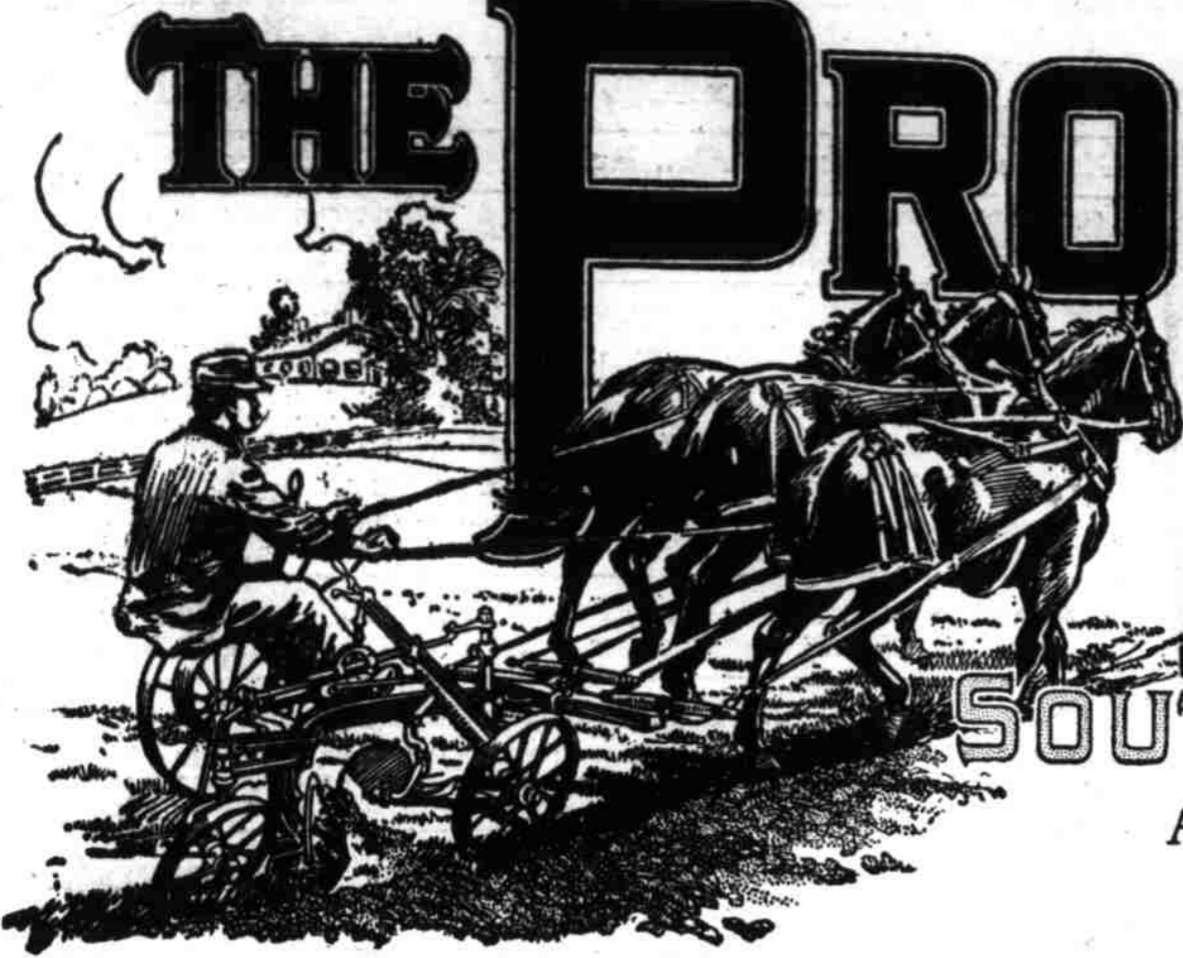


# THE PROGRESSIVE FARMER

AND SOUTHERN FARM GAZETTE



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## LET'S MAKE 1913 THE BEST YEAR YET!

WE TAKE it for granted Mr. Reader, that you wish and expect to do better farming this year than you have ever done before. Certainly, you should have such a desire and such an expectation. The man who is not trying to improve in some way may be wonderfully well satisfied with himself, but it is safe to say that he is doing very little to help the world forward.

And this year we all want to do our part, not only by ourselves and our families, but by our community and our calling.

You—the farmer at work on the land—and we—the men who make The Progressive Farmer—are really engaged in the same work. Your first object is to provide for those of your own household, and ours is the same. To do this well you must do good farming, while to do our part we must make the paper a help to you in your work. Neither you nor we have any right, however, to limit our thoughts, or our interests to our own households. We could not if we would, for "no man liveth to himself" and each of us is not only doing his own work well or ill, but is also helping or hindering the progress of his fellow men.

It is just possible that you may not have thought of it that way, but it is a fact just the same, that if you make your land poorer, you are making your whole State poorer, and making life harder for your children and your children's children. If your crops are so small that they do not pay you fair wages for your time and give you a reasonable return on the money you have invested, the community suffers as well as yourself. If you keep hens that do not lay, cows that do not give milk enough to pay for their feed, horses that are not able to do a good day's work, you are hindering the progress of farming.

This does not mean that we are abusing you because you have poor land, or keep poor livestock, or made poor crops last year. If that were all we had to offer, we would be useless indeed. These things may be so without any fault of yours. No matter how poor your land may be, if you are making it even a little better, you are a progressive farmer—a positive force in advancing the welfare of your community and your profession. Tho you may own but one cow and one old mule, if you are giving them good care, trying to make them pay their way, and planning to get better ones, you are on the right track. And, on the other hand, no matter how fertile your fields,

how much money you have, or anything of the kind, if you don't expect to improve this year in some way, you have about reached the limit of your usefulness. For our part, we hope to be of more service to you this year than ever before, and we are having this talk with you the very first thing this year to let you know that we expect you to help us do better work, as we shall do our best to help you.

In the first place, we want you to ask us questions about anything connected with farming. We may not be able to answer all of them, but we will do our best.

In the second place, if there is any subject which we neglect and which is of special interest to you, let us know about it. Here again, we may not be able to treat it as you think it should be treated, but here again we'll do the very best we can for you. And if at any time, you have anything you wish to tell other farmers, or anything personal to say to the Editors, let us have it.

A new year is here, there is a chance for us all to do better work than we have ever done before, and we should be ashamed not to do it. So, Mr. Reader, let's buckle down to the job in dead earnest—do the best we can for ourselves and help each other and every one else just as much as we can.



COTTON FIELD OF J. A. WADE, ALEXANDER CITY, ALA.

We should start in to make better crops this year, to get better livestock, and above all, to have better farms at the end of the year.

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