

THE PROGRESSIVE FARMER

and The Cotton Plant.

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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.

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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.

THOUGHTS FOR FARMERS.

Fertilizers for Small Grain.

In the old days when a new ground was cleared every winter, the farmer always had fresh land well supplied with plant food for his wheat. He generally gathered corn as early as possible and sowed his wheat by plowing in with tongue or shovel plows. A two-horse brush or harrow was run over the land to smooth the rough places and knock down the corn stalks. That was the old method and good crops were made on the virgin soil. But the new ground days are over and our small grain has to be made on land devoid of humus to a great extent. Some kind of fertilizer is necessary to make a good yield. Stable and lot manure is the best application, but no farmer has enough of that. Cotton seed applied at the rate of twenty to thirty bushels to the acre is excellent for wheat or oats. That is very expensive, however, for thirty bushels of seed at twenty cents would buy 600 pounds of standard fertilizer, or about 500 pounds of cotton seed meal. It is not well to make a heavy application of nitrogen in the fall, especially the quick kinds, such as are generally used in the high grade and high priced fertilizers. Ammonia when quite soluble is inert in the winter and much may be lost by leaching and evaporation. Apply only potash and phosphoric acid in the fall.

Farmers should mix their own fertilizers. When they buy them mixed they pay \$2.50 to \$4.00 a ton for the mixing. Buy fourteen per cent phosphoric acid and kainit, or muriate of potash. If the land is in "good heart" as it is called, and there is humus enough in it to keep it in good condition, use the following for wheat:

1,000 pounds fourteen per cent phosphate;
600 pounds kainit.

The analysis will be 9.8 and 3.75 and the cost of a ton will be \$15.30 cash. It requires little time to mix it. If the land has little nitrogen add to the above about fifty pounds of nitrate of soda, or 300 pounds of cotton seed meal. If the wheat is yellow and not growing well when the first warm days of spring come, apply fifty to seventy-five pounds of nitrate of soda and run a smoothing harrow or weeder over it. For oats put in with a drill in the open furrow mix the following:

1,000 pounds fourteen per cent acid;
600 pounds kainit;
400 pounds cotton seed meal.

Mix thoroughly and apply 200 to 300 pounds to the acre. Applying 200 pounds to the acre the cost will be about \$1.75. If the oats are not making a vigorous growth in March apply fifty pounds of nitrate and run smoothing harrow over them.

CHARLES PETTY.

Spartanburg Co., S. C.

Watch the date on your label, and renew when your subscription expires.

WHAT YOU CAN DO IN YOUR GARDEN NOW.

Farmers Should be Best Fed People in the World—Opportunities You Should Not Neglect.

Messrs. Editors:—Many farmers work hard all summer and raise fine crops and have fine gardens, but as soon as crops are laid by they stop all manner of work. In a short time all vegetables are overgrown with grass and weeds and brush for want of attention. I know farmers now (and unfortunately their name is legion), who have from this sort of neglect lost all their vegetables and now their wives are put to it to find something to cook. Now this ought not to be so. Work while you work; play while you play, is the way to be cheerful, happy and gay, but too much of it will put you on short rations.

No one likes to see the young and old folks enjoy themselves more than I, but there should be moderation in all things. Have hours to work and hours to play.

Now begin to cultivate your turnips. Those tomato vines that have fallen down and died with bushels of neglected tomatoes on them, can be cut off, cultivated, and maimed suckers will put up from the roots. These will bear a crop of late tomatoes. Some will get ripe before frost. Then take all green ones that are grown or nearly so, wrap them in paper and lay them on a shelf. They will ripen. In this way I have had ripe tomatoes Christmas day. I have treated mine so two weeks ago, or a part of them, at least. They are now blooming.

Work out your celery and begin to earth up slowly. Work your parsnip and carrots and beets. Look after your Irish potatoes. If they are on the ground take up and put them in the house till cold weather, then keep them away for the winter. Look after your small fruit vines or bushes and flowers.

Your cows should be fed now with plenty of succulent food and some grain, too, or they will lose their flow of milk.

That pork will be higher goes without saying, so push your hogs, varying their food, using corn, peas, and sweet potatoes alternately.

With plenty of fine fruit, vegetables—peas, beans, green corn—both fresh, canned and dried, poultry, eggs, pork and beef, with fresh and salt fish, well cooked and prepared, what more could the President of the United States, or any of the crowned heads of the world ask—except the dowager Empress, who perhaps would like a few rats and some birds' nests for dessert?

No reason why the farmers who raise everything should not be the best fed people on earth; so don't neglect your opportunities.

J. H. PARKER.

Perquimans Co., N. C.

Harvesting and Shredding Corn.

With six years of experience in cutting and shredding my corn, and being asked questions very often in regard to the matter, I have decided to ask you to publish through your valuable paper a few thoughts of my experience.

First. Don't cut your corn too green. Wait until the corn is thoroughly ripe. The shucks should be somewhat yellow and the fodder thoroughly ripe. Let it stand a week longer than most people would if they were going to pull the fodder.

2. Shocking is a matter that must be well considered. Do not have shocks too large or too small. If your corn is very large stalk put about 100 stalks in a shock; if medium, 125 stalks; if small, 150 stalks. This will cause your corn to cure better than in larger shocks, but do not



MR. C. C. MOORE, OF CHARLOTTE.

One of The Progressive Farmers' most popular correspondents who has been chosen President of the North Carolina Farmers' Convention and of the North Carolina Dairymen's Association.

make them too small, for they will not stand up so well.

A great help in shocking corn is to take a 2x4 scantling fifteen feet long, nail two legs four feet long to end of it, let the other end rest on the ground, bore one and one-half inch auger hole through the fifteen foot scantling about twenty-four inches from the legs, put something like an old fork handle in the hole, then set your corn about in the four spaces and your shocks will stand up much better than to shock it without anything. Take a rope about twelve feet long, tie a ring in one end of the rope, put it around the shock, draw it very tight, and then tie the shock with binder twine about middle way between the ends of shock, and also near the top.

Let your corn stand from five to six weeks in the field, owing to the weather. It is better to shred it as you haul it, as it saves handling it so much.

Now as to the gain in harvesting your corn. I can cut ten acres of corn, shred it, put the rough feed and corn in the barn for about one-third less than to gather it in the old way.

I have doubled the quantity of rough feed, and I find that the stock will readily eat eighty per cent of this rough feed, which gives me thirty per cent more than I would get if I should pull the fodder. I also save thirty-three and a third per cent in gathering, thirty per cent in value of rough feed and get heavier and better corn than if I should pull the fodder.—M. E. Blalock, Norwood, N. C., in Stanly Enterprise.

I believe if the State's population were doubled our lands would increase in value 100 per cent. Where to get good people to increase the population is the question, and if we cannot get good law-abiding Christian people, it is much the best that we get none at all. I think it would be a fatal mistake to import into the State a lot of cutcasts from other countries whose minds are poisoned with anarchy and socialism.—E. L. Daughtridge, Edgecombe Co., N. C.