

THE PROGRESSIVE FARMER

and The Cotton Plant.

PROGRESSIVE FARMER—VOL. XX. NO. 26.
THE COTTON PLANT—VOL. XXII. NO. 25.

RALEIGH, N. C., AUGUST 8, 1905.

Weekly—\$1 a Year.

CIRCULATION STATEMENT.

The sworn and proved average weekly circulation of The Progressive Farmer and Cotton Plant for the year ending December 31, 1904, was 10,509 copies.

For the six months ending June 30, 1905, the sworn and proved average weekly circulation was 12,288 copies.

The Progressive Farmer and Cotton Plant has—

- 1.—A larger circulation than any other weekly published between Richmond and Atlanta, and—
- 2.—A larger circulation than any other farm weekly published between Philadelphia and Dallas.

Farmers' Stationery.

Messrs. Editors: Being in correspondence with a large number of farmers from all the States, I wish to endorse what has been said by the Editor and others in regard to their using printed stationery. We often get letters that we can read without trouble until we come to the name and postoffice. Sometimes we have to lay these over until we can consult the cashier of our bank, the postmaster, and other experts that we meet. And after all have spent their opinion, we come back to the office and guess at it the best we can and forward a reply. Sometimes in about two weeks afterward our letter is returned to us marked, "Party Unknown," and we look up the letter and try again.

We want to suggest to any to whom it is not convenient to get printed paper and envelopes that they buy a rubber stamp and pad, and stamp their addresses on both paper and envelopes. This need not cost more than forty cents, and will last for years. They are advertised in The Progressive Farmer.

T. H. RANEY.

Chapel Hill, N. C.

THOUGHTS FOR FARMERS.

The Importance of the Oat Crop.

The farmers of the Carolinas are waking up to the necessity of sowing small grain. That is the only possible way to secure a rotation of crops, and without a wise rotation the soil will get poorer every year. Several inquiries have recently been made in regard to the open furrow plan of sowing oats. Many farmers have given up the crop, because the better varieties will not stand our winters when sown broadcast, or with a wheat drill. In Georgia this year the Commissioner of Agriculture solicited many reports. No farmer that sowed in the open drill lost his crop. A few stated that their oats were partly killed. Those sown broadcast were generally killed. In this county no oats sown in the open furrow were killed. Then it may be accepted as a fact that it is a sure plan. It makes no odds how small grain is sown, the preparation is the principal work. See that the hard pan is broken, if it has not been done before. Harrow well, so that the land may be smooth and in fine tilth. After the land is ready a lively hand and mule will put in two acres a day. That looks like slow work, but at night the farmer can say with certainty that he will have two acres to reap the first of June. I prefer the Gantt drill, because it is simple and opens, distributes the fertilizer, plants the oats and covers at one run. The gauges are such that the quantity of fertilizer and oats may be regulated. The writer prefers the Appler oats. The Southern Red, not the Texas Red, are good. These varieties make a large yield of heavy grain, weighing 34 to 36 pounds from the thrasher. The straw is soft and edible. Horses and mules will eat it all. The oats should be sown October 1 to November 15. Experience shows that it is poor economy to apply nitrogen to small grain in the

fall. Owing to the cold it does little good. If oats are planted on thinnest land it may be better to add a little ammoniated fertilizer to give them a start. If the land will make 15 bushels of corn or 700 pounds of seed cotton to the acre, leave off the ammonia in the fall and apply nitrate of soda in March. Mix 600 pounds of 14 per cent acid phosphate and 400 pounds of kainit and apply 200 pounds to the acre. That will analyze 8.4 and 5. The cost will be \$1.75 an acre. Add 50 to 75 pounds of nitrate of soda in March and run a light harrow or weeder over the ridges so as to smooth them somewhat. The late varieties of oats, such as the grazing and Virginia grays will do well in an open furrow, but they do not yield well. They make an abundance of forage. But the average farmer wants oats and not straw. If the Cotton Growers' Association persuades farmers to sow small grain there will be a great demand for seed oats and wheat, and no one need be afraid of making too much of either. This fall there will be a strong demand for both. There is more money in oats than wheat and they are just as good to restore land. It requires no more plant food to make 35 bushels of oats to the acre than it does to make 20 bushels of wheat. The writer brings up his poorest spots of lands by sowing oats and peas.

