their father and brothers. Those living in the cotton sections may pick cotton a few weeks, but they are not fully employed the balance of the year. Why not turn over the poultry to the girls? It is a pleasant and interesting business. Besides The Progressive Farmer, take some first class poultry paper. Let the girls charge the family with all the eggs and fowls used at home and keep an account of sales. In this way the father will get a valuable lesson as to value of poultry as well as of girls. Bear in mind that two dozen turkeys averaging 12 pounds each are now worth as much as a bale of cotton. Another suitable business for girls is raising bees and honey. That is light work and quite remunerative in good honey years. A girl might have a liking for cattle and then she should have charge of the milk and butter. That would be an excellent training for girls and would help them to know how to do things that have to be done in every family. Give the girls the best chance possible.

#### The Tenant System.

For years we have been watching the tenant system. It is generally injurious to land. There will be little subsoiling, sowing of small grain, planting of fruit trees, terracing and ditching, when tenants rent land from year to year. The best plan for the landlord is to hire his plow hands the year round. Then he controls the farm. He can either hire the hoeing and picking cotton, or he can do all the plowing and let hands hoe and gather crops, receiving one-third after expenses for fertilizer and ginning are paid. The next best method is to furnish stock and let the tenants do all the work and receive one-half. That is about the rule in the Piedmont section of this State. It is quite noticeable that the farmer who owns his farm animals and directs the work, improves his land every year. Any farm cultivated by short term tenants with poor stock, will go down until no one will live on it.

CHARLES PETTY.

Spartanburg Co., S. C.

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