

THE PROGRESSIVE FARMER

AND SOUTHERN FARM GAZETTE

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The Carolinas, Virginia, Georgia, and Florida.

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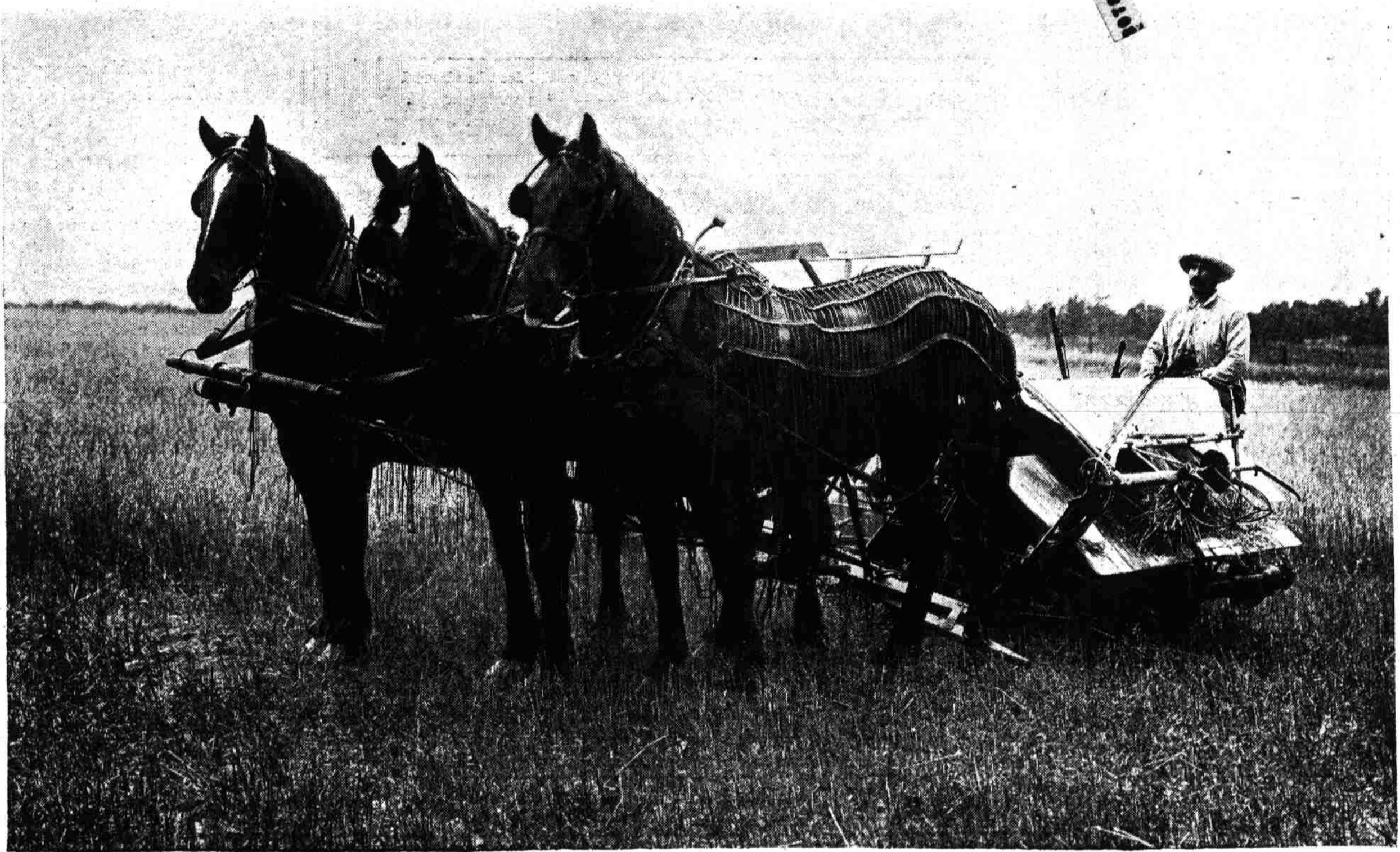
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HOW TO MAKE THE OAT CROP PAY



FALL SEEDING. USE OF HOME-GROWN SEED, THE FORMALIN TREATMENT FOR PREVENTING SMUT, AND RATIONAL FERTILIZATION WILL GO FAR TOWARD MAKING OATS ONE OF OUR BEST PAYING CROPS.

NOW that the oat crop practically throughout the South is harvested, it is well to take thought as to whether it has been profitable and, if not, what steps may be taken hereafter to make it so. The Progressive Farmer has steadily maintained that oats may be made one of our best paying crops, and the evidence to sustain this position is steadily increasing. However, that this may be generally true it is essential that a few important details be looked to.

First of all, it is important to remember that anywhere in the Gulf States, Georgia, and the larger part of the Carolinas, it is only the fall-sown oats that pay the profits. During thirteen years of experimental work the Alabama Experiment Station found spring-sown oats averaged 16.5 bushels per acre, while fall-sown oats averaged during the same period 36.1 bushels. This difference of 19.6 bushels per acre, or considerably more than double, surely should lead us all to make up our minds now that in future all our oats will be fall-sown. It is true that in the northern third of the territory named

fall oats, as ordinarily sown, are sometimes winter-killed; but now that excellent machines for sowing oats in the open furrow are on the market, this danger is no longer serious. The best of these open-furrow drills is drawn by one horse, is adjustable, plants three rows of oats at a through down the cotton middles, and may be used after the first or

second picking with little or no damage to the cotton crop. Other points that must be looked to are the use of Southern-grown seed; the formalin treatment for the prevention of smut; rational fertilization; and following the oat crop with a crop of legume hay. When these few essentials have been looked to there can be no valid reason why oats should not be one of our best paying crops.

Later we shall discuss all these points in detail; but now that the crop has just been harvested we believe the time ripe for calling attention to these things, that they may be provided for in future. In the meantime, if any Progressive Farmer readers observed all the rules laid down and failed to find the oat crop a paying one, we'd be glad to hear from them.

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