

THE PROGRESSIVE FARMER

AND SOUTHERN FARM GAZETTE

A Farm and Home Weekly For the Carolinas, Virginia, Georgia and Florida.

Reg'd U. S. Pat. Office.

FOUNDED, 1886, AT RALEIGH, N. C.

Vol. XXVIII. No. 21.

SATURDAY, MAY 24, 1913.

Weekly: \$1 a Year.

You Pay Three Prices For Phosphoric Acid.

NO, we are not saying that the fertilizer companies are charging you too much for phosphoric acid. The trouble is that you buy phosphoric acid in an expensive form instead of a cheap form. The same amount of phosphoric acid in acid phosphate or basic slag costs you four times as much as it would in ground phosphate rock.

"Do we advise you then to stop buying acid phosphate and buy ground rock instead?"

Certainly not—at least, not until you have done some other things.

The fact is, that on the average Southern soil acid phosphate is a cheaper source of phosphoric acid than ground phosphate rock, altho a pound of phosphoric acid costs four times as much in the former as in the latter, as is pointed out on page 7.

It is this way: The phosphoric acid in the acid phosphate is in soluble form—the plants can use it. That in the phosphate rock is insoluble—crops cannot use it save as it is slowly made available by the decay of organic matter in the soil. The cotton crop on your thin, dry land responds at once—if the season is at all favorable—to an application of acid phosphate. It might never know you applied the ground rock. Even in the poorest soil there is enough phosphoric acid to make many bigger crops than you are likely to grow. The trouble is, it is unavailable.

But—and here is the point—you could have your soil in such condition that the insoluble phosphoric acid in the soil and in the phosphate rock would be becoming available all the time; and then, instead of paying five or six cents a pound for this plant food in acid phosphate, you could get it for a cent and a half a pound in the treated rock. You could afford then to apply larger quantities and thus guarantee an abundant and permanent supply for all your crops. As it is, the unused portion of what you apply this year may be insoluble next year.

Wouldn't this be worth doing? Wouldn't it be good business to reduce your phosphoric acid bill—which is fully one-third your total fertilizer bill—to a third of what it now is?

Of course it would. There's literally "millions in it" for the farmers of the South, and you can have your share of it.

"But how can you do it?" There's just one way: Fill your soil full of humus by turning under green manures or applying stable manure. Then you can apply the ground phosphate rock and rest assured that your crops will be fed and your land built up. If you keep your soil poor in humus by continued cropping and neglect of the legumes, you must continue to pay high prices for phosphoric acid.



FINISHING UP THE EDGES.

FEATURES OF THIS ISSUE.

"Better Farming; Better Business; Better Living"—They All Go Together and You Should Work for All	11
Colic of Horses—Different Kinds and Treatment of Each	12
Feeding Problems of Farmers—Dr. Butler's Answers to Inquiries	3
Grow More Figs—Good Fresh, Canned or Preserved	4
How to Hold a Baby Show—Directions by Mrs. Hutt	8
How to Transfer Bees—By Mr. J. O. Hallman	18
More About Lime—Kind to Use, How and When to Apply	6
New Rules as to Cotton Baling—How the Farmer Stands to Lose by Them	14
Use the Torrens System—Information of Interest to All North Carolina Farmers	5, 10
What Secretary Houston Thinks—An Interview	11
Where Shall We Get Phosphoric Acid?—Dr. Hopkins' Views and Some Editorial Comment	7