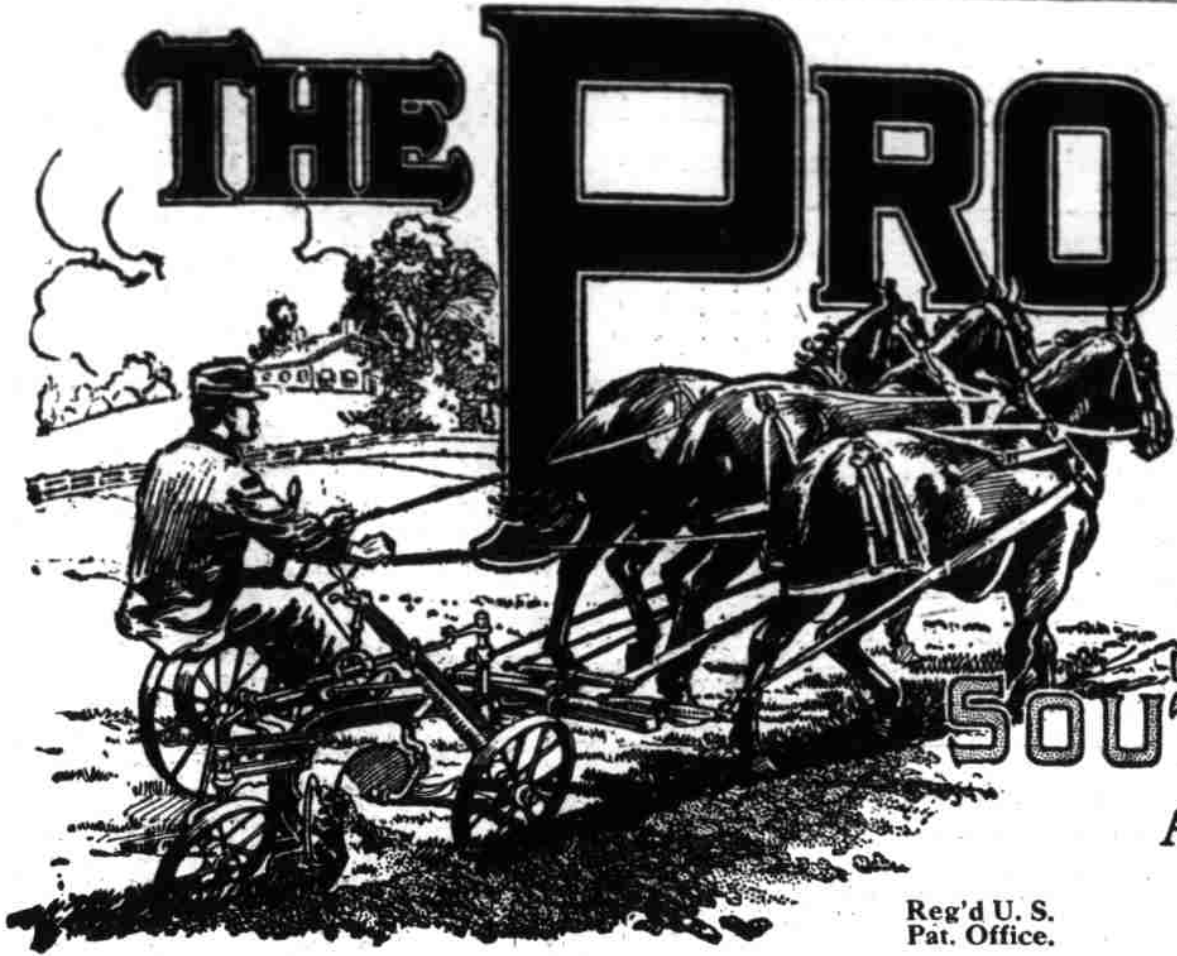


THE PROGRESSIVE FARMER

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Needed: More Dairy Cows and More Dairy Men.



GUERNSEY HEIFERS ON FARM OF EX-GOVERNOR W. D. HOARD, OF WISCONSIN.

IT IS one of the great advantages of dairy farming that it builds up the soil. The dairyman who knows his business—who feeds his cows well and saves the manure carefully—soon comes to have a farm on which big crops grow. His corn is tall, and luxuriant, his cotton fields give big yields; his pastures are green and fresh; his whole farm has about it an air of thrift and prosperity. Well-fed cows and fat fields go together; and a fat pocketbook is the natural result of such a combination.

Why is it, then, if dairying is a profitable business, and if we have "the best climate in the world" for raising stock and growing feeds, that Southern farmers so long continue to neglect the cow?

One answer is, that they are not continuing to do it, but are steadily—if slowly—coming to pay more attention to the dairy business and to the farm cow.

Another answer is, that they have not yet learned what is necessary to make a success of the dairy business. That is, they have not learned how to breed good cows, or how to tell if the cows they have are good; they have not learned how to feed and care for even the few cows they have; they have not yet appreciated the fact, so forcibly pointed out by Prof Gray last week, that it is impossible to make cows pay without liberal feeding and an abundant supply of feeds; they have not yet learned how best to care for milk, how to make good butter, or how to market their products to best advantage.

It is gratifying indeed to know that the number of good cows and good dairymen is steadily increasing. But still more of both are needed. There is scarcely a town of any size in the Cotton Belt that gets the milk and butter it uses from Southern dairymen. Yet nearly all of them should. The farm on which there are cows enough to furnish milk and butter the year round, and on which the butter made is of good quality, is—alas!—still the exception rather than the rule.

Yes, we need more cows, more pastures, more silos, more feed crops, more home-produced milk and butter; but first we need more farmers and farm boys who know how to judge a cow, how to feed her, how to test her milk and keep records, how to make butter, how to grow pastures and build silos, and how to build up a market for good dairy products and secure for themselves the profits now going to dairymen in other States and to the middlemen between those dairymen and our Southern consumers. There is an opportunity here which thousands of our energetic, ambitious farm boys and young men could embrace to their own great profit and to that of the whole South.

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