

THE PROGRESSIVE FARMER

and The Cotton Plant.

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THE COTTON PLANT—VOL. XXII, NO. 8.

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THE SOUTH'S GOLDEN OPPORTUNITY NEGLECTED.

A Michigan Correspondent Calls Attention to Our Advantages for Stock Raising as Compared With Western Farmers Who Must Feed With a Fork Six Months in the Year—Soil Suicide vs. Soil Building—The Cotton Pulled Over Our Eyes.

Prof. B. W. Kilgore, Raleigh, N. C.

Dear Sir:—I find The Progressive Farmer very interesting. So many things are vastly different from our methods. It seems as though you are greatly favored. To-day (March 12th) the sun is shining on fields glistening with snow. Here and there the earth breaks through and looks appealingly upward to the sun. Not two hundred feet away are drifts all of four feet deep. There are a few bare spots in the roads, but runner vehicles are all in use still, and this is the seventy-seventh day of continuous, unbroken sleighing. There were a few days of sleighing previous to that, but there was an interval of bare ground. For seventy-seven days the snow has not been wholly melted from my house roof.

Do the planters sell their cotton seed to oil mills and buy back the fertilizer meal? Isn't this meal of more value to feed farm animals than for fertilizer? Certainly with your bermuda and crab grasses and vast store of cottonseed it does seem as though you might ruin the trust by growing beeves and mutton for the great city trade of our Eastern markets.

Profit in Feeding Lambs.

Feeding lambs is followed to some extent here; farmers with 80 to 160 acres of land feed twenty to fifty lambs, where so situated as to pasture the ewes, profitably. The industry is at a low ebb this season as to number fed, and the price of lambs is close to 8 per cent (live weight) all this winter. You may be assured there is good profit in it.

The United States consumed 461,000,000 pounds of wool in 1903; three-eighths of it foreign grown—say 90,000,000 lbs. What ails the South with its wide-spread hills and mountain lands clad in perennial grass—ideal home for sheep—to go on making cotton and tobacco, all hard work and soil-suicide, when sheep are soil conservators, easily tended, and pay large profit as mutton, quite independent of wool?

Our Advantages Over the West.

You are nearer New York than is Iowa, and I just read in an Iowa farm paper of one farmer who is feeding 12,000 sheep, a mere handful to what he usually feeds. The beef trust discouraged him and he sold largely of his corn crop, rather than feed beeves and sheep as he has heretofore done. But you see, he is at the mercy of the beef and railroad trusts, while you people are a mere step to the seaboard, and thence to market, independent of the trusts.

If I were physically well I'd like to try the South. It does seem as though your blessings are infinite as

compared with us, feeding farm animals with a fork six months in a year.

How the South's Great Opportunity Slips.

The South appears to be in the grasp of the tobacco trust and cotton sharks. Still, its people go on impoverishing their soils growing these crops; still trying to keep up fertility with phosphate rock and imported fertilizers to the exhaustion of their pocket-books, while a vast market for food stuffs, meats particularly, lies in the hollow of her hand—unheeded!

Argentina and Australasia sold us about 225,000,000 pounds of wool in ten years. Most of the time the South lay face-down across the knees of the trusts squalling for the merciful blows of the trusts' price slipper. Think of Argentina, 10,000 miles away at the south end of creation, selling us wool at seven cents, and the South, with all the blessings of a robust wool tariff, burning cotton to keep up the price! If that isn't a spectacle for gods and men!

The South Doesn't Need to Feed Six Months With a Fork.

With illimitable resources in the best pasture on earth, vast stores of cottonseed, inexhaustible possibilities in corn, cowpeas, alfalfa, rape, peanuts, cane and sorghum syrups, the South should have millions of head of muttons and beeves, thousands of packing houses and fleets of ocean liners bearing refrigerator meats to other lands. If New Zealand can ship loads of frozen rabbits to England, what ails your people? Must they always hold a pound of cotton so near their eyes they can't see a dollar less than arm's length away?

These men who are organizing the people to grow less cotton should at the same time organize them to grow more meat products.

The Cotton Pulled Over Our Eyes.

Perennial swine plague will make pork growing on extensive scale difficult in the South, but what is wrong with mutton growing? 'Tis a cleaner meat and healthy always. The sheep isn't a scavenger. North Carolina could well afford to grant a bounty on every well-bred sheep imported for breeding into the State; on every pound of wool grown and every sheep carcass exported from the State in ten years.

