

THE PROGRESSIVE FARMER

AND SOUTHERN FARM GAZETTE

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BE A YEAR-ROUND FARMER.

FARMERS, even those who cling to the old ideas and methods, are more and more coming to realize that farming is a business to keep one busy twelve months in the year, and that it is a reflection on the farmer's business management if he, his teams and his land have not some work to perform practically all the year.

We do not mean by this that the farmer should not have rest days and vacations, for we believe that every man should plan for his recreation along with his work. What we mean is that there should be no long spells of idleness "between crops," no lands left idle half the year, no period when the farmer is not earning something. It is quite possible, too, for farmers in nearly all of our territory to do this. Instead of one planting time and one harvest, the good farmer stretches both seed-time and harvest out over most of the year.

Right now at the close of the winter-grain harvest the best farmers are busy sowing peas, planting soy beans, sorghum and other feed crops and getting ready for the fall seeding of wheat and oats and winter cover crops. The livestock farmer especially will be planting crops for his stock on up to December in most of our territory, and until late fall in even the coolest portions of it. And all this time he will be getting some returns from his fields, and will find plenty of work to keep himself and his work stock busy.

Farming is not a matter of raising a crop every year; it is a matter of taking a piece of land and caring for it and building it up so as to get the best returns from it. The farmer who thinks his work is limited to the planting and cultivation and harvesting of his crops has the wrong ideal. There is always other work to be done—such work as Mr. French writes about this week, the reclamation of waste lands, drainage and fence-building and the care of the woodlands, always on the well-managed farm the care of the livestock, the repair and improvement of buildings and grounds, and numberless other tasks which often multiply so as to make the farmer's days seem all too short.

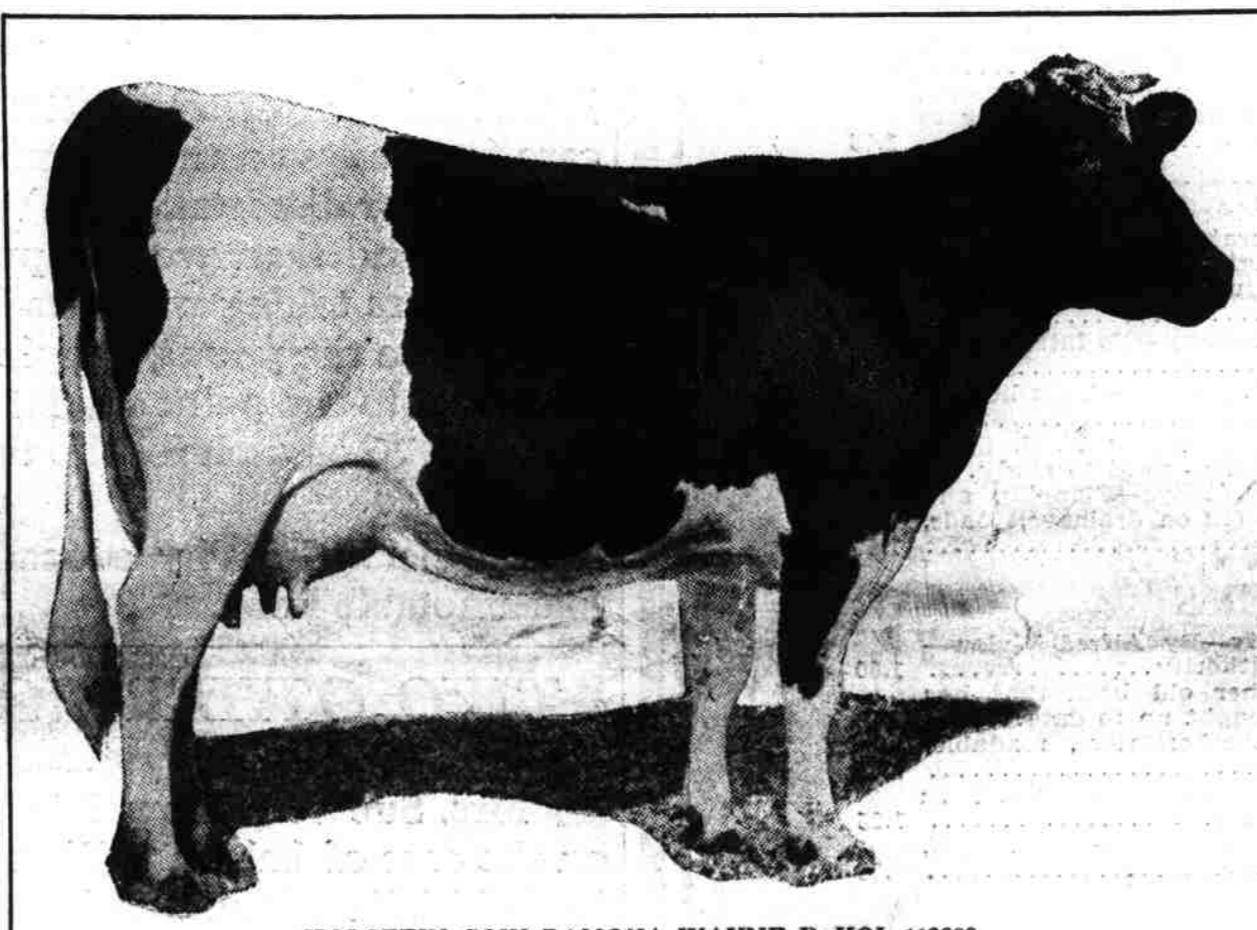
Much of the poor farming in the South has been due to this wrong idea that the crop was the farmer's first consideration. It is not if he is a good farmer. Always the land, the capital stock, must be given first thought. When the soil is made fertile and properly cared for the returns from it, the crops, will be sure.

Nor does the care of a farm end with the care of the cultivated lands. It is as profitable, both from the monetary standpoint and from the standpoint of personal satisfaction, for the farmer to look after conveniences and comfort and beauty about and in the home as for him to look after the fields. The farm is a place to live as well as to make money.

Most readers of The Progressive Farmer are farmers who are measurably independent and who aspire to better things, but most of them are farmers who have no money to waste and who feel the need of many things they are not yet able to supply. To these readers, the men who are the real foundation of the country's welfare, we would appeal and urge them to fix firmly in their minds this idea of year-round farming, of constant effort to improve their farms, of lands kept busy all the year, of enough livestock of some kind to give them some income every month in the year. In short, we would have them forever free themselves of the delusion that the planting of corn and cotton in the spring, and of little patches of grain in the fall, while the tenants idle away the winters, work stock have a five-months' vacation, and all work on the farm aside from crop production is regarded as unprofitable, is real farming.

In a real farming country, on a real farm there will be constant attention to all the little things which go to make the farm more productive and more attractive, and the whole system of farm management will be planned so as to give in every season plenty of

work and some time for rest. The farmer who is "rushed to death" in midsummer and who has "nothing to do" in winter is not doing the right kind of farming, and is not realizing on the full capacities of his land. Growing crops and developing livestock the year round—that is the idea.



HOLSTEIN COW RAMONA WAYNE DeKOL 113809.

At four years of age she gave 512.8 pounds of milk, which made 21.5 pounds of butter, in seven days. She was sold by T. H. Russell, of Geneva, Ohio, at his May 30 sale. Every farmer cannot be a dairyman, of course, but the dairyman is one of the best examples of the year-round farmer, and most farmers need to follow his example to the extent of having cows which will give milk enough to keep them well supplied all the year.

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