

# THE PROGRESSIVE FARMER

## and The Cotton Plant.

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### The Progressive Farmer

AND THE COTTON PLANT.  
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#### A LITTLE LETTER TO THE SAMPLE COPY READER.

My dear Sir: This number of The Progressive Farmer and Cotton Plant has come to you marked "Sample Copy." That means that you are one of a number of wide-awake farmers and truckers in the Carolinas and Virginia who ought to read The Progressive Farmer, but don't.

And this copy is sent you solely to give you the opportunity to reform.

It's not fashionable nor profitable to try to farm here without The Progressive Farmer.

And it's not fashionable because it doesn't pay. Every week the most successful and enterprising farmers and truckers of our territory write our paper of methods and ideas which help them make money—and which will help you make money.

There are some papers you can't afford to take, and there are some you can't afford not to take. The Progressive Farmer is one you can't afford not to take.

It is not an expenditure, but an investment, and pays for itself every issue.

"Most money pays only 6 per cent a year," says Mr. Ashley Horne, "but the money I pay for The Progressive Farmer pays me 6 per cent a week."

"The Progressive Farmer," says Mr. J. M. Paris, "has given me \$100 profit in improved land, crops and stock for every \$1 I have paid for it."

But there's no use to argue. Here's the paper—let it speak for itself. We know you are going to subscribe, because we are going to get every wide-awake farmer in North Carolina and adjoining States before we quit.

But what we want is to get you on our list at once, and in order to induce you to do this we are making a remarkable offer:

The Progressive Farmer every week from now till January 1, 1906 for only 50 cents!

This is a special cut price open only to those not now subscribers—no profit in it for us—and made only to insure 1,000 new readers before June.

We count on you as one of the lucky thousand.

And the quicker you respond, the more you get for your money.

Order to-day.

Whenever you wish to buy anything, look in the advertising columns of The Progressive Farmer. If you don't find it advertised, write direct to us. If you do find it advertised, rest assured that the advertiser will treat you fairly, and if you wish further information, ask him for particulars and prices.

#### THOUGHTS FOR FARMERS.

##### Sowing Oats in the Open Furrow.

Mr. J. O. Green, Franklinton, N. C., makes the following inquiry:

"I am a reader of The Progressive Farmer and enjoy your letters. Will you please describe fully how oats are sown in the open furrow? What kind of plow is used? I wish to try it next fall."

Now, Mr. Green lives in the northern part of the State. Winters must be pretty cold, with snows and heavy freezes. But he will find no difficulty in carrying the Red Rust Proof oats or the Appler, which is an improvement on the Red, through the severest winters. These are the oats to plant if a heavy yield is desired. Prepare the land in October, or better in September, if there is no growing crop on it. Subsoil and harrow. Now in subsoiling do not break more than two or three inches of the clay at one time. In this country the Gantt oat drill and fertilizer distributor is used. It is made like a guano distributor, except that the hopper has a division in the middle. The fertilizer is placed in the front hopper and the oats in the other. There are two slots with two levers to regulate the output of fertilizer and oats. I generally use a small shovel plow, 5 inches wide, because I have been planting thin land to improve it. The rows are 12 to 14 inches apart. With a six-inch shovel the rows would be wider. Always run the rows so that the dirt from the plow will not fill up the preceding furrow. First the fertilizer drops immediately behind the plow and the dirt falling back covers it about an inch. Then the oats drop down and the two little iron covers follow and throw an inch or two of dirt on the oats. A lively hand will plant two to two and a half acres daily as soon as he learns how to manipulate the machine, which is not more difficult than a cotton planter. Oats should be planted in October if possible. If not they will come on all right planted in November. Many of our farmers had given up the Red Rust Proof oats because they are tender and easily killed. There was an intensely dry cold spell January 25 to 29. That changed the color of the oats somewhat, but did not kill them. Then came the snow and ice of February, when the ground was frozen two weeks. They came out of that all right looking green and luxuriant. Not a single lot planted in the open furrow has been killed.

#### Rotation.

While the revival spirit is working amongst the cotton farmers, they need wise missionaries to get them in the right way and keep them there. Many of them have an idea that, if by some sort of conventions, resolutions and threats, cotton can be brought up to 10 cents this fall they will be all right. That is building on the sand, with probable storms any year. Let us all get right, as the preachers say, before we start. There should be a well laid plan with these objects in view. The deepening and improvement of the soil which will increase the yield should be the first aim. Best implements suited to the land and crops should be bought. After this the chief aim should be to raise all home supplies possible. One of these days thrifty, wise farmers in the Piedmont belt will buy nothing but sugar, coffee, salt and such condiments and luxuries as they cannot raise. Here comes the necessity for a judicious rotation of crops.

This suggestion is made for a rotation that will improve land: Corn and peas, followed by small grain and that followed by peas sown or planted. Then plant in cotton the third year. After the cotton begin with the corn and peas again. This is a good three years' plan. The

soil must be deepened until it is 10 to 15 inches deep. Suppose a two-horse farmer has 60 acres of arable land. That will give him 20 acres in small grain, 20 in corn and peas and 20 in cotton. You see how fast the land will improve with 40 acres in peas each year, provided the stubble and corn land are sown or planted in peas.

CHAS. PETTY.

Spartanburg, S. C.

#### Second Crop Irish Potatoes: How to Grow Them

Messrs. Editors:—We have been endeavoring to grow second crop potatoes for about ten years and find the second or fall crop more profitable when managed properly than the spring crop, as the yield is fully as heavy and prices rule higher. Northern grown seed this spring was extremely low and could be bought for 75 cents per bushel; our second crop seed sold as high as \$1.25 per bushel.

Now is the time to commence preparing land for July and August planting. Plow land deep with two horses and keep well harrowed until planting time and thus conserve the moisture. This is the most important factor in potato growing, for according to analysis potatoes are three-fourths water, being one-fourth dry matter, thus removing but little plant-food from the soil. This accounts for heavy crops of wheat after potatoes.

This is an excellent way to prepare wheat land and realize at least \$50 net per acre in the preparation before seeding.

As we all know, North Carolina, with other sections, experienced a very long and hot drought through September and first half of October last year. We prepared a field of five acres as above stated and kept well harrowed until August 1st, when it was planted in potatoes and cultivated often and shallow until digging time, when it was a surprise to every one who saw them to find nice large tubers grown in such a dry time.

These were dug the first days of November and immediately sown to wheat (putting two and one-half pecks per acre; when not too thick all runs up and heads are longer); and at this writing the crop is very promising.

We wish to say the second crop potatoes are better for seed or the table than when grown earlier.

W. L. KIVETT.

Guilford Co., N. C.

#### Reducing Cotton Acreage in South Carolina.

I like your paper; I have never taken but one agricultural paper before, but have read several, and think The Progressive Farmer and Cotton Plant the best I ever saw. It is full of good solid reading.

Mr. Editor, I do not think they went about reducing the acreage of the cotton crop right. I think each man ought to plant so many acres to the horse, say eight or ten, or even twelve, but no more; and as much less as he pleases. A good many of the farmers around here do not plant more than the above number of acres.

As to the fertilizer used, we cannot tell by that that there will be much cotton made, for I used as much, or more, than I did last year, yet my cotton crop is cut some. I only plant thirty-four acres to four horses, but I planted eight acres of pinders. Last year I only put a little land-plaster on them; this year I put three hundred pounds of other fertilizers to the acre, and I am putting a great deal more on corn, and I think that a great many more are doing the same. Our people are trying to make less cotton and more hog and hominy.

H.

Colleton Co., S. C.