

# THE PROGRESSIVE FARMER

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### To Help Fix Cotton Prices, Raise Your Own Hay and Meat

**I**N The Progressive Farmer office the other day Prof. D. N. Barrow made a statement about the control of cotton prices that is worth passing on. This is what he said:

"The farmer will be able to fix the price of his cotton when he owns it and not before. The farmer is not an exception to the general rule that a man cannot control the price of a thing which does not belong to him."

All the argument in the world cannot get away from this simple proposition. The cotton crop of the South when made does not belong to the men who made it, but to the landlord, the storekeeper, the banker, who furnished them the money to make it with. These men want their money, the cotton grower has to raise it for them, and has just one way to get it—that is to sell his cotton.

Of course, under such conditions, someone else fixes the price of cotton; and not until the conditions are changed will the farmer have much "say" in the matter.

It is good to know that the conditions are being changed, that more and more farmers are coming really to own the crops they make; but there is yet much progress to be made before any sort of organization or financing plan can enable the farmers, as a class, to hold for a fair price. The first thing in the fight for better cotton prices is to do away with the old practice of letting cotton growers live all summer long on the expectation of a crop yet to be made. The share cropper, with everything furnished him and a mortgage laid on the cotton he is going to make must be converted into a wage hand, or given a chance to do real farming and release himself from the economic slavery of his present condition. The land-owning farmer who buys fertilizers and work-stock and machinery and corn and hay and groceries and clothes, all to be paid for when cotton is sold, must be changed into a self-supporting farmer who grows more of what he needs and owns more of what he produces.

Here is where the work of fixing cotton prices must begin; and any such work is necessarily slow. It is gratifying to know, however, that every farmer can do something at it this very year. He can at least make sure that he will have home-grown hay and feed and home-raised meat to eat next winter; and these two things will put him far along the road to economic freedom. It must be remembered, too, that every man who puts his farming on a self-sustaining basis, not only helps



**RUST-PROOF OATS, HAIRY VETCH AND CRIMSON CLOVER.**  
Mr. J. D. Carmichael, Sunny South, Ala., sends us this picture. He sowed the field last October, putting in three bushels oats, 15 pounds vetch seed and five pounds crimson clover seed to the acre. The combination is certainly a splendid one.

himself, but also adds to the strength of the farmers who already own their cotton and hastens the day when there will be enough such farmers to take care of the crops produced by the dependent class.

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