

# THE PROGRESSIVE FARMER

and The Cotton Plant.

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## The Progressive Farmer

AND THE COTTON PLANT.

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### THOUGHTS FOR FARMERS.

#### The Food Question.

Very few of the intelligent farmers know how much it costs to furnish their table one year. Nearly all of them use and waste much more food than is necessary. Our Southern people have inherited a liberal hospitality. If the editor of The Progressive Farmer should visit the home of any of his well-to-do readers, he would find enough food on the table for twice the number to be fed. It falls to the lot of the writer now and then to eat with a tenant on the farm. With no servant to feed, we have seen fried ham on the table sufficient for the breakfast of five or six people, when there were only three to eat. If the family has a pig or two, the surplus can go to them, but it is a bad habit to cook extravagantly. Children get erroneous ideas of economy. We knew a woman once who would have two or three kinds of meat on the table and for dessert several kinds of preserves, pies and cakes. The whole layout was in exceedingly bad taste and far from appetizing. Every mother of a family should study rigid economy in cooking. At the same meal there should be no vulgar variety as though one was trying to make a display. Cook just enough for the need of the family and no more. Better be a little short rather than have a lot of food left over. But even with care there will be "left overs," but the careful manager will have savory hash or meat pies out of the scraps of meat, and biscuits and loaf bread will go into toast.

#### What Does Food Cost?

Mrs. Alice Brice kept the mess hall at Erskine College, Due West, S. C. She received a salary. The charge for students was \$7.00 a month. With that she hired cooks and waiters, bought food and fuel, and at the end of the year she had left as a surplus \$235.00, which was divided amongst the 51 students. There were no complaints as to quantity or quality of food. The cost was about \$6.50 a month. In the home where fuel is not bought and the cook not hired and a good cow or two kept the table expenses will be brought down pretty low, provided the farmer makes his own bread, garden truck and potatoes. The thrifty housewife can furnish a good table every day and Sunday at \$2.50 to \$3.00 a month, provided they raise supplies at home. It would be a good lesson for children, especially the girls to study kitchen economy. The French women are said to be experts in that sort of work, and they can take the cold odds and ends of a meal, usually wasted in the South, and get up an excellent dinner or supper. We saw a young professional man starting out in the right way a few days ago. He bought a soup bone. He said we will cook that and get meat enough for hash for breakfast and the balance with the bone will give us fine soup for dinner. Nothing will be wasted in that home.

#### More Cows Needed.

This week a business man from this county said that he had ridden a day or two in search of cattle. He could buy only a few poor ones. Every day small calves from two days to two months old are brought to this market. The farmers seem to think that they cannot afford to raise cattle.

If they pursue the same plan a few years they will be buying or doing without milk and butter. Fresh milch cows now bring \$30.00 to \$40.00. These same calves sold to the butcher at \$1.50 to \$2.50, if fed well would bring \$10.00 to \$15.00 when a year old. Every farmer should endeavor to raise a surplus cow or two every year. It does not cost as much to raise a milch cow as a bale of cotton. A few acres of land set in Bermuda grass and a few acres of sorghum will feed several cattle a year, especially if a little pea vine hay and cotton seed meal are added.

CHAS. PETTY.

Spartanburg, S. C.

#### Thoughts for Tobacco Farmers.

Messrs. Editors: I would prefer to write on my experience as a farmer with fruit, wheat, or other farm products if I were not more interested in tobacco and in sympathy with the growers, as I know from experience of a life-time of about sixty years, that tobacco cost the average farmer more hard and constant labor, more outlay of money than any other crop, and no margin at present price, unless you are so fortunate as to be favorably situated, and owner of a kind of land that will produce the finest type. Even in this case, the profit is small, while the average of all the tobacco sold on the largest loose tobacco market in the world falls below the cost of production caused by the A. T. Company holding the situation and keeping back "the marginal part of the price" of the raw material that the farmers ought to justly have to build up the waste places on the farms, and bring about a better feeling and prosperous condition to all directly or indirectly connected in the growing of tobacco.

