

# 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.

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. Asheley 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 one dollar I have paid for it."

But there's no use to argue. Here's the paper to speak for itself—and here we are making the biggest offer in the history of the paper:

To any man who has never taken The Progressive Farmer we will send our paper and the Minneapolis Home Magazine from now till January 1, 1906, for only 50 cents!

You know The Progressive Farmer is worth while, and we assure you that the Home Magazine is also worth while. It is a large 24-page illustrated monthly, one of the best of the women's magazine, the regular subscription rate being 25 cents a year. It is filled with strong editorials on women's affairs; interesting romance; travel and descriptive articles; fancy work and fashion articles, and departments of housekeeping and floriculture.

The regular subscription price of The Progressive Farmer alone from now till January 1st is 65 cents, and in addition to this, we offer a first-class monthly magazine for the women readers of your family—all for only 50 cents!

This is unquestionably the biggest offer ever made by The Progressive Farmer management—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 July.

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.

### THOUGHTS FOR FARMERS.

#### The Oat Drill.

Some time ago J. O. Greene, of Franklinton, N. C., made some inquiries in regard to an oat drill. He was answered through The Progressive Farmer. Recently another North Carolina farmer who reads The Progressive Farmer, wrote for the name of the manufacturer of the drill. We will state for the information of all farmers that oats planted with that drill were not injured by the cold of last winter. Even the Appler and Red oats, tender varieties, were fresh and luxuriant after the February ice and sleet melted. The Appler oats sown October 20th to November 5th, were ready to cut the last days of May. Oats sown February or March may be put in with a wheat drill, for all danger of freezing is then over. But the best time to plant them is October when they should go in the open furrow.

#### Nitrate of Soda.

Farmers in this county who have used nitrate of soda on small grain are satisfied with the results. Nitrogen is the most expensive of the commercial fertilizers, and nitrate of soda is the most active of all the nitrates used. Sometimes it fails because applied at the wrong time. The writer used 50 pounds to the acre on some oats when they were three or four inches high. When they were ready to reap the indications were that the yield had been increased 30 to 50 per cent. There was a lot of wheat close at hand that had been well manured in the fall. It seemed that there was ammonia enough to make the wheat. But nitrate was applied to small portion of the ground and in two weeks the wheat was a dark green, and now when ready for cutting, it looks as if the yield would be doubled. In sowing small grain in the fall use no ammoniated fertilizers. They will be inert or go to waste during the winter months. Wait till March or April and use 50 to 100 pounds of nitrate of soda, which will cost about \$2.75 a hundred pounds when bought by the ton. Fifty pounds to the acre applied at the right time will make a great difference in small grain.

#### The Negro as a Laborer.

Immigration Commissioner Watson, of this State, has established an office in New York, and is ready on application to furnish laborers or tenants. He advertises that farm laborers will cost \$15.00 a month with board and comfortable lodging. That no doubt includes the washing. That will bring the price up to \$21.00 a month, or \$252.00 a year, which is about six bales of 8-cent cotton. That will be quite satisfactory to the farmers, provided each hand can make at least \$450 worth of marketable produce a year. But immigration will come slowly. We have laborers here now. They need encouragement and help. In this State negroes make and gather three-fourths of the cotton crop. The first duty of the landlords is to make this labor more effective. It can be done. Build better houses for them. Employ them for long terms, so that they may plant gardens, set out fruit trees and have a milch cow. Give them a square deal. Instruct them in better methods. Furnish good horses, mules and tools. Never cheat them. Make them give opinions as to best methods of work. Make them feel that they are intelligent men and not mere hands. Treated in this way nine negroes in ten will do good work. We saw several tenants on one farm recently. The landlord saw them about every two weeks. There was one white man on the place, who was an adviser and not an overseer. These negroes have good mules. They take a pride in their work. A few days ago they were all out of the grass when three or four of their white neighbors were still in the fight. We are sure that negro labor can be made much more effective. At

present they are here. They are going to stay here. It is the cheapest and best labor available and it can be greatly improved.

CHAS. PETTY.

Spartanburg, S. C.

### Unfinished Houses in the Country.

Messrs. Editors: I wonder if there are as many unfinished houses in every section of the State as there are in this section. If so, there are about two-thirds of the houses in the rural sections unfinished.

This fact tells a story which shows an indifference for home, and want of love for home and home things. Many a wife's heart has grown faint and sad over this condition, and the bright and cherry hopes of the boys and girls have been shattered because of the unfinished house at home. When they go over to see their friends and find the house finished and everything fixed up so nicely, as it can only be in a finished house, they become dissatisfied with their own homes. They cannot take the interest and pride in their homes as their neighbors seem to enjoy in their finished homes. Yes, such a home is not loved and cherished as it should be, and that home feeling, as expressed by the words, "home, sweet home," never grows so strong in the hearts of boys and girls reared in unfinished houses as it does in those whose homes are finished and well arranged for the comfort and pleasure of each one of the family. My friend, why don't you finish your house? Do you know why? No, that you don't know. So I will tell you why. Why, you think you are enjoying life well enough and having about as good a time as most other people, and as you are growing older you care less for these things, and so time passes and the house is neglected and you conclude it is good enough for me anyhow. Yes, and every one will agree with you that it is good enough for you. And anything else is plenty good for you and all your like. You see, you never had a thought about your wife, who is silently going around doing as much or more work than you. You have not thought that by just a little more work the house could be finished and how it would cheer up your wife and bring back the bright face and happy heart as she goes about arranging and fixing things in the finished house.

No, you never thought of the pleasure it would give those bright boys and girls for you to do a little more work on the house and finish it.

You have thought only of self in the matter, and never dreamed of the pleasure one gets in making others happy, especially when the others are your own wife and children.

My friend, just think over this matter now, and count up the cost and see how much it will take to finish the house. It only needs the lathes put on and then plastering and painting, and it is done. You and the boys can do nearly all this this summer and never miss the time from the fields. A good plasterer can put the plaster all over the first time in one and a half days, and you and the boys can do the rest. Now what are you going to do about it? Are you going to finish it or go on having your wife to stick up paper and hang up sheets where the lathes and plaster should be? Just think what a comfort and pleasure it will be to your family and friends, and go to work and finish the house.

H. F. FREEMAN.

Say less than the other fellow and listen more than you talk, for when a man's listening he isn't telling on himself, and he's flattering the fellow who is.—"Old Gorgon Graham."