

**NOTES FROM DOUBLE OAKS FARM.**

**About The Progressive Farmer—Mecklenbug Crop Prospects—Plant Turnips and Sorghum—Bit of Dairy Experience.**

Messrs. Editors: The mail has arrived; there are four agricultural weeklies in the lot. I have glanced over each one, and I am proud to see that our North Carolina Progressive Farmer is as neat, clear-printed, and carries as entertaining and instructive reading as any of the papers have. I am proud of this because it is our own home paper; but there is another way to feel proud about it. If the farmers of our State were not intelligent, thoughtful men, such a paper as we have could not exist. (I am glad that young fellow Poe is away from home while I write about The Progressive Farmer. You see I do not want to swell his head by telling him what a good paper he sends out.)

\* \* \*

A twenty mile drive over a section of Mecklenburg shows the poorest prospects for our farmers I have seen in years. I saw acres and acres of cotton not ten inches tall, the corn is twisted and burned to an extent that means failure no matter how much rain falls later. Truck patches are burned to dryness, millet and other forage crops have not grown an inch in weeks.

\* \* \*

I am not a cotton man—can't tell what to do about the cotton crop, but I am sure there is a chance for us yet to make our corn and forage. Even if we get a plow season by July 20th we can plant various forage crops and make a fairly good yield from them.

A few acres planted to sorghum this month will come in powerful handy to feed out next winter. I think it a good notion for all of us cattle feeders to get a hump on us right now and plant what we can in forage plants.

\* \* \*

If there is no silo on your farm, I would advise a good big turnip patch. Go at it right away. Sow in July, August and September. If you raise a big crop, the cattle, sheep, and hogs will fare better next winter. And boil a pot full for the chickens; you will hear them cackle.

\* \* \*

At our cotton farmers' meeting last Saturday, Capt. S. B. Alexander gave a very entertaining and instructive talk. There was a larger crowd than usual in attendance, and close attention was given to the Captain. I wish I could recall all I heard and give it to the readers, I think all would enjoy reading the Captain's speech, and be benefited by so doing.

\* \* \*

I am a young man again—really I did not know I was such a nimble fellow as I am. Necessity limbers up old folks very often. Two weeks back the driver of one milk wagon got mashed on the streets about 3.30 a. m. Very soon afterwards the 'phone rang old man Moore out of bed and told him there was a load of milk to be delivered by 7.30, and nobody to do it. So the old man got aboard that wagon and lit out. For two weeks I had to mount that vehicle every morning at 3 o'clock, deliver until 8, and again at 2 p. m., till 6 p. m. Oh, yes; I did the work, but I confess it is just a little too lively work for my liking.

\* \* \*

Young man, if you go to dairying you can count on a like experience. You will never get so old but that you will have sometimes to feed, milk and deliver milk. And don't

ever get above the work, let it be cleaning cow barn or any other job.

C. C. MOORE.

Mecklenburg Co., N. C.

**WHAT AN ACRE OF GROUND DOES.**

**How an Industrious Ex-Confederate Makes It Grow Vegetables for a Family of Five and \$175 Worth for Sale.**

Messrs. Editors: Visitors to the Charleston Exposition interested in agriculture were attracted by a large picture on exhibition in the North Carolina section. This picture represented an old Confederate soldier with his wife and two daughters in their garden gathering peas. This picture was made from a photograph of Mr. Lewis Grady's "Unique Truck Garden" in Kinston, N. C.

A certain seed house has been widely advertising this garden as a specimen of what can be done when their seeds are used. A fertilizer company has been announcing that the results attained by Mr. Grady were due to their fertilizers. The Department of Agriculture of North Carolina assures all visitors to the State Museum that the remarkable yield of vegetables from Mr. Grady's garden is clearly due to the soil of Eastern North Carolina. Some of us who have watched the old man's methods of cultivation have gotten hold of the idea that the man has more to do with it than either of the above.

Mr. Grady's garden occupies just an acre within the corporate limits of Kinston. From the windows of the train on the A. and N. C. Railroad his garden may be seen about a hundred yards to the north of the railway track, perhaps four yards east of the depot. There is nothing unusual about the soil. The fertilizer used is a brand commonly used by the truck growers in this section. After preparing the land in early spring, about the only tools used by Mr. Grady are an ordinary hoe and a smaller hoe of his own manufacture made from a buggy spring bent at a right angle and bolted to a hickory hoe helve.

Mr. Grady told me recently that he had something in his garden to sell every day in the year. He believes in intensive cultivation. He rents the acre of ground, paying \$20 per year rent, and nearly every year raises radish enough in odd corners to pay the rent. One year he sold \$23.20 worth of radishes, besides having enough for his family and sending quite a number of bunches to his friends. He has a great diversity of crops. This year he planted his peas January 2nd, and will continue to plant something up to next January. Throughout the season as he removes one vegetable from the garden he immediately plants another in its place. He grows in his garden radishes, turnips, mustard, garden peas, beans, corn, okra, lima-beans, kale and collards. He keeps his ground highly fertilized and works it thoroughly.

During the past three years his income from this one acre has been as follows: \$147.70, \$183.50, \$181.05.

This strikes me as being a fairly good showing for an old crippled Confederate soldier working for a few hours in the morning on one acre of land. He has produced enough vegetables to supply a family of five and then sell in three years \$412.25 worth.

