

# THE PROGRESSIVE FARMER

## AND SOUTHERN FARM GAZETTE

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### The Rational Way to Keep Down the Cotton Acreage.

WE ARE publishing this week Col. E. J. Watson's appeal to the farmers of the South to hold their cotton acreage down to a reasonable size this year, and not to go "cotton crazy" again and force prices down below the level of a fair and reasonable profit.

We agree with all that Col. Watson says, and believe that his advice should be heeded; but, brethren, it is just this same old story every spring.

Think of it—organizations and speech-making and resolutions and newspaper articles almost every year to impress upon Southern farmers the fact that if they plant too much cotton they will suffer for it!

It is little less than ridiculous that such things should be thought necessary; and it is altogether ridiculous that any man should imagine that all these efforts, laudable as they are, can bring any real or permanent relief from the danger of "a cotton crop big enough to break us."

Cotton is not a perishable crop. A bale of cotton properly stored will keep almost indefinitely. Why, then, is a 10 per cent increase in the crop likely to result in a 20 per cent decrease in the price, and why does a 13,000,000 bale crop bring less than an 11,000,000 bale crop?

We all know why—simply because the cotton growers are dependent upon the cotton crop for practically everything and, whether prices are high or low, a large part of the cotton must be sold in the fall. With a big crop and abundant supplies assured for all the mills, the buyers do not need to pay high prices for cotton. No matter how low the prices may go, the "distressed" cotton will still be trickling into market. Wouldn't the mills be foolish not to get supplies as cheaply as possible; and are farmers not foolish to blame the mills and speculators for the low prices?

We believe with all our hearts in organization and co-operation among farmers, and in the right of the producer to help fix the prices for his products; but there is no use dodging the plain fact that until the Southern farmers get their business on a firmer basis than a single sale crop can give, no amount of organization, no efforts at controlled marketing or reduced acreage can put them on an equal footing with the buyers of their products.

Keep the cotton acreage down to a reasonable size—not only this year but every year. You can do it, or at least do your part toward it, and in any case assure yourself that you will not have to sell at a

price that gives you no profit and scanty pay for your labor.

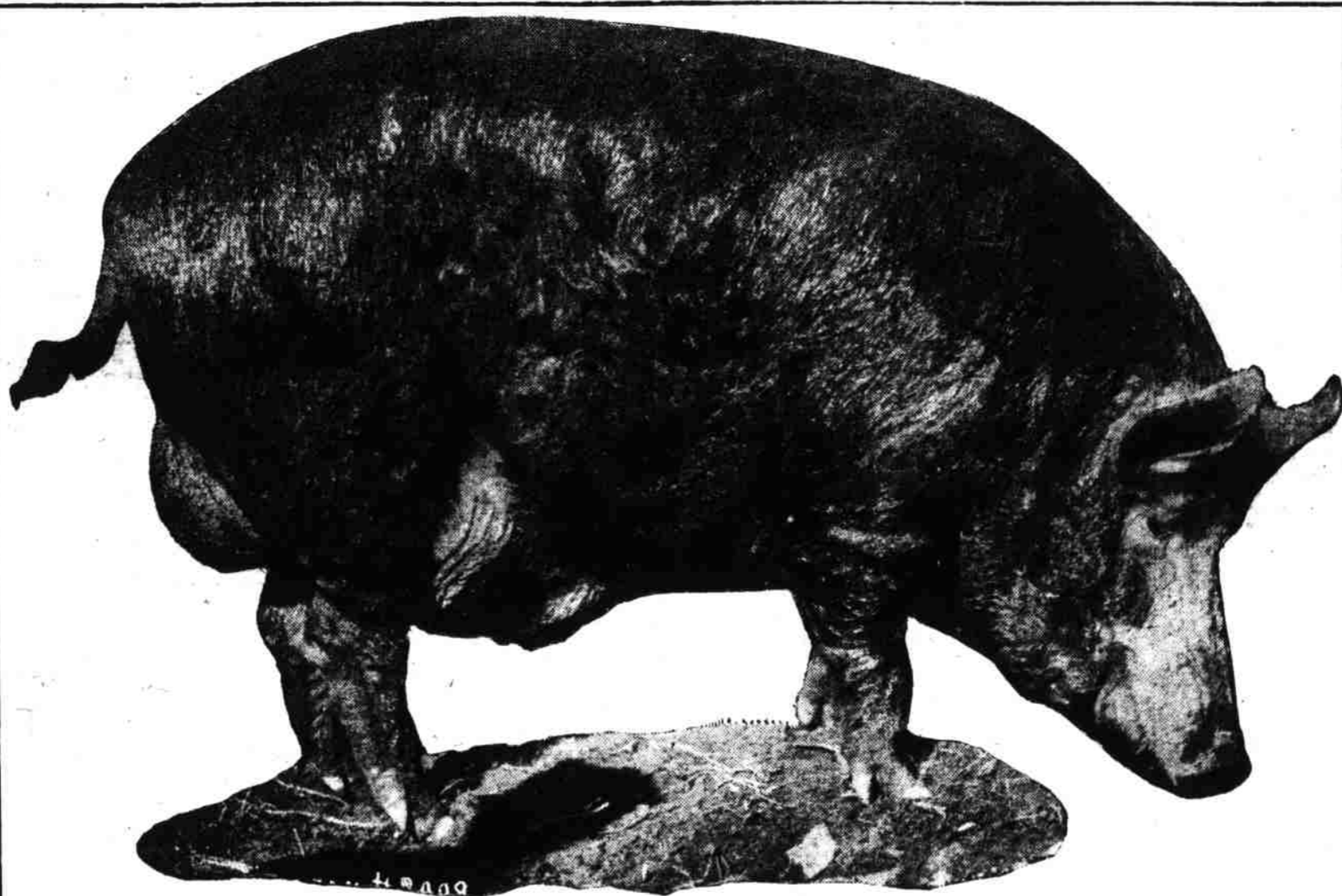
You can do it by planning a rotation of crops that will reduce your own cotton acreage to what it should be, and then sticking to that rotation; by growing corn, and hay, and pasture crops, and garden crops,

and all the things that should be grown on a well managed farm; by gradually getting more livestock and sticking to it as a regular part of your farming.

Lop-sided farming is what ails the South—that and the unthoughted haste to rush into a thing when prices are high and drop it when prices go down. High prices for cotton one year mean a big crop the next. A slump comes in the prices of hogs, and breeders fall over each other in their eagerness to get out of the business.

Brethren, it is time for a change. No one of you can make cer-

tain that the South will not go "cotton crazy" this year; but each one of you can make certain that he will not. And if you keep your cotton acreage down by following the only practical plan—that of giving cotton a fixed place in your rotation and keeping it there,—you will be able to profit by good prices if they come and to hold out against low prices if others do not follow your example.



GOOD HOGS WILL HELP MAKE YOU INDEPENDENT.  
Tamworth Boar, Dean 3999. Winner of many prizes. Owned by Arcadia Farms, Columbus, Ga.

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