

THE PROGRESSIVE FARMER

SOUTHERN FARM GAZETTE

"You can tell by a man's farm whether he reads it or not."

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The Progressive Farmer Company

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READ the remarkable little story on how spraying pays, in this issue. "No spray, no pay," has come to be a slogan in fruit growing. Now is the time to get bulletins on spraying, catalogs of spraying material, and to begin getting ready to help your orchard work for you this year.

IT'S no use to talk about tools unless you get them. After you read over the various letters about improved implements and machinery in this week's paper, look over our advertisers' offerings and send for literature and price lists of all that interest you. We might also remark that it's no use to talk about the advantages of pure-bred poultry unless you get them and raise them, and there is no better time than now to write those who advertised your favorite breed in last week's Progressive Farmer.

IF CATTLE that sell for four cents a pound eat your grass or other feed you are selling the products of your farm for just sixty-six and two-thirds cents on the dollar as compared with what cattle that sell for six cents a pound would pay you. While we are talking so much about better marketing of farm crops why not give a little attention to improving our markets by improving the quality of our cattle. If four-cent cattle will pay a profit on forty-dollar land, why will six-cent cattle not pay a profit on sixty-dollar land?

IT IS announced from Washington that an area of 152,960 acres, lying in Lawrence and Winston counties, Alabama, is recommended by Secretary of Agriculture Houston for purchase by the Government as an addition to the public forest reservations. These lands lie almost wholly in the Southern foothills of the Appalachians, and 92 per cent of the entire area has never been cleared, conditions generally being unfavorable to profitable crop production. A considerable proportion of the proposed reservation is already public land, and of the 8 per cent cleared it is estimated that nearly half has been allowed to revert to forest.

THE idea of having a rest room in every town for farmers and farmers' wives is fast growing in popularity, and the towns whose merchants show this consideration to their farmer patrons are likely to hold these patrons longer than merchants who do not. The Franklin (Virginia) News quotes from The Progressive Farmer's article on Bonham, Texas, and says:

"One particular thing these young Texans accomplished, which Franklin would do well to imitate, was the establishment of a rest room for the use of the farmers and their wives who were trading in their town. A comfortable room was fitted up with easy chairs, lounges, lavatories, baby cribs, reading matter, etc., and a colored maid is kept on duty to relieve the tired mother of her baby while father is selling his cotton and other products and mother is turning money into home necessities at the town's stores. We have often felt that such a rest room would not only be a great boon to Franklin, but would add to our popularity as a trading center."

THE results of a series of investigations recently conducted in the Corn Belt States by the United States Department of Agriculture most strongly emphasize the necessity for adequate training in farming as a business is to be made a success. Here, as in all other vocations, the untrained man inevitably falls by the wayside, a failure. Some of the conclusions drawn from this rather remarkable analysis of conditions are as follows:

"Farmers with a high school education make nearly double the average income of those with merely a common school education, and those who start earliest make the

most profits, according to the Department of Agriculture's investigators. The Department's Office of Farm Management has been conducting a series of investigations in the Corn Belt, which have brought out many details that should be of practical value to all agriculturists. These results have just been published in a new bulletin. Farming is a business the same as any other industry, and until our schools teach some of the fundamental principles governing profitable farming, the farm boy is likely to seek work elsewhere. Considering that the farm boys of today will be the farmers of tomorrow, too little attention is given to their training. Many boys leave the farm because they see no future in it. Another important reason is the lack of profitable work at home. Let them fully understand how farm profits and losses are made and there will be an incentive to remain. First, make our farms profitable, and the question of keeping the boys there will solve itself."

Join the Cavalry Farmers

EVERYWHERE the hustling, riding, up-to-date cavalry farmers, (like the one shown in our Progressive Farmer heading on page 1 every week) are fast gaining on the infantry farmers.

Mr. M. W. Jackson, a Chowan County, N. C., farmer, puts the whole matter in a nutshell when he says in his letter for the Implement Special:

"I don't mind working in the sunshine when there is any need of it, but when I can sit in the shade and ride on a good seat, and drive a yoke of good-looking mules, going over from 12 to 15 acres per day and leaving the whole top of the land cultivated fine, it is some pleasure to look at it. At any rate, I had rather do it than to get down and follow one mule and a plow that is tearing up all the feed roots and damaging my crop."