To aid sheep breeders, English law once compelled all her dead to be buried in woolen shrouds—and see what an immense commerce in wool she built up and holds to this day. But the South—oh, she has the cotton pulled over her eyes and sees not!

H.
Genesee Co., Mich.

BUT HERE IS A BETTER STORY.

How the Extermination of the Fever Tick is Doubling the Profits of Cattle Raising in Western Counties—One Year's Profits to Farmers Will Pay the Cost of the Work.

Messrs. Editors:—The attention of your readers is directed to the maps herewith showing the changes in the cattle quarantine lines in North Carolina to prevent the spread of Texas or tick fever (distemper). Those interested in the cattle industry and the removal of the most serious obstacle to its development, the fever tick, will note with satisfac-

tion the increase in the free or un-quarantined area of the State. Figure 1 shows the Federal quarantine line as it was in 1902, while

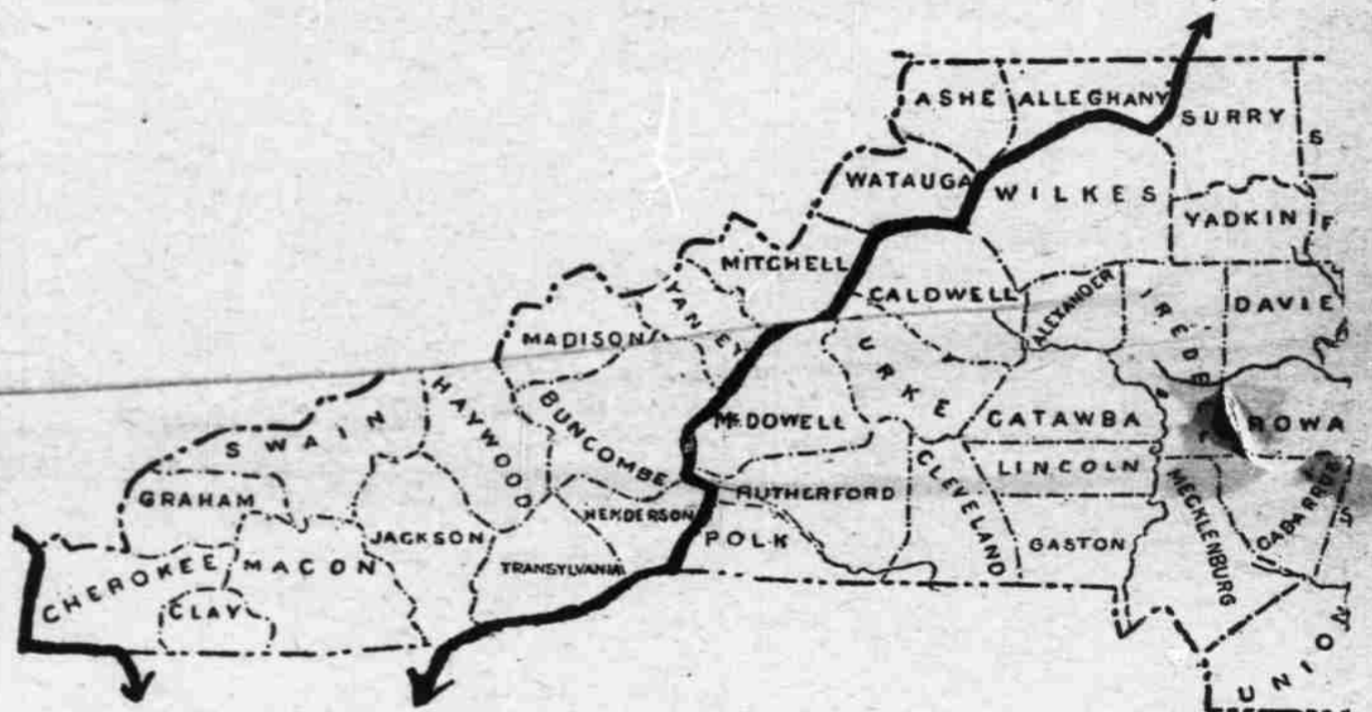


Fig. 1.—Federal Quarantine Line Across North Carolina, 1902.

