



What Farmers Want to Know

By W. F. MASSEY

THE SOUTH FOR THE HOME SEEKER

A Better Climate and a Longer Growing Season Make of Ours a Favored Country

WHEN I was a very young man I spent a little time in Minnesota. I found the soils there fine, and the the country very beautiful. But I came to the conclusion that any one who wished to make a home in the country and engage in farming had better not settle in a section where, as an old friend of mine said, it is "three months fall and nine months winter," and where the main part of the season of growth is spent in providing stock feed for the winter and then feeding them in stalls for more months than they pasture outside.

I would prefer to grow my corn where we are certain to have it mature completely before frost, and not in a section where one has to take the greatest pains to cure corn so that it will germinate in the spring. As county after county is cleared of ticks, the South should become the great stock section of the country because of the long growing season, and the fact that even in winter stock can find something outside. Less expensive barns are needed.

Then, too, in the far North when, by their one-crop system of growing spring wheat, with the risk of getting it frosted before harvest, the land gets run down, it is far harder to build it up than in the South, because we can grow rapidly the various more tender legumes, peas and soy beans in summer and crimson clover in winter. The building up of run-down land in the South is far more economically and quickly accomplished than in the North.

Then the feeding value of the hay-making crops in the South is far greater than the feeding value of the timothy hay of the North. The hay made from cowpeas, soy beans, velvet beans, etc., has a far higher feeding value than timothy hay. As Mr. Henry Wallace told the Iowa farmers, if timothy hay is worth \$13 a ton, cowpea hay is worth \$19 or more. The dairyman in any section knows well the greater value of the legume hay for dairy cattle, and the ease with which great crops of legume hay can be made in the South would seem to indicate the great adaptation of the South for dairy purposes. Some years ago a dairyman from Vermont settled in Georgia near Atlanta. He wrote me that he found that he could make just as good butter there as in Vermont, and could make it at less expense and get a better price for it.

New England and New York State have long thought that they can beat the country in growing apples, but as experimental work has progressed in the South it has been found that the whole Appalachian region from Maryland to Alabama is the finest apple-growing section in this country. Out on the Pacific coast they grow beautiful apples and pack them in a very attractive way, but when one compares these with the apples of the Virginia and North Carolina mountains he soon finds that the pretty apples of the Pacific are not good to eat when compared with ours.

Then, on the South Atlantic coast especially, the market gardener will find climatic conditions that will enable him not only to produce early crops for the Northern markets, but he can follow them up on the same land with great forage crops or late vegetables or corn. Riding last week through a great truck section on the eastern coast in company with a farmer from the North, he said to me: "I notice that the early corn that has had the fodder stripped does not seem to be very heavy, but I see

field after field of heavy corn still green. Has it been the season or what that makes the difference?" I said that the late corn he was looking at was the second crop on that land this season, for a large and profitable crop of early Irish potatoes had been shipped by the middle of June from those fields, and the heavy fertilization of the potato crop made the heavy late crop of corn, and this double cropping is one of the great advantages of the long growing season of the South. If the potato grower should need the forage he could have sown cowpeas after the potatoes and could have made two to three tons of the finest hay, as good, as Henry Wallace says to the Iowa farmers, as alfalfa hay, and grown at a trifle of the cost.

Then the farmer who is not a trucker can sow his oats in September or October, cut as heavy a crop as can be made in the North, and then

The Combination

AT THE recent celebration of the Twenty-fifth Anniversary of the A. & M. College, at Raleigh, N. C., a friend wanted to know what has been the chief incentive to awaken the farmers to a better appreciation of the importance of agricultural education in the South. I told him that in my opinion the greatest cause of this awakening has been paper, printers' ink and Poe. It is hard to calculate the influence of the energetic President of The Progressive Farmer on the Southern farmers, and his bold championship of the cause of the farmer in every way.

The Colleges themselves have developed greatly and the farmers' institutes have had a great influence, but the weekly visits of The Progressive Farmer have kept up the fight, aided by the Farmers' Union which has so wisely managed things since the Alliance committed suicide, and all together there is a force at work in the South that is making for great betterment to the farmers. Things may look squally at present, but the South has too great a recuperative power to stay down, and as

into the spraying machine and it is ready to use and should be used at once.

Corn Smut and Tomato Blight

I HAVE a garden that grows corn all right until earing time, and then every shoot almost is filled with smut instead of corn. Tomato vines grow well until they take on fruit, and then wilt and die. Please tell me what to do to prevent this."

Corn smut is generally brought to the soil from manure where smutty corn stalks have been fed. The spores get into the plant at germination and the fungus plant grows through the tissues of the corn stalk and fruits in what is called smut, every grain of which will act as a seed to make more smut if the corn stalks are fed and the manure returned to the garden. Keep the soil clean of the spores and you will have less smut.

Your garden is infected with the Southern bacterial blight, and there is no preventive but to plant in uninfected soil or to breed resistant plants by taking seed from a plant that remains healthy where others die around it.

Plowing Under Green Vegetation

WILL the plowing under of green vegetable matter on poor sandy land prove beneficial or injurious? I mean the natural growth of crab grass and weeds. Some say it will kill the land, which in my opinion is erroneous."