B. W. SPILMAN.  
Lenoir Co., N. C.

**Believes Cow Peas Will Kill Nut Grass.**

Messrs. Editors: I see in the last issue of The Progressive Farmer an inquiry as to how to kill nut grass. While my tests are not yet conclusive, I believe that cow peas will kill it. Plow and harrow the land as thoroughly as possible; about June 20th harrow in at least two bushels of cowpeas per acre broadcast. A plow covers too deep. Put them in with disk harrow. If the soil is poor apply a liberal quantity of stable manure or fertilizer rich in ammonia as you can afford. If the season is fairly favorable for peas, and a dense growth of vines cover the land the nut grass will, I am convinced, be killed. I smothered it out in several places last year that way, and can so far find none. But the growth of vines must be dense, and the summer not too dry or a second or even third crop must be grown in subsequent years.

I have proven beyond question that the densest growth of wire grass can be killed by one good crop of pea vines. But it must be a good one.

If I had the choice of two farms of equal natural fertility, one free from wire grass, and one so densely matted with it that you could not put a plow in it except in winter when the ground was at its wettest, I should take the latter farm. I should take it because I know that the wire grass had greatly enriched it, and that I could kill it at will.

In winter I should put in a two-horse plow and turn that wire grass sod bottom up. This sod I should cut up well with disk harrow, and broadcast peas in June as stated. Then I should be pretty sure to have a good farm, for wire grass permits no washing and improves land rapidly.

O. W. BLACKNALL.  
Vance Co., N. C.

**Preparing Fruits for Exhibition.**

The number of county and district fairs advertised the coming fall suggests that fruit and vegetable growers should be getting the plans for horticultural exhibits under way.

The exhibitor should study carefully the premium lists and note every class in which he can make entries and then get his entries ready. Every fruit and vegetable that is to go on the exhibit tables should have the best possible opportunity for development. This will usually require thinning, and sometimes a little pruning in order to give the fruits a chance to color. Every exhibitor must consider his exhibit from the judges' standpoint. While there are at present no authoritative standards, most expert judges have an outline they follow more or less closely. A general plan for all fruits, established by the Massachusetts State Board of Agriculture, is used in its present or a slightly modified form by many judges. It is as follows: Quality, 20 points; form, 15 points; color, 15 points; size, 10 points; uniformity in size, 20 points; freedom from imperfections, 20 points; total for perfection, 100 points.

Nearly all points are considered from a commercial standpoint. The over-sized fruit is not wanted by the markets, and over-grown specimens are likely to be cut by the expert judge. Quality is a hard point to handle, especially with fruit not yet ripe, and in such cases is often disregarded or estimated by the form and general appearance of specimens. In competitions of storage fruits, however, it is of special importance. Uniformity of specimens is a most important matter. Fair-sized fruits of even form and color of the proper type make good plates. They show to much better advantage than uneven specimens. Freedom from blemishes should be insisted

upon. A fruit injured by insect, disease or accident is not marketable and deserves a hard cut. Some older judges disqualify such fruit from the competition.

Fairs should be educational in character. Those who attend should see only good specimens, such as the world markets want, if they are to be benefited by their attendance. The grower should know what is wanted, and if he does not, the fair may be a valuable school for him.

ALBERT DICKENS.  
Manhattan, Kan., July 4, 1905.

**A Serious Waste of Fertility.**

Permanent stable-yards and night-runs for stock are sources of great waste of fertility on too many farms. The reader can doubtless think without effort of a dozen farms where the same yards and night-runs have been in use for a generation or more. These fields if now broken and cropped would be about as valueless for a considerable time for production as if they had been systematically starved, instead of gorged with fertility for most crops.

Where the same fields are necessarily kept in use for yarding purposes or driveways, they often can be scraped with profit after several years' use to the depth of two or three inches, the scrapings being used as a top-dressing to spread over fields robbed of their rightful share of this fertility. It is often possible to make use of a road-scraper which has outlived its usefulness for highway purposes for scraping the surface of yards and driveways, thereby saving much time and labor. The surface can be sheared off and shoved into windows convenient for loading in a few hours, where hand labor would require days.

A better method of preventing the fertility wastage alluded to is by means of a systematic rotation of yarding-lots often, but not always, possible. The wire fencing that is now so largely in use can be rapidly and inexpensively moved, thus allowing the space devoted to yards and fence-rows to be kept free from objectionable growths, and to yield in their turn bountiful crops. More busy farmers will adopt such a yard-rotation when once weaned of the permanent-yarding practice than will take measures to save the fertility from being washed away into the streams.

Many otherwise beautiful farm-homes are made sources of annoyance to the traveling public and an actual menace to the health of the occupants by reason of too close and long continued yarding of stock near the home buildings.

In the writer's opinion it is not an overstatement to assert that on not a few farms there is a fertility wastage from stable-yards, driveways and night-runs fully equal in value to many loads of expensive commercial fertilizers.—B. F. W. Thorpe, in Farm and Fireside.

Farm work in this section is now in good shape. Wheat has been housed, and, while the crop is light, there will be enough to feed our people. Corn and cotton look well and since the wet weather crops have been well cultivated. The only drawback we have had, has been our inability to plow for peas. Since harvest, the land has been too dry to plow. There have been a few showers, and every season has been used but there is much plowing to do yet. The ground is being soaked to-day, and the plows will run every day when it clears up until the crop is finished. Pea sowing is a big job in this section.—E. S. Millsaps, Iredell Co., N. C.