



THE PROGRESSIVE FARMER

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KNOW YOUR JOB



PIGS ON FARM OF EVAN McCALL, ASCENSION PARISH, LA.
Hogs and plenty of feed crops will help mightily in freeing ourselves from the bondage of King Cotton

GREAT crises bring out the best that is in individuals; likewise in the lives of nations times of stress have brought the inherent greatness of peoples to the fore. The economic crisis we are today facing is the greatest since our Civil War; but there is every reason to believe that out of it the South will emerge stronger, better, and a more vital factor in the Nation's affairs. We have the people to do this, we have the soils, the climate and the crops; to these resources it is only necessary that we apply the knowledge that will make of them the means by which we shall attain to a great and permanently prosperous agriculture. How?

1. We must learn, now and for all time, the evils of a one-crop system—that it means poor land, poor people, and the constant menace of over-supply and absence of demand, with prices below the cost of production. It is all very well to make a specialty of some particular crop, but we have yet to see the crop that we can successfully grow on purchased food and feedstuffs.

2. As a direct result of our all-cotton farming our soils have become so impoverished that on thousands of farms no crop can be grown at a profit. To rebuild these worn soils, to restore to them their virgin fertility, is a job requiring the very best of our thought and effort; to neglect this job is to neglect the most fundamental principle of good farming,—a principle the neglect

and ignorance of which will result in failure regardless of all energy and intelligence directed along other lines.

3. As corollaries of getting away from the one-crop idea and making our soils rich, come diversified crops and livestock. How we shall diversify, what livestock we shall raise and how to handle them,—these are problems that right now we must give the most earnest study.

4. Then, lastly, after our crops are grown, and particularly the crops that must take the place of cotton, it is vital that we know how to market them; otherwise our changed system will be of little avail.

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Hence we say, know your job! Never in our history has there been a time when knowledge tells as it does now; never has there been a time when it was more true that the man who wins is the man who knows. The United States Department of Agriculture, the state departments of agriculture, the agricultural colleges and experiment stations, and the farm papers, are sources of information that we should use liberally. Let's harness these forces and use them to make the coming year one that marks our final breaking away from the old methods that have meant no good to us nor to our communities, and our acceptance of a new agricultural and economic faith that will mean a permanently better South.