No, it will not "kill" the land at all. Plowing under a heavy mass of green stuff in hot weather and especially on sandy land may cause an increase in acidity in the soil that may be injurious to some crops till the soil has been restored to sweetness by the application of lime. The final result of turning under vegetable growth is certainly beneficial to the soil in increasing the humus-making material so badly needed in all of our old soils. Organic matter and lime are important in the improvement of worn soils.

How to Avoid Hessian Flies on Wheat

I AM preparing to sow wheat before the middle of October and some say that it is too soon, as the Hessian Fly will attack it. What is the Hessian fly, and what does it do?"

It is always best to wait till there has been a white frost before sowing wheat, as the frost checks the fly. The Hessian fly is an insect that lays eggs in the base of the wheat and the worm-like larvae eat the wheat stalks and finally go into the pupa or dormant state in the base of the plants and come out perfect flies in the spring and lay more eggs and hatch more larvae to eat the wheat. Wheat sown after a frost is seldom attacked.

When to Dig Late Potatoes

I HAVE two and a half acres of late Irish potatoes which are making a fine yield. I want to know when to dig and how to keep through the winter."

Dig the potatoes as soon as frost has cut the tops. You can keep them in a cool dark cellar, and in want of that put them in heaps outdoors and cover with pine straw and earth. Total darkness and a temperature but little above the freezing point are best for Irish potatoes.

Early Triumph Sweet Potatoes

I PLANTED the Early Triumph sweet potatoes and find that they have made very large potatoes. What do you think of them?"

I have never grown the Early Triumph, but it is said to be the same as Nancy Hall, with which I am familiar and which I consider one of the best sweet potatoes. Any sweet potato will, under very favorable conditions, grow too large, and this is not confined to any variety.

"THE EASIEST WAY TO ACCUMULATE A COMPETENCE THE NEXT FIVE YEARS"

ONE of the effects of the European war will be the further decimation of the world's livestock supply. Already there is a shortage of meat animals in the United States and for some months agricultural authorities have been urging farmers to greater efforts in the production of livestock.

The arguments that have been advanced are given tenfold strength by the remarkable conditions that have arisen in Europe. The New York Commercial, in discussing the war situation, expresses the belief that Europe will have exhausted its horses and meat animals before the fighting ceases, and that "dearth of supplies of food will probably have as much to do with the making of peace as the loss of battles on land and sea." The Commercial continues:

"The waste of this war must be repaired after it is over and it will be in this work that neutral countries will make their greatest profit. Farmers must prepare to take advantage of the opportunity that is sure to come. The easiest way to accumulate a competence in the next five years lies in the increase of the herds. The golden days of the cattle boom in the West will be as nothing when compared with the profit of restocking the desolated farms of Europe. The many always wonder how the few get rich. Every intelligent farmer should be in comfortable circumstances within five years, if he will build for a future that is not far distant. Raising livestock cannot be over-done within that space of time, and it goes well with other agricultural pursuits."

There is an opportunity here for the farmers of Kentucky and the South in general. The South should become the great cattle-raising section of the United States. Every section of the country should profit by the expansion of the livestock industry, but the South should profit most of all.

—Louisville Courier-Journal.

break the stubble and sow cowpeas and make a heavy crop of hay and then get the land in crimson clover for a winter cover crop to turn under in spring for corn or cotton, and in this way improve the land while making paying crops faster than is possible in the shorter seasons of the North.

The statistics of the Department of Agriculture show that while Iowa makes immensely more hay as a total than North Carolina, North Carolina makes more hay per acre than Iowa. This is not because of better soil, but because of greater rainfall and a longer season, and the North Carolina farmer can get, if he sells hay, more money per ton than the Iowa farmer.

Like other stock, hogs can be raised cheaper in the South than in the North because of the great variety of crops we can grow for the hogs to gather all through the season, even in winter, and thus make pork cheaper than by depending on corn alone to make it. And today, as heretofore, the hams cured in the South bring a third more in the Northern groceries than the packers' hams from the West. Go into any fancy grocery in Philadelphia or New York and ask for the Smithfield hams of Virginia, and you will find them asking today 40 cents a pound for them. And the Southern farmer can produce the hogs that make these hams for less money than the Western farmers can make them.

the methods of better farming spread she will grow in commercial power and prosperity.

When to Spray

I HAVE an orchard of apples and peaches planted a year ago. When should I start spraying?"

Start this fall spraying with the lime-sulphur wash and repeat it in the spring before growth starts. This to ward off the San Jose scale. When the apple trees get into bearing it is well to spray with Bordeaux mixture in early spring and again with the same in which a pound and a half of lead arsenate has been mixed to 50 gallons of the Bordeaux, using this just as the blossoms fall to destroy the codling moth that lays eggs in the blossom end and causes wormy fruit. You can get the lime-sulphur in concentrated form from any of the seedsmen and can dilute it for use. You can also get the Bordeaux mixture in powder or paste and either with directions for diluting.

To make the lime-sulphur you will have to be prepared for boiling the materials on a large scale. Bordeaux mixture you can make by slaking 5 pounds of lime and then adding water enough to make 25 gallons. In another cask dissolve 5 pounds of bluestone or copper sulphate in hot water and make this 25 gallons. Pour the two together slowly into a third cask, stirring all the while. Strain