

# THE PROGRESSIVE FARMER

AND SOUTHERN FARM GAZETTE

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## CONSIDER THE HAY CROP



68,174 POUNDS OF COWPEA HAY FROM 21 ACRES  
Farm of Geo. L. Colburn, Lake City, Fla.

**W**HILE we all hope the great European war will end soon, it is dangerous to assume that there is any real certainty of its early termination. What we must do is to take no chances on the future, but arrange now to meet the situation with overflowing barns and smokehouses, out of which the home demand may be amply supplied, with a goodly surplus to be sold at war-time prices. The first step in such a live-at-home program must logically consist in an abundance of hay and forage—crops that have always paid well and that in most cases now must either be produced at home or gone without. In preparing for an abundant harvest of such crops next spring, it is vital that certain important steps be taken immediately. First of all, turn to last week's Progressive Farmer and read again what Prof. Duggar says about saving a liberal supply of cowpea and soy bean seed. These seed usually command high prices during the spring months, and it is imperative that liberal quantities be harvested and protected against weevils and other insects for the spring seeding. Then in those parts of the Cotton Belt where

lespedeza is proving a profitable hay crop liberal quantities of these seed should be saved for seeding in the oat fields in February and March.

Then comes the oat crop, to which we have repeatedly referred as one that may, when rightly handled, take the place of cotton as a cash crop. Proper handling, of course, means fall seeding, the earlier the better; treatment for smut; judicious fertilization; suitable harvesting and threshing machinery where the oats are intended for the market; and the seeding of every acre of oat land to some legume that later is to be made into hay. It is this latter point to which we would call especial attention just now—the urgent necessity for seeing that an abundant supply of peas, beans or lespedeza seed is saved to seed every acre of corn and oat land next spring and summer.

This war will likely mean to us, Mr. Progressive Farmer, many disagreeable things, many real hardships; but let us make sure now that one of the humiliations we will not suffer will be that of buying next spring dollar-and-a-half corn and twenty-five dollar hay to make seven-cent cotton.

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