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Southern cattle industry is, to a very great extent, the result of the ravages of the fever tick and the attendant Federal quarantine restrictions.

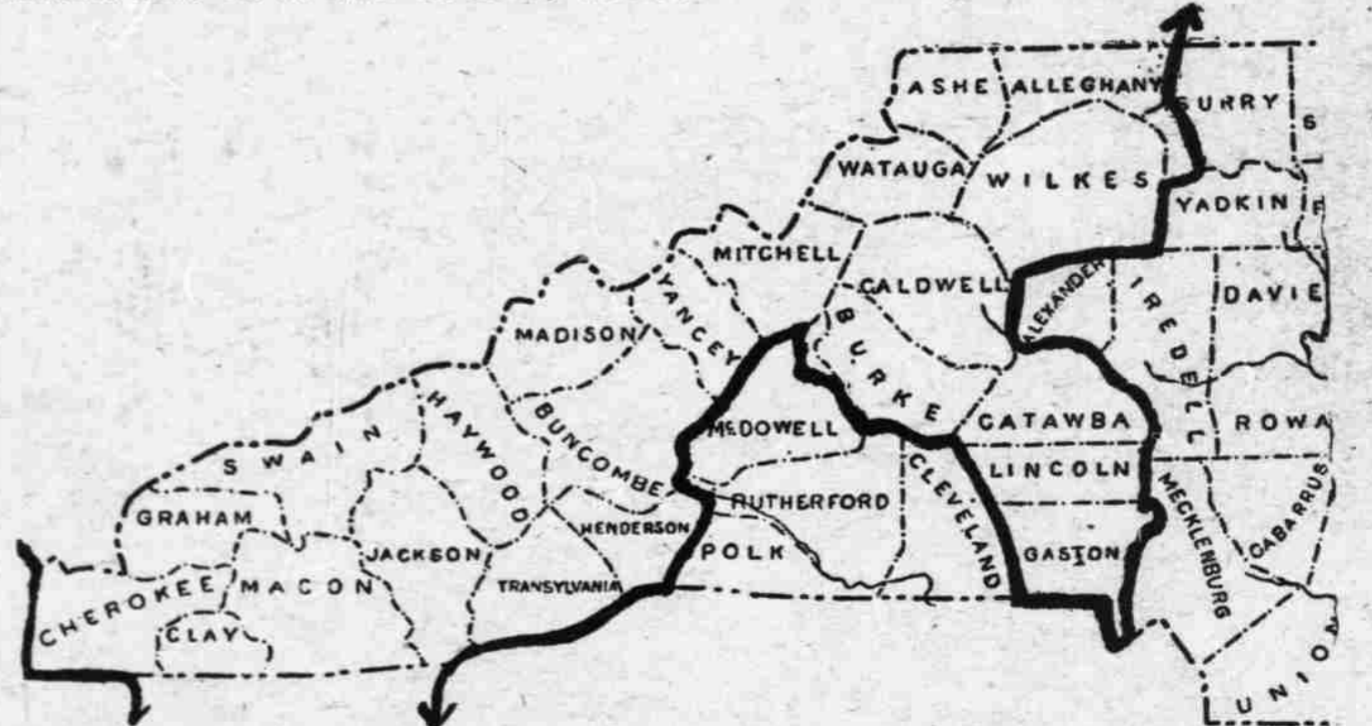


Fig. 2.—Federal Quarantine Line Across North Carolina, 1905.

Figure 2 shows the line in force during 1905.

It will be noted that six entire counties, Wilkes, Caldwell, Burke, Catawba, Lincoln, Gaston and parts of two others, Surry and McDowell, have been exempted from all Federal quarantine restrictions during the past three years. This is the result of the campaign of tick extermination which has been carried on by the North Carolina Department of Agriculture, and is, it appears to me, a gratifying success. It not only demonstrates the feasibility of exterminating the fever ticks in all "stock

To reach the best markets our cattle must go north of the quarantine line, and must be slaughtered at once or go back home. The buyers know this and pay from 1/4c. to 1/2c. per pound less for them than for cattle of the same quality from north of the quarantine line.

The six counties which have been released from all Federal quarantine restrictions, because we have exterminated the fever ticks within their borders, sell about \$150,000 worth of cattle annually. If the price of these cattle was reduced only 1/4c. per (Continued on Page 5.)