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Three Matters of Special Interest Just Now.

THERE are three features of this issue of such special timeliness and importance that we feel justified in calling special attention to them on this first page:

The first one is Mr. French's plea on page 5 for a bigger hay



crop and better hay this year. We have said it often before, but it will bear repetition and re-emphasis: It is literally a shameful thing for a Southern farmer to have to buy hay to feed his work-stock. No other section is so well adapted to hay-making—has such a variety of hay crops and so long a season in which to grow them; and yet Southern farmers send millions of dollars to other sections to buy hay they could have raised for one-third or less of what they pay for it. Naturally, too, under such circumstances they do not buy as much as their stock need and the stock suffer because of poor feeding while the farmers suffer from the cost of feeding them. It is time to change all this, and it can be changed this very year. Sufficient hay and forage crops can yet be planted this year to produce an abundant supply for every farm animal in the South. Mr. French and the other writers on page 5, tell how to do it. The man who calls himself a farmer and buys hay next spring has only himself to blame, and only his own neglect to be ashamed of.

The second feature to which we would call attention here is the little editorial "Don't Be in a Hurry to Lay-By the Crops." Every reader who has thought that perhaps there is a chance for him to cut the work of cultivation short this year should turn at once to page 10 and read it. This foolish old idea of many farmers that when they have worked the corn or the cotton three, or four, or five times they have done their full duty, is a notion that costs the South more than we can calculate. The time to lay-by a crop is when the crop is clean, the soil in good condition and the crop so large or so nearly mature that the cultivation is likely to result in injury to stalks or foliage. The date on the calendar, and the number of times it has been gone over have little or nothing to do with the question.

The warning given in the same article against deep cultivation at this season must also be heeded. It is better ordinarily to stop the cultivation early and let the crop look after itself than to send a turn plow or other deep-running tool into the field to cut the roots and deprive the plants of moisture. Frequent stirring of the soil, to a very moderate depth, until the crop has

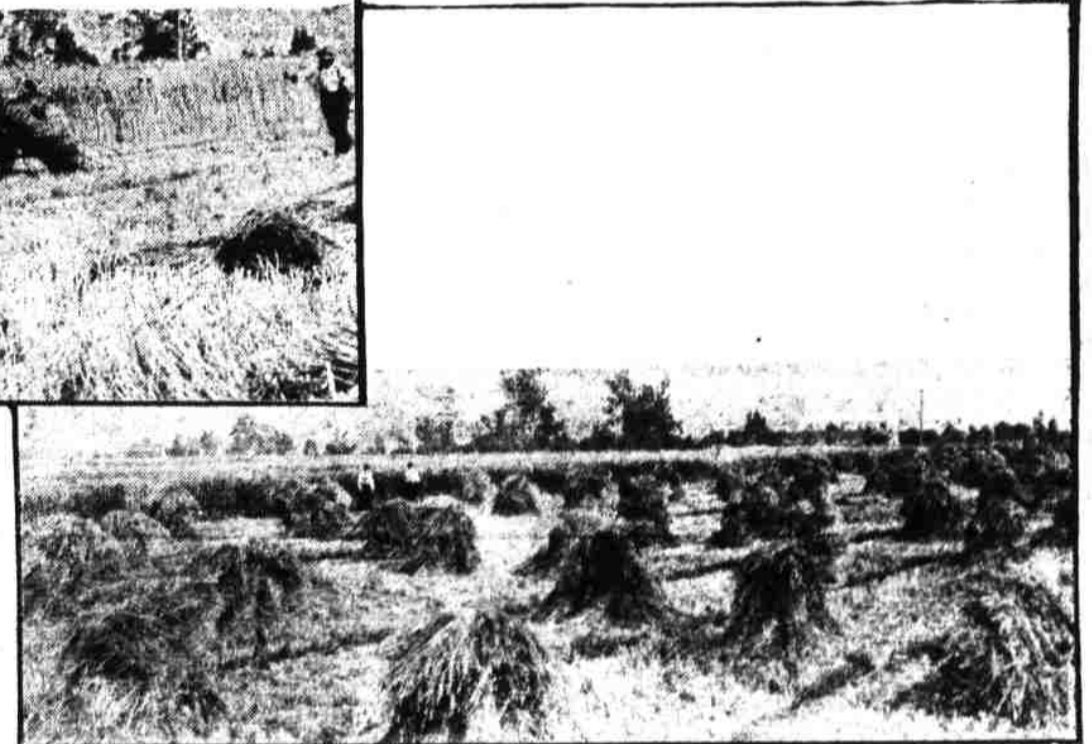
practically made its growth is what good cultivation demands at this time.

The third feature to which the reader is directed is Professor Duggar's article on the use of nitrate of soda, on page 15 Nitrate of soda costs much money and is essentially a fertilizer for a single season. Therefore, the farmer should use it so as to get full results, a thing which those who wait very late in the season to apply it are not likely to do. What Professor Duggar says about the use of most other fertilizers late in the season is also worthy of heed. It is almost certain that a great deal of the money spent for late applications of fertilizers to growing crops is mis-spent.

The average Southern farmer depends so largely upon commercial fertilizers and spends such a large per cent of his income for them, that he cannot afford to neglect any opportunity he may have to learn how to get the most out of them. And it may not be out of place to say again that right now is the time to begin reducing next season's fertilizer bills by the liberal planting of cowpeas, and soy beans and the preparation for winter cover crops.



OAT FIELD ON DELTA STATION EXPERIMENT FARM, STONEVILLE, MISSISSIPPI



OTHER FEATURES OF THIS ISSUE.

A Talk With the Boys and Girls—Some New Plans for the Young People's Department	7
Beef Type and Milk Production—Mr. French Tells About Some of His Cows	12
Concrete Silos—They Will Keep Silage All Right	3
"Hollow Horn" and "Hollow Tail"—A Final Word From Dr. Butler About These Mythical Diseases	3
How to Be Beautiful—The First of Several Practical Articles by Mrs. Hutt	8
How to Plant Soy Beans—And Where to Plant Them	5
How to Prevent Flies—Keep Them From Breeding	9
Pasturage for Bees—Crops the Beekeeper Should Grow	16
Reasons for Crop Rotation—Prof. Massey Tells Why and How to Keep the Land Busy	4
Some Problems in Marketing Fruit—The First Installment of Mr. Fooshe's Interesting Story	18
What a Live Church Did—How a Progressive Pastor and His Helpers Remade a Community	6
Your County Superintendent of Schools—The Sort of Man He Should Be	14