

THE PROGRESSIVE FARMER AND SOUTHERN FARM GAZETTE



A Farm and Home Weekly for North and South Carolina, Virginia, Tennessee, and Georgia.

Vol. XXV. No. 28.

RALEIGH, N. C., JULY 16, 1910.

Weekly: \$1 a Year.

How the Other Fellow is Beating Us.

IT should be remembered that Mr. Poe's recent letters "What I Saw in the Middle West" referred only to the part of the West he saw referred only to his trip through the richer parts of Illinois and Wisconsin. He has not pretended that there are no poor farmers or poor farming in the West. But the cold statistical fact that the average income per farm worker in 1900 was only \$189 for Alabama, Louisiana and Mississippi, and only \$184 for North Carolina, South Carolina and Virginia as compared with \$663 for Iowa, Indiana and Illinois is enough to suggest to any man that men of common sense who like to face facts as they are, may learn something of value from our Western brethren. And what they may learn cannot, perhaps, be better or more tellingly set forth than by the illustration herewith which shows that the main explanation of why the farmer in Iowa, Indiana and Illinois makes over three times as much a year as the farmer in Virginia, North Carolina and South Carolina is, because the Westerner (1) uses over four times as much horse power, (2) just five times the value of improved implements, and (3) cultivates nearly three times as many acres, while (4) the Western farmers in these States not only keep nearly five times as many milk cows in proportion to number as our Southern farmers, but sell an average of \$212 worth of live stock for each farm worker, against only \$23 for the average farm worker in Virginia, North Carolina and South Carolina. We rejoice to say that conditions have improved greatly since 1900, but the essential principles remain the same now as then, and this illustration of statistical facts is convincing proof that the South's main agricultural needs are:

- (1) More and better tools;
- (2) More and better horses to work them with;
- (3) More dairying and stock raising.

We can beat the Westerner farming when we once make up our minds to do it, and we believe we are fast coming to that frame of mind. These same Western letters brought us a letter June 10th from a Western agricultural editor who while regretting that all the West is not so progressive as the section Mr. Poe visited, yet spoke frankly of a trip to one of our Southern States last year: "I was very much surprised" he says, "to see how wasteful the farmers are in that State, also the crude implements they were using. But I longed for the great climate that your Southland possesses, also the long growing season. Why, here we are the 10th of June and some of our farmers have not finished planting corn, and frost may come before this is matured."

This paragraph from this editor's letter tells the whole story in a nutshell. "Wasteful methods," "crude implements," but a climate and growing season that make the Northern and Western farmer jealous with envy! And as soon as our Southern farmers begin to combine the Western farmer's economy, improved implements, better horses, and stock raising with our

	MASSACHUSETTS NEW YORK PENNSYLVANIA	VIRGINIA NORTH CAROLINA SOUTH CAROLINA	IOWA INDIANA ILLINOIS	ALABAMA LOUISIANA MISSISSIPPI
AVERAGE ANNUAL INCOME PER FARM WORKER	\$388	\$184	\$663	\$189
AVERAGE NUMBER ACRES CULTIVATED PER FARM WORKER	33	22	63	6
AVERAGE VALUE FARM IMPLEMENTS PER FARM WORKER	\$150	\$22.	\$110.	\$36.
AVERAGE NUMBER OF HORSES AND MULES PER FARM WORKER	1.38	.77	3.17	.91
AVERAGE NUMBER MILK COWS PER FARM WORKER	3.41	.56	2.56	.59
AVERAGE AMOUNT RECEIVED FROM SALE OF LIVE STOCK FOR FARM WORKER	\$68.	\$23.	\$212.	\$13.

SOME FIGURES THAT TELL THE WHOLE STORY.

own unrivaled advantages in climate and length of growing season—then indeed will we be in sight of the time, as Mr. Walter Page says, when the farmer in the old slave States "will become the most prosperous tiller of the earth."

But the first step is to acknowledge that right now the other fellow is beating us, then recognize these ways that enable him to do it—and then change our own methods.

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