

THE PROGRESSIVE FARMER AND SOUTHERN FARM GAZETTE

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No Good Farming Without Good Plowing

RIGHT at the foundation of all good farming lies the matter of good plowing. Whenever a farmer breaks a piece of land improperly, or in a slipshod, half-hearted fashion, he makes it certain right then that he is not going to get from it the best crop that it is capable of producing. Maximum crops come only as the result of a combination of favorable conditions, and when the essential preparation for the crop is faulty this maximum yield is made impossible in the season's very beginning. No subsequent cultivation can take the place of good plowing.

Now, most of the plowing done in the South is not good plowing. It usually lacks depth; the soil is too often flopped flat over instead of being set on edge; when a hard place is reached the plow is allowed to run out instead of being forced through; the deepest plowing is usually done on the friable loams or the soft, sandy soils where it is least essential, while on the tight clays, where deep plowing is so much needed, the soil is simply scratched two to four inches; often the plowed field is full of "breaks" and "skips" and other evidences of careless workmanship. These faults must be corrected before we produce the crops we should; but before they are corrected we must have three things: better plows, better work stock, and better labor.

That is, we must have plows capable of going down 6 to 8 inches in tight soils, we must have enough work stock to pull these plows, and we must have plowmen who take enough interest and pride in their work to do it well.

The man who has only one mule and a little plow that one

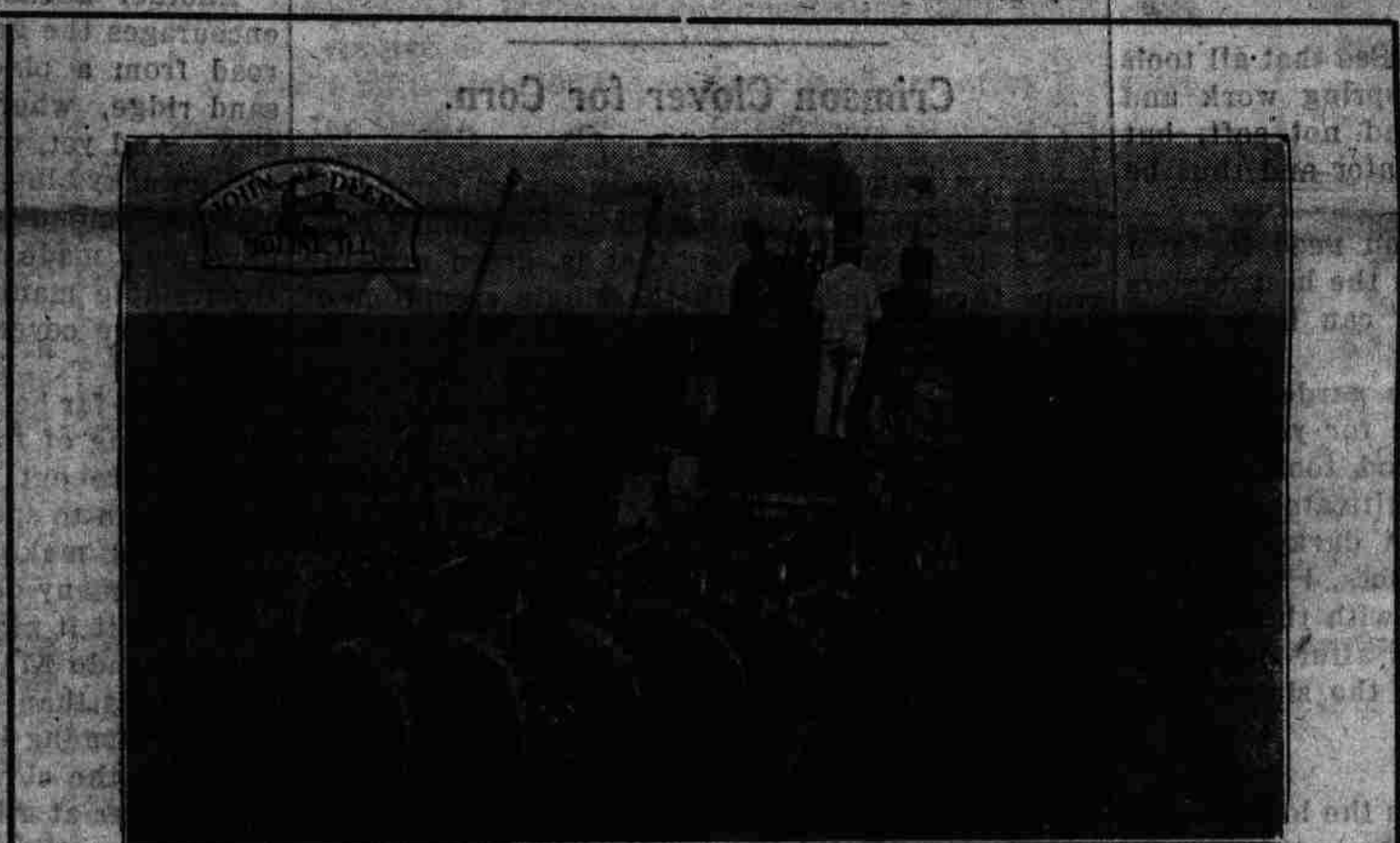
mule can pull can pull cannot hope to do good plowing, except at a very great cost; while—although he may not realize it—the man who does not care whether his furrows are turned evenly, whether his plow runs at uniform depth, or whether he leaves the soil thoroughly broken up and mellow, is making it certain, by that same careless work, that he is not going to get the crops he might or the profits from his work that he should.

This is the season when farmers should be busy breaking their lands and getting them ready to plant in the spring. Every one who can possibly do so should be at it whenever soil conditions permit, and by beginning now he can have time to do the work properly, and to harden his stock to it gradually.

In this correction, we trust that no one will fail to read what is said on page 3, about getting the work stock ready for the busy season, and that every reader will act upon the suggestions there made. Neglect to keep the patient animals that pull the plow in good condition and make them comfortable while at work is one of the surest evidences of a poor farmer.

Again, it is a sheer waste of labor to try to work with tools that are not in good shape. Every farmer knows that it takes twice as much labor, of both man and team, to plow a field with a dull, rusty plow as with one bright and sharp.

Get a good plow, a good team to pull it; keep the plow bright and sharp, the team well fed, well groomed, and comfortable in the harness; and turn well each foot of land you go over. In doing this you will be laying the foundation for a good crop this year.



THE PROGRESSIVE PLOWMAN.

If it be true, as it is, that good farming is impossible without good plowing, it is equally true that good plowing is impossible without good motive power. The view given here was taken in the West, although scattered farmers throughout the South use a traction engine in their plowing operations. Most of us, however, must continue to use "Tom and Jo" or "Doll and Dapple", and with them we can do just as good plowing, if not quite so much of it, as can be done with the machine here shown. Two or three strong mules, or large farm mares to a good steel-beam plow—this is the sort of motive power we need, and the sort we must have. The one-horse plow must go; good plowing with it is simply out of the question.

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