

# THE PROGRESSIVE FARMER

AND SOUTHERN FARM GAZETTE



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## ONCE MORE—ARE YOU BURNING DOLLARS?



A NORTH CAROLINA HERD HEADER. Owned by B. B. Miller, Mt. Ulla, N. C.

**W**E positively refuse to stand by without a protest and see the thousands of dollars worth of valuable fertilizers sent up in smoke from our Southern farms. This indiscriminate burning of cotton and corn stalks, grass, straw and trash every spring is an actual disgrace—an economic crime that we hope not a single Progressive Farmer reader is guilty of. Of course, there may be times when the use of fire is excusable, but such occasions are very rare. Where the boll weevil is bad and the work can be done in October, it is possibly good practice to burn the cotton stalks, especially if a cover crop of crimson clover is sown on the land. But we find that about one farmer in ten thousand in weevil territory destroys his stalks in October; and to burn them in the winter and spring as a means of controlling the weevil is worse than useless.

Let us see what we are losing when we burn stalks and litter off our lands:

Chemists have found that where 300 pounds of lint cotton has been grown, the whole stalks, including leaves and burrs, contain 23 pounds of nitrogen, worth, at current prices, \$4.60. In other words, where a farmer (?) grows ten bales of cotton and burns his stalks, he deliberately destroys 380 pounds of nitrogen, or the fertilizing equivalent of more than 50 sacks of cottonseed meal.

Where corn stalks, grass and straw are burned, the losses are little less.

What would you want to do to a man, Mr. Farmer, who deliberately set fire to one of your outbuildings and burned several tons of costly fertilizers? Yet this is exactly what you yourself are doing if you persist in burning over your fields.

Rich land is the way to big crops, and when you travel the fire route you're going in exactly the opposite direction.

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