

# THE PROGRESSIVE FARMER

AND SOUTHERN FARM GAZETTE

A Farm and Home Week for  
The Carolinas, Virginia, Georgia, and Florida.

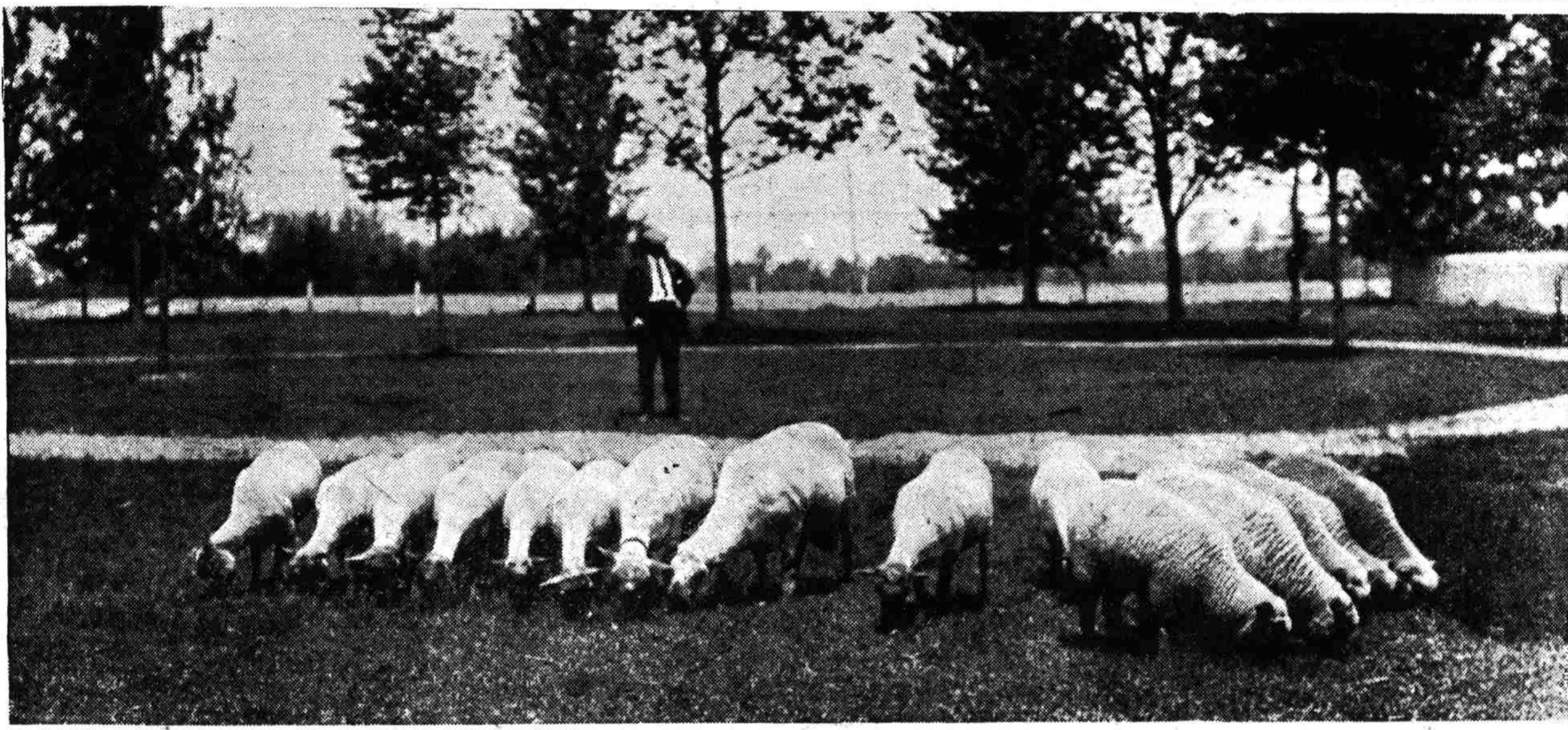
FOUNDED 1886, AT RALEIGH, N. C.

Vol. XXIX. No. 43

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 24, 1914

\$1 a Year; 5c. a Copy

## JOIN THE BUY-A-BULL MOVEMENT



Sheep on Cotton Valley Farm, owned by Geo. A. Holderness, Tarboro, N. C.

**Y**ES, we mean Buy-a-Bull Movement, instead of the Buy-a-Bale Movement that has of late been given so much publicity over the South. The latter movement is a good one, and will be of some real service; but at most we can expect from it only temporary relief, leaving our big problem, that of being prepared in the future for such crises as the present, still unsolved.

There are necessarily "ups and downs" in every business—boom times when there is not a cloud on the horizon, and periods of depression, when there is no market and our products go begging at prices less than the cost of production. It is the certain knowledge that these rises and falls in our business barometer are to be expected that should lead us to be prepared for them. An essential step in such preparation means that now and for all time we must get away from the dangerous practice of placing our reliance on a single crop, using it at the expense of soil fertility and in violation of all the principles of common business sense, to purchase commodities that we could more cheaply grow on our own farms and at the same time maintain and even increase soil fertility.

One of the measures of relief that we may well consider is the Buy-a-Bull movement as suggested by the Arkansas Livestock Association. As might have been foreseen, the farmers of the country who are producing food and feed

crops, instead of suffering because of the European war, are actually receiving higher prices because of it. Further, there is abundant evidence to indicate that for many years meat prices will rule high, and that profits await the farmer who can aid in supplying the demand. Our big job first of all is to supply our home demand for meat, milk and butter. Doing this alone, to say nothing of exporting such products, will mean an immense advance, and will very largely reduce the cotton acreage.

Now we don't mean at all to convey the idea that the average cotton grower should break away from cotton at once and embark wholly into livestock production. To do this—we mean for the average cotton farmer—would be an almost sure road to disaster. Some say that successful livestock men are born, not made. However this may be, we must recognize the truth that to abandon everything with which we are familiar and turn to stock exclusively would be equally as dangerous as adhering to an all-cotton program.

We need to start gradually and build on a firm foundation. Let our first aim then be to supply our home demand for livestock products, gradually increasing our production as we better learn the business. As a beginning, our native stock stands badly in need of an infusion of better blood. To get this, it strikes us that hundreds of Southern communities might well organize Buy-a-Bull clubs.

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