CHAS. PETTY.

Spartanburg Co., S. C.

The Compost Heap.

Messrs. Editors: In these days, when commercial fertilizers are so largely used by farmers, the compost heap is quite overlooked. Many, in fact, especially among the young men, scarcely know the meaning of the term. Many regard it as old-fashioned and unnecessary, and as too troublesome to pay for itself. The truth is, it is more valuable for being old-fashioned. Many of the best things are old, for they are the result of a wide experience; and this being true, they are well worth trouble. Every farmer would do wisely to have a compost heap as a constant factor in farming. No sooner has he spread one on his fields, than he should start another. Nothing is simpler, nothing of equal value to him requires less labor. His main reliance should be upon it, together with the clovers, peas and other turn-under nitrogenous crops much more than upon commercial fertilizers with their highly stimulating qualities.

It is easily made, easily kept up. Stable-manure is its foundation, hence its proper location is in the stable lot. As often as the stables are cleaned (and that should be often), let the manure be thrown into a heap near by and a thin layer of the adjacent soil thrown upon it, thus keeping a shallow trench around it to catch the rain and keep the edges of the heap moist, and also preventing the escape of the ammonia. From time to time a light layer of slack lime should be thrown on, and whenever practicable woods mold or swamp mud should be hauled and thrown on it. So it grows gradually, and as it is dug and carted out its ingredients, fermented by natural heat and already intermingled by their contact and pressure, may be more thoroughly commingled by spreading and ploughing.

In the same manner a heap can be formed for the garden, of poultry-manure, slops from house and kitchen, soap-suds, etc., with some stable-manure, alternating with layers of garden soil.

Experience has amply shown that compost is the best direct fertilizer, whether for field or garden. It may be followed up in the case of lands naturally barren, or exhausted by over-cropping and bad tillage, with a moderate and judicious use of commercial fertilizers and it would pay the farmer to purchase the ingredients of these and



PROF. JOHN GRAHAM,

President North Carolina Farmers' State Alliance.

Prof. Graham is a farmer and also one of the State's ablest educators, having been for years principal of Warrenton High School. He has the unique distinction of being the only man to serve a third term as President of the North Carolina Farmers' Alliance, having been chosen for two terms several years ago, and being elected for a third at the last State meeting.

compound them at home, rather than pay fabulous prices to manufacturers or their agents for the ready-made article. Then, too, he knows what he is using.

H. A. SKINNER.

Sampson Co., N. C.

"Shady Farmers."

Editor Arch. Johnson is not altogether free from prejudice. He is quite sure, it seems, that only the ploughman knows anything definite about agriculture. Accordingly, he has allowed himself to speak of the classic for beginners in agriculture, as a book written by "shady farmers." To be sure, Brother Johnson is aware that Messrs. Burkett and Kilgore are ten times as well prepared to treat of farm methods as they would be if they had ploughed all their lives. In the very same issue of Charity and Children appears a note of the new \$100,000 hotel to be erected in Salisbury under the direction of a Charlotte architect, whom, by the same token, Mr. Johnson might have designated as a sawless carpenter. Briefly, it would as well be admitted that no man can learn agriculture from his own limited experience. Moreover, if that were the only reliance, there could be little or no progress in the science or art, whichever it may most properly be styled. When the ordinary country carpenter can plan and erect a \$100,000 hotel, with due regard to economy of time and material, then we will direct would-be learners of agriculture to the ploughman, to Brother Johnson, for instance, as he served an apprenticeship at the plow-handle.—Lumberton Argus.

You may be doing God's will with one hand consecrated to Christ and making your own autobiography with the other consecrated to self.—Henry Drummond.