If you are not in a position to join the "cavalry farmers" this year, work and plan so that you can join them next year. Moreover, it is well to keep forever in mind the saying of old Dr. James H. Carlisle of Wofford College which Mr. T. B. Thackston quotes in his interesting new booklet on agricultural cooperation: "We can do what I cannot"—that is, "We as a collection of individuals can do what I as a single individual cannot do." And by joining together with brother farmers in the use of teams, tools, and machinery, you may become a cavalry farmer far quicker than you could ever do working wholly by yourself.

There is no better field for cooperation than in the purchase and use of improved tools and machinery. Talk the subject over with your neighbors and see what you can do about it.

Read the Implement Catalogs

IF YOU are interested in using labor-saving tools and machinery this year; if you want to run your brain with two- to four-horse power instead of one-horse power; if you want to show yourself boss of bigger teams and bigger tools such as money-making Western farmers use—if you want to do these things, then the first thing to do is to inform yourself thoroughly regarding the various improved implements and machines.

In this endeavor, the articles in this week's Progressive Farmer will help you greatly, and talking with your leading farmer-neighbors, your demonstration agent, and your implement merchant will help you further. But the first and quickest thing to do is to sit down and order the catalog of every advertiser in this issue whose machines appeal to you as being worth investigating. And don't be afraid of ordering too many. These catalogs and price lists are all free, and the manufacturers are glad to send them. These catalogs cost money, of course, but it doesn't cost as many cents to send a catalog to you as it would dollars to send a drummer to you. When you patronize the advertising manufacturers you patronize those who are selling at least expense and can make you the best prices, quality considered.

Get a dozen catalogs and price lists; twelve postal cards will get them for you if you haven't time

to write letters. Then put some brain work on them these cold February nights and they will save you muscle work on some hot July days.

Machinery Makes it Possible to Do More Work and Better Work

NOTHING will exert a greater influence in increasing the production per man, on Southern farms, than a more extensive and judicious use of farm machinery and implements.

European production per acre is much greater than American, but American production per man, in the North Central and Western States, is greater than in Europe. In the South our production is low, per acre, and also per worker; because we have failed to use farm machinery wisely. In Texas, farm machinery has been used more than in any other part of the South but this use of farm machinery has been to increase the acres per man instead of to do good farming or to increase the yields per acre. In fact, it is the extensive and sometimes expensive use of farm implements that has enabled American farmers to make a good showing per man, or per worker; while making such a poor showing in yields per acre. In fact, but for large fields, with the best of facilities for the use of farm machinery and the best of farm machinery to use, the American farmer would before this have been compelled to produce larger yields per acre to supply his needs. By the use of more farm machinery we may increase our earnings by increasing the acres cultivated and this will help us individually; but it will not supply the demands of the increasing population without increased yields per acre.

Let us use more farm machinery to increase the earnings of each worker, like the Northern farmers of the United States have done; but let us also use farm machinery to do better farming—to increase yields per acre, and this will also as certainly further increase the earnings per worker.

The Southern farmer should use farm machinery to increase the acres cultivated, as the Northern farmer has done; but he also needs to use more and better machinery and implements to do better farming, which the Northern farmer has not done to any marked degree. To cultivate more acres by use of more farm implements is highly desirable, because it will help the individual; but it is even much more desirable that we also increase the yield per acre, for that helps the individual just that much more and also the community and the nation as a whole.

In short it is desirable that every farmer use more than one horse and larger implements, not simply to enable him to cultivate more land, but to enable him to do better work and produce more per acre. Good farming cannot now be done with the implements on a large portion of Southern farms, leaving out entirely the question of doing the work economically.

A Thought for the Week

WILLIAM JAMES in his wonderful chapter on "Habit," suggests one of the greatest formulas for character building and life happiness of anything ever put into print. He says, substantially, "Resolve each day to do at least one task that you would rather not do." This is by no means an easy thing to do—but it is a big thing to do. Also, it is a sort of brother to this fine little maxim:

"If you can't restrain, then abstain."

Dr. Johnson, the great English writer, in speaking of his habits, said this: "Sir, I can abstain; but I can't be moderate." Abstinence always works out successfully. It is the tinkering with your desires and dangerous likes that works havoc and disappointment. No one is big or strong enough to tamper with danger moderately.—Geo. M. Adams, in Jacksonville News.

The hour of departure has arrived, and we go our ways—I to die, and you to live. Which is the better, God only knows.—Socrates to his judges