

# THE PROGRESSIVE FARMER

## AND SOUTHERN FARM GAZETTE

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### We Do Not Need More Labor or Cheaper Labor.

A FRIEND of ours voices what is no doubt a general desire in the following paragraph of a letter recently received:

"We have read in papers how to improve, cultivate and make the crops. Now the important question comes how to get more labor, cheaper and better. In our neighborhood we are scarce of labor and have to pay double what it is worth, 75 cents to \$1.00 a day."

The desire is for "more, cheaper and better labor." It is safe to state, rather positively, that the chances of our friend getting more and cheaper labor are about as remote as the millennium. More labor we will not have, but less labor is almost certain. This is the tendency everywhere and naturally so. Nor, do we believe we need more labor. In fact, we believe that one of the defects of our farming system is that we have too much labor. One-half what we have, if properly equipped and directed, will do more work than is now done in the South. At least, produce or earn more.

As to cheaper labor, that is also not likely to be had, nor is it desirable. Cheap labor is always inefficient labor and the trend of business is to higher wages, not lower. Moreover, in the opinion of the writer, when able-bodied men can not be made to earn more than 75 cents to \$1.00 a day with the present price of farm products there is something wrong either in the management or the cropping system.

These are plain statements, but they are facts. We may as well face the truth and strive to meet the new conditions. Conditions have changed and our crops and methods must conform to the changed conditions. The relief must come along rational lines. We believe they will and are coming along lines which are already well defined and demonstrated.

1. By more personal supervision of the actual work of the farm by the land-owner.
2. By better knowledge and practice of modern methods both by the men who direct and those who actually do the farm work.
3. By the use of more, larger and better farm implements and machinery.
4. By the use of more power on the farm, other than man power. By the use of more horses and mules and more gasoline and other engines, tractors, etc.

5. By a readjustment of our cropping system so as to distribute work better and introduce the maximum of machines and the minimum of man labor.

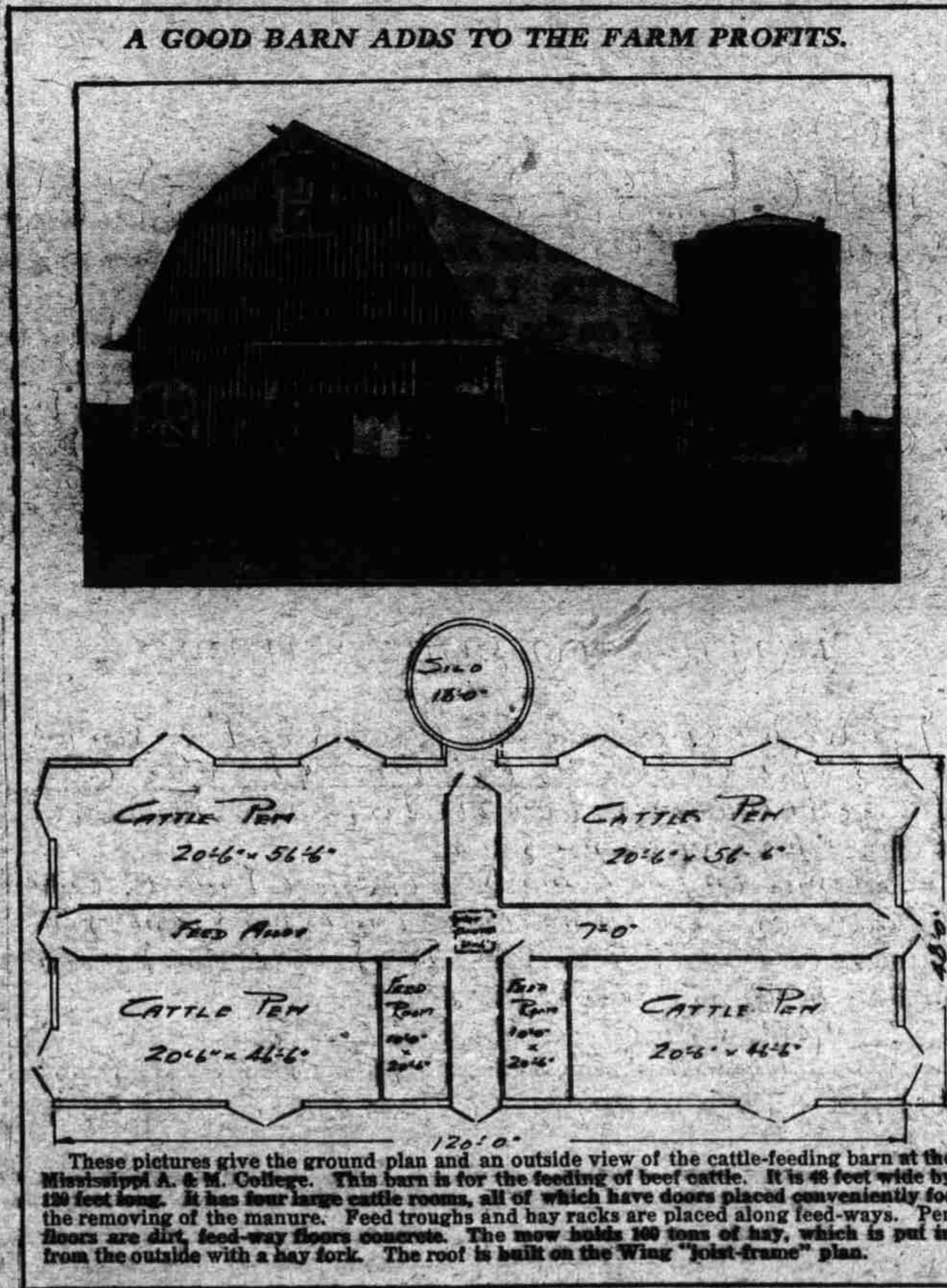
6. By a readjustment and re-organization of our methods and ideas regarding the handling of labor and by the improvement of our tenant system.

We would be glad to suggest an easier way for our readers to meet the existing conditions, but in the nature of the case it is not possible. It is not a matter of choice with us as to how we are going to adapt our methods to the changed conditions, it is a question of how it can best be done.

There are certain lines of work in the South, which at present, must be done by hand. For instance, the picking of cotton. Many things are also done at a great waste of labor, because we have had an abundance of labor until recently and it takes time to change our methods. For all this we must change our methods, and learn to get along with less hand labor.

No country can be rich and prosperous when the average man makes less than a dollar a day. At present he cannot earn more, but with the use of more power and machinery he can earn much more. The earnings of the average farm worker, the country over, are in direct proportion to the number of horses he uses and the labor-saving implements employed.

A GOOD BARN ADDS TO THE FARM PROFITS.



These pictures give the ground plan and an outside view of the cattle-feeding barn at the Mississippi A. & M. College. This barn is for the feeding of beef cattle. It is 48 feet wide by 120 feet long. It has four large cattle rooms, all of which have doors placed conveniently for the removing of the manure. Feed troughs and hay racks are placed along feed-ways. Pen floors are dirt, feed-way floors concrete. The mow holds 100 tons of hay, which is put in from the outside with a hay fork. The roof is built on the Wing "joist-frame" plan.

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