

THE PROGRESSIVE FARMER

AND SOUTHERN FARM GAZETTE

A Farm and Home Weekly for
The Carolinas, Virginia, Georgia, and Florida.

FOUNDED 1886, AT RALEIGH, N. C.



Vol. XXIX. No. 3.

SATURDAY, JANUARY 17, 1914.

\$1 a Year; 5c. a Copy

FOOD AND FEED FIRST—THEN COTTON



TWO BALES TO THE ACRE ON RICH LAND (FARM OF J. A. WADE, ALEXANDER CITY, ALA.)

ONCE more let us impress the necessity, in planning our cropping operations for 1914, for so arranging that each crop shall go where it will result in the greatest return to ourselves and to our land. And what may be best for a single year is not, very likely, best for a number of years. For instance, we may have a field that was in cotton last year; that is still fairly fertile; and that would produce a fair crop in 1914. If we were only farming the land for a single year, doubtless such a plan would be most profitable to us. But good farming demands that we look beyond one year and so plan our work that our soils, instead of getting poorer year by year, will become more and more productive. While not an exhaustive crop in itself, the clean culture necessary in growing cotton leaves the ground bare, thus rapidly depleting its store of vegetable matter. So, in making and retaining rich land, it is preferable that a soil-improving crop, like peas, beans, or clover, should go in it at least every other year, and every year if possible. This is not possible where cotton is grown on the same land year after year.

Then there is the widespread need for more food and feed crops—a need we can never supply so long as our land is impoverished by an all-cotton system. We do not by any means believe that the average Southern farmer should eliminate cotton as a surplus cash crop; for few staple crops surpass it in this regard. What we should all set our faces against is its abuse, and the habit we have of growing it too exclusively. Our feed and fertilizer bills and our eroded lands are little less

than a disgrace. It boots us little if we raise big cotton crops and spend the net proceeds for materials we can easily raise at home, and until better practices become the rule, rather than the exception, we will continue to have poor land and poor people.

FEATURES OF THIS ISSUE

County Cotton Graders—A Plan to Insure More Uniform Prices . . .	8
Don't Burn the Stalks and Straw—Why Such Materials Should be Kept on the Land . . .	5
Easy Farm Bookkeeping—Keeping Records of Farm Animals . . .	18
Five Prize Winners—Young Contestants Who Made Good in the Club Contests . . .	7
Housing Sweet Potatoes—Some Practical Suggestions Regarding One of Our Best Crops . . .	22
Knapp School of Country Life—A New Institution at Nashville . . .	12
Waking Up a Neighborhood—What an Active Organization Can Do . . .	17
More About Pruning—Work with Apples, Pears and Cherries . . .	23
Story of a Successful Poultry Farm—Points on Feeds and Feeding . . .	20
The Home Garden—Suggestions That Are Worth While . . .	14
Winter Care of Livestock—More About Getting the Animals Through the Winter . . .	19