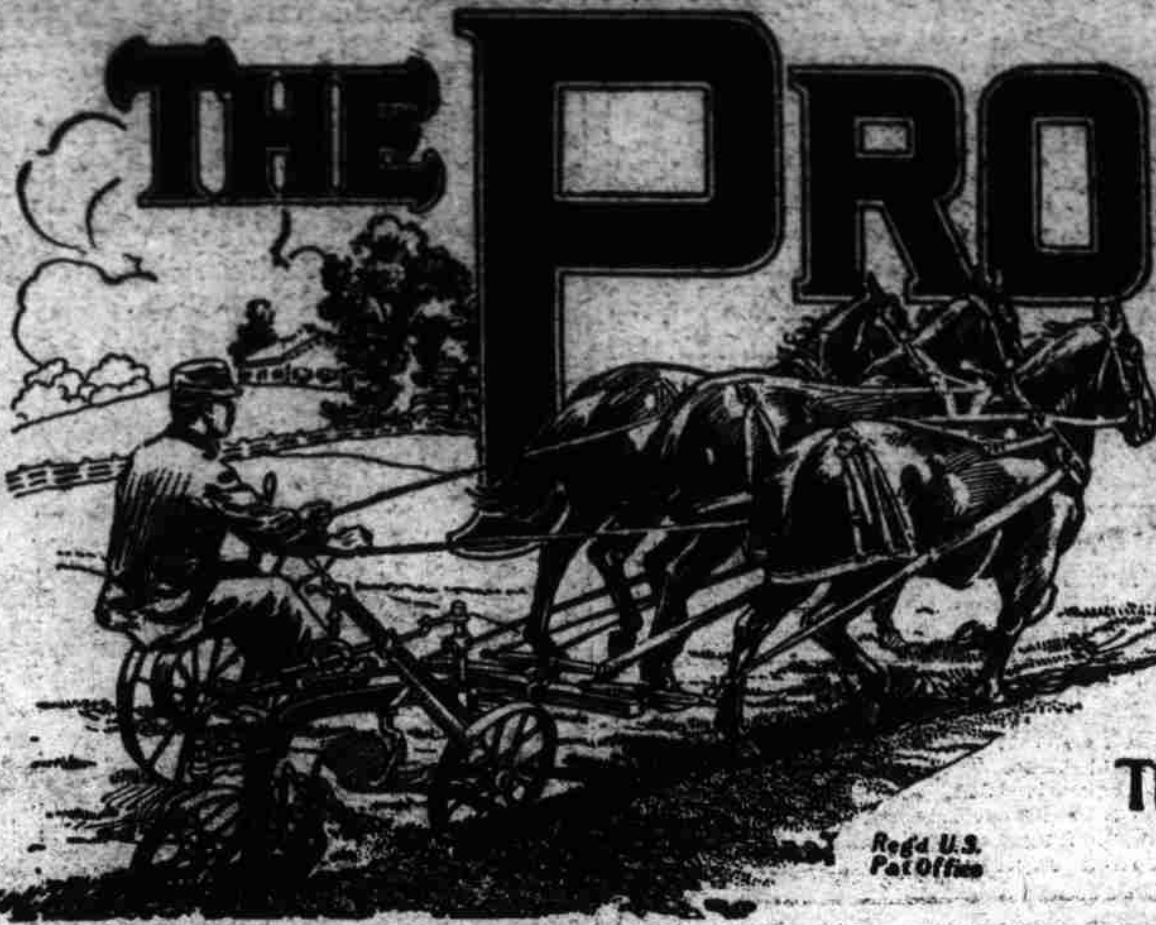


THE PROGRESSIVE FARMER

AND SOUTHERN FARM GAZETTE

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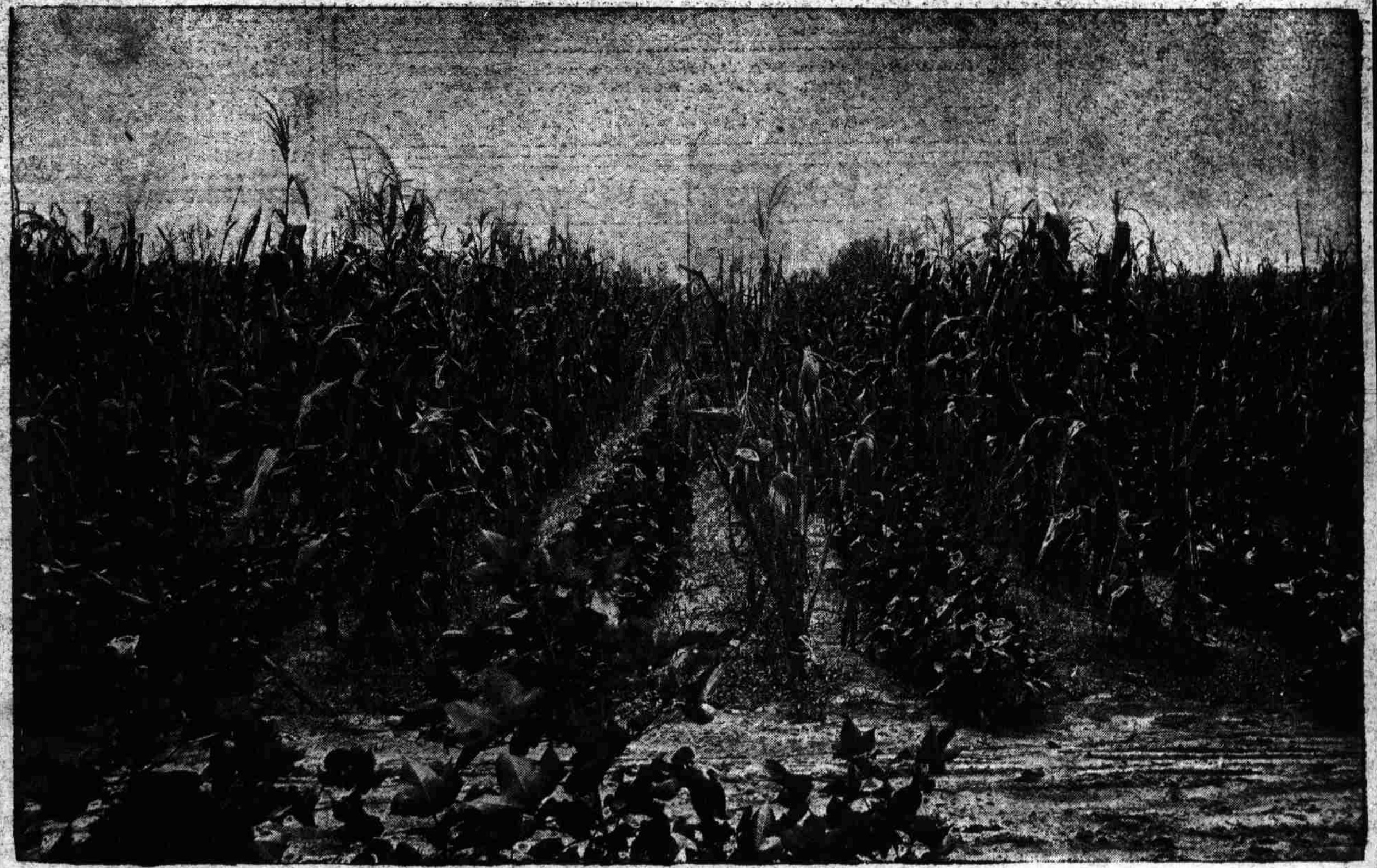
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LET'S QUIT PULLING FODDER



FODDER-PULLING TEST, PEDIGREED SEED FARM, HARTSVILLE, S. C.
Experiments Prove that Fodder Pulling Cuts the Corn Yield From 20 to 40 Per Cent.

ALTHOUGH less prevalent than formerly, the custom of pulling fodder is still entirely too general in the South. On another page we are publishing an article by Mr. Coker, showing just what losses are sustained when fodder is pulled. The two losses most strongly emphasized by Mr. Coker are the decreased yield of corn from which the fodder is pulled, this sometimes running as high as 25 per cent, and the decreased vitality of the seed corn for the next crop.

Other reasons we would emphasize in our campaign against fodder pulling are the exceedingly hot, disagreeable labor necessary; the fact that saving the whole corn plant by cutting and shocking at the proper stage gives us as good a grade of roughage and a great deal more of it; and, when this cannot be done, the possibility, even at this late date, of making a good crop of hay from soy beans and cowpeas.

Of course the stage at which fodder is pulled largely determines the degree to

which the corn crop is injured; but it should be remembered that if fodder pulling be delayed until there is no danger of decreasing the yield of corn the fodder will be so dry that it will furnish a very poor grade of feed. We may say, too, that while Mr. Coker's tests were made on his own farm and are unofficial, they are nevertheless very closely in line with results obtained at a number of Southern experiment stations.

Let's look at these things squarely, Mr. Progressive Farmer. Can we afford to cut our corn yield five or more bushels per acre by roasting under a July or August sun for a feed that is not as good as cowpea or soy bean hay that should be growing on our stubble land? We doubt if there has ever been a bundle of fodder pulled that did not cost more than it was worth; and if perchance there are a few of our readers who still pull fodder let's reason it out and see if we can't decide for all time to forego doubtful pleasures and equally doubtful profits of fodder-pulling time.

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