Brother tobacco grower, why is it we are reaping nothing on an average for our investment? I say it is our fault. We should have organized immediately after the organization of the A. T. Company and controlled the price of the rightful part of the raw material or stop the production.

This is a day in the progress of time that organized capital should be met by a similar organization, and rights and equity demanded in a business way by our competent and business farmers.

Farmers in other branches of industry are organized and organizing, commanding the price, succeeding comparatively well, with a bright future for further progress, and why not the tobacco farmers learn by the experience of other branches of organization in agriculture and horticulture, and fall in line with the Tobacco Growers' Protective Association, and let us unitedly work for better prices? The proceeds will be distributed over a larger area, and reach more needy destitute persons.

The door of entrance into the Tobacco Growers' Protective Association stands ajar, for all growers of tobacco to enter in, and why not help your brother farmer in preference to the A. T. Company, which is rich and growing richer? It will continue to increase as long as we farmers will make tobacco below cost of production, and act the humble part of a slave to a rich monopoly that does not care for our welfare only when we come in contact or cripple their interest.

Farmers of the Bright Tobacco Belt of Virginia and North Carolina, take the case. You are the jury to decide which side you will work on—for the A. T. Company, their wives and children, of which the principal stockholders are worth thousands, even millions of dollars, you have helped to make up to date, by the A. T. Company holding back the price of your tobacco that you so justly ought to have, or will you come out like an intelligent farmer and demand your rights through the Tobacco Growers' Protective Association,

fight and work for the betterment of your brother tobacco farmer, who is oppressed and have to work in slavery to live to make ends meet each succeeding year?

This Association is well organized and equipped with good officers, State and county, in good shape for business, plans thoughtfully considered, that to be efficient must have at least eighty per cent of the farmers in the Bright Belt, and you, reader of this article, we need your help; will you longer put off a known duty to help the needy and oppressed? If you can write, and your county is not organized, write at once for our Inter-State President, S. A. Adams, Red Oak, Va. Call a mass-meeting and Brother Adams will make you a speech that will convince you and all that hear him of the importance of the farmers organizing.

Yours to serve,

M. W. B. VEAZEY.

Granville Co., N. C.

#### Dr. Freeman's Talks.

Messrs. Editors: The farmer who is now actively engaged in farming, if he learns much more about his business as a farmer he must learn by observation. He must learn not only from his own experience, but he must see what others are doing. This seeing and the-how, as to other farmers actions, should engage the attention of every farmer. When you read about or hear about what Mr. A has done, you generally say: "I don't believe it!" And the reason you don't believe it is because you haven't been able to do so by your manner or way of doing things.

The thing for you to do my friend, is to go and see for yourself if these things are so, and if so find out how it was done. Compare Mr. A's way of doing things with your way, and you will more than likely find your way a poor one. Have more confidence in your neighbor, and go and see what he is doing and ask how he does things. Those of you who attended the farmers meeting at the A. & M. College last year know how much better it is to learn by observation than by any other way. I took the ground at that meeting that it would be better to have small experimental stations at each county seat, than to have only one in the State, and farmers institutes in different parts of the State each year. As I have said, our farmers will learn by observation, but not from lectures. Now if our agricultural department could establish small stations at each county seat in the State, our farmers could see at these stations in practical use what has been developed at the A. & M. College. By this arrangement all our farmers would get the benefits of the operations of the State College at once, and the agricultural interest of the State would be wonderfully benefited at once. I hope to see the State establish these practical small stations in reach of every farmer in the near future, but at present we must use the present arrangements and get the most out of them possible. Let every farmer begin now to arrange to go to the A. & M. College for a few days this summer. One day spent there will do you more good than a whole year on your farm at home. Go, see, and learn the how, and then tell it to every one you see for a year, and you will help to fill the barns and smoke houses of your neighbors, which means prosperity and happy homes.

H. F. FREEMAN.

A little fresh-air child saw a herd of cows for the first time, and, after watching them chewing their cuds, in amazement, he said deprecatingly to the farmer: "Oh, mister, do you have to buy gum for all those cows to chew?"—Chautauqua Assembly Herald.