

THE PROGRESSIVE FARMER AND SOUTHERN FARM GAZETTE

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The Open Road To Agricultural Prosperity.

FARMING will never make any country rich as long as the farmers of that country have to buy nitrogen to feed their staple crops. Nor will farming ever make any country rich while the farmers of that country permit their soils to wash away or to "wear out" for lack of a sufficient supply of humus.

Southern farmers are grievous offenders against good agricultural practice in both these respects. Every year they spend millions of dollars for nitrogen in commercial forms when they could have gathered enough for practically all of their crops from the air. On millions of acres of cultivated land the crops are limited each year by an insufficient water supply during

"dry spells" and by the general lack of organic matter in the soil. Until both these conditions are changed, the Southern farmer is not going to get as much as he should for a day's work; is not going to have as much as he should at the end of year; is not going to contribute to the welfare of his community and his State as he might and should.

At once the surest and the most economical way to correct these evils is by the growing of leguminous crops---not by the haphazard planting of a pea patch here or an alfalfa plot there but by the systematic planting of both summer-and winter-growing legumes in a rotation adapted to individual conditions and surroundings.

The legumes will get nitrogen from the air, and save millions of dollars now spent for commercial fertilizers; they will add humus to the soil, improving its texture, increasing its water-holding capacity, making more available the plant food it contains, preventing gulleying, and making it easier to work; they will supply the best and cheapest feeds in the world, thus enabling the farmer to keep more stock and to feed them better; they will increase the yields of all the staple crops and enable the farmers to make a profit on thousands of acres of land now idle and unprofitable; they will, in short, if intelligently used, put the farmers of the South on the highway to prosperity and independence.

To try to farm without them is, under all ordinary conditions, wanton folly; and the results of such farming are to

be seen today in worn-out fields, gullied hillsides, poor crops, poor stock and unattractive homes.

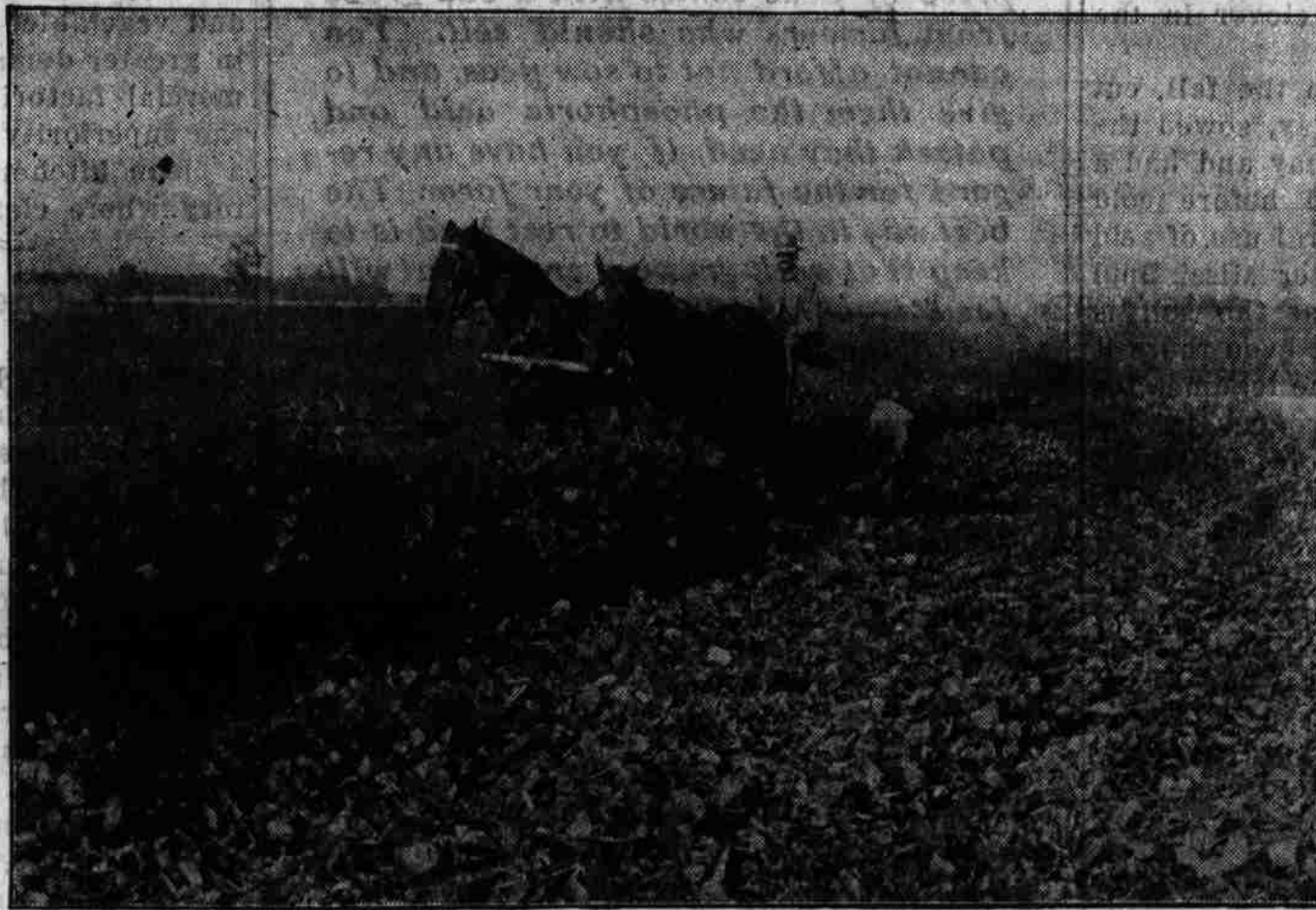
This issue is largely taken up with the experiences of men who have learned to make money growing legumes, and what they have done every other farmer can, if he will.

There may be farmers who can make money without growing these crops; but such men are rare, and there are very few men in the South engaged in general farming who could not increase their profits by planting them more liberally.

Let every reader resolve right now to raise an abundant supply of legume forage for all his live stock---enough cow-

peas and soy beans and peanuts for his pigs and calves to graze on all summer and fall, and enough to make hay for all his stock next winter. He will want besides this to grow, if possible, this year enough seed for his own planting next season. Let him also arrange to seed all lands cultivated this season to a cover crop next fall.

When he does this he will not only make bigger crops, but he will be able to feed his work stock and to make pork and beef and milk at the lowest cost. In short, he will be on the open road to prosperity and independence.



Rolling Down a Crop of Cowpeas to Turn Under---They Should Have Been Made Into Hay.

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