

# THE PROGRESSIVE FARMER

AND SOUTHERN FARM GAZETTE

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## USE YOUR HEAD AS WELL AS YOUR HANDS

As never before, farming is becoming a business where brains count, and nowhere is this more apparent than in the use of labor-saving, time-saving, money-saving farm machinery.

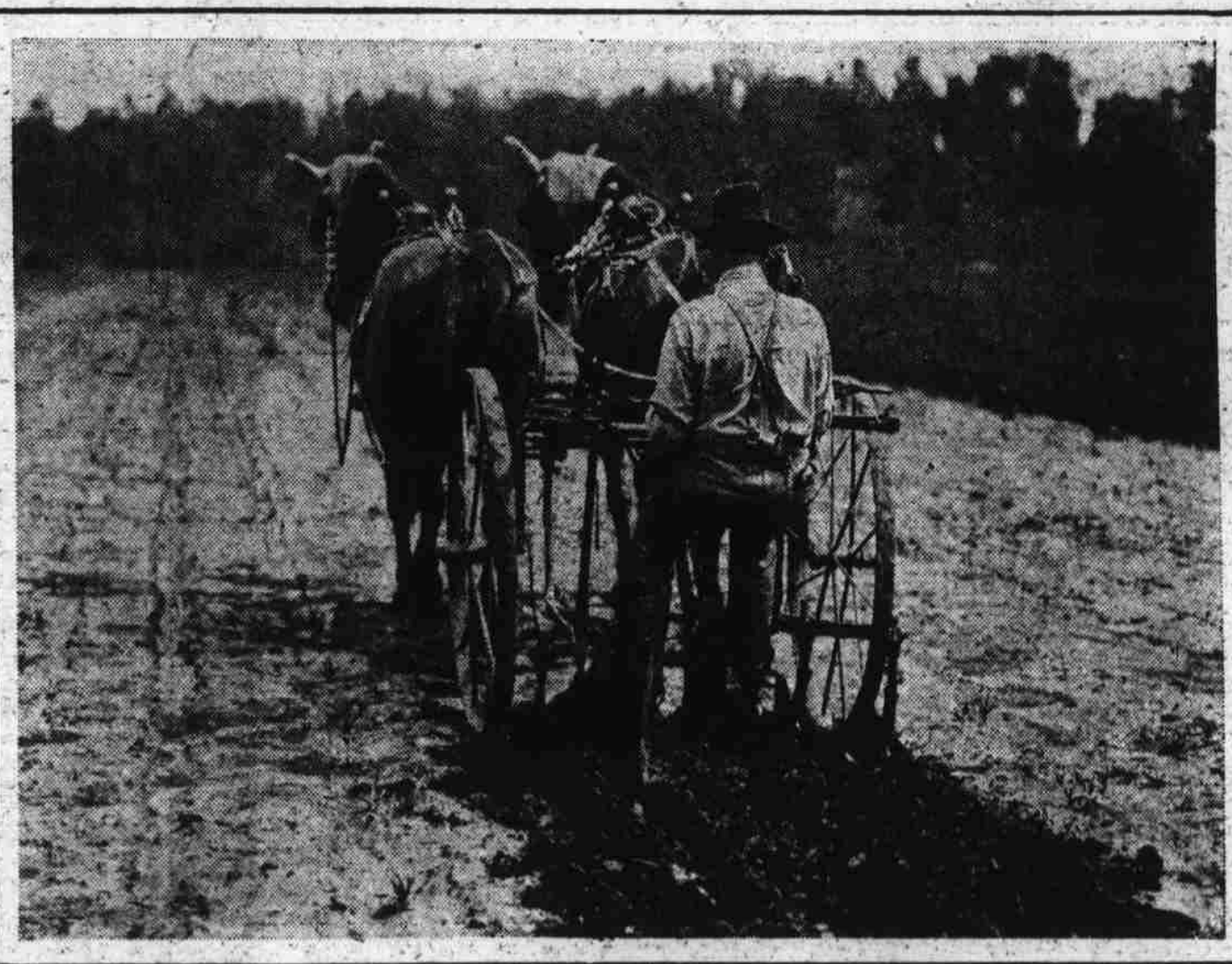
It is a far cry from the cradle and scythe to the modern binder; from the ox wagon and stage coach to the modern automobile; from the "scooter" plow to the riding cultivator; from the limited, uncertain agricultural knowledge of fifty years ago to the splendid store of scientific and technical information that awaits the husbandman who will avail himself of it. It is a long step, indeed, from the tools and the facts to which our fathers and grandfathers had access, to those that we may use; but as we *do* use these, harnessing our heads and hands to the machinery science and invention have given us, so do we prosper.

This does not mean, though, that all farm machinery will pay on all farms; for it is in the purchase, as well as in the use, of improved implements that real thinking and wise discrimination between which is really needed and which is not must be exercised. Largely what a farmer needs and what will return him real profits is an individual, local problem, and must be gone at as such.

Obviously the machinery needed on a 500-acre wheat farm of the Northwest will be quite different from that required on the ten-acre Florida truck farm; and likewise the implements that may be used profitably on a level, stump-free cotton farm are greatly different from what the average cotton tenant, with his one mule and stumpy, gullied patches, may employ.

To know a real need from an apparent one; to be able to decide what implements are suited to a given set of conditions—these are tests of the judgment, and the farmer who meets these successfully will have taken a most important step toward the use of machinery in place of the more expensive hand labor.

But this is not all: In the operation and intelligent care of farm implements there lies an immense field for the exercise of sound sense



THE BETTER WAY  
Two to four times as fast as formerly, and better work, too

and ingenuity, and unless he possesses and is willing to exercise these faculties the farmer will still find his implements a liability rather than a dividend-producing asset.

Summing up, there are many millions of dollars worth of farm machinery needed in the South, if our labor is to be most productive; but we doubt not too, because of a lack of adaptation to local conditions, because of ignorance and carelessness in operating, and because of exposure to weather and a general lack of care, that there also are right now on Southern farms several millions of dollars worth of implements that will never be anything more than a dead loss. Merely buying an improved implement doesn't put the stamp of progress on a man. Unless it be suited to his conditions and unless he knows how to operate and care for it, it may leave upon him and his future financial welfare an entirely different brand.

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A two-plow gang working in corn land. Note how completely all trash is being turned under