



The Progressive Farmer Company
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WE BELIEVE that lespedeza or Japan clover is one of our coming hay and pasture crops, particularly on our better grades of land. Already, from Virginia to Texas, this little legume is a spontaneous growth in nearly every pasture, and its growth should be encouraged. Then as a hay crop after oats it is proving of great value, and as such we believe it well worthy of a trial.

IT IS none too early to begin thinking about saving the clover seed this spring. Because of the European war we expect crimson clover seed next fall to be very scarce and high-priced, and it is even possible that seed can not be obtained at any price. In an early issue we expect to publish a description of a home-made device for saving crimson clover seed, and we would also remind our readers that we are offering prizes for the best experience letters on this subject.

UNDER ordinary conditions and particularly where a man has plenty of feed and his land already fertile, we would hesitate to recommend spring oats in the lower half of the Cotton Belt. However, times just now are abnormal, with grain prices soaring and cotton prices the lowest for years. Facing such a situation, few men can afford to buy feed instead of growing it. Hence we believe a considerable acreage in spring oats, to be followed by hay, will prove profitable. Particularly is this the case where, for one reason or another, a sufficient acreage was not sown last fall.

THE United States Census Bureau announces that prior to January 16, 14,907,942 bales of cotton had been ginned. This breaks all previous records for ginnings to this date, and compares with 13,582,036 last year, 13,088,930 bales of the 1912 crop, and 14,515,799 bales of the 1911 crop. Ginnings by states follow:

	1914	1913	1912	1911
Alabama	1,876,081	1,475,154	1,307,736	1,638,699
Arkansas	941,681	967,687	741,282	797,597
Florida	88,113	65,765	57,324	88,177
Georgia	2,596,862	2,314,101	1,781,232	2,657,984
Louisiana	434,479	420,384	369,076	357,758
Mississippi	1,143,703	1,176,539	952,520	1,061,859
North Carolina	853,830	783,817	875,492	996,988
Oklahoma	1,147,497	825,069	965,752	915,563
South Carolina	1,425,768	1,368,774	1,192,574	1,536,085
Tennessee	352,982	358,275	252,890	386,273
Texas	4,120,904	3,715,418	4,509,220	3,964,620
All other states	186,062	111,053	83,831	114,176

A SURVEY just made by the Division of Markets of the State Experiment Station, indicates that in the ten leading North Carolina counties the supply merchants advance 65 per cent of the total value of the cotton crop and that the average charge for "time prices" is 20 per cent for whatever time the account runs. When an account runs only three months, this equals 80 per cent per annum. The figures by counties follow:

County	Per Cent Advanced	Per Cent Extra for Time Prices
Anson	70	15
Edgecombe	65	19
Halifax	61	26
Johnston	52	21
Mecklenburg	60	18
Robeson	73	23
Scotland	80	25
Union	42	20
Wake	63	13
Wayne	50	20
Average	65	20.5

A STATEMENT just given out by the Department of Commerce shows that the United States shipped to Europe in December, 1,202,115 bales of cotton against 1,230,830 bales in December 1913. This almost exactly normal shipment of cotton indicates that The Progressive Farmer was right all last fall when it time and again denounced the wild talk about the war's destroying three-fourths or nine-tenths of our cotton export trade. We declared then that such a claim was either a deliberate falsehood, inspired by "bear" interests, or else the expression of an ignorant mind. We also shipped in December, 1914, the following food products in great increase over the same months of 1913:

	1913	1914
Corn	749,124 bushels	4,582,006 bushels
Oats	20,789 bushels	5,203,431 bushels
Wheat	5,724,027 bushels	28,875,217 bushels
Beef, canned	261,955 pounds	4,921,691 pounds
Beef, fresh	524,430 pounds	6,594,348 pounds
Cottonseed oil	27,036,786 pounds	37,838,012 pounds

Coöperation in Buying Machinery

THIS year more than ever you are going to need to use improved labor-saving machinery, instead of expensive hand labor. Study the question thoroughly, read the articles in this issue carefully, and then decide what neighbors ought to go in with you in buying any of the following:

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| 1. Stump Puller. | 14. Stalk Cutter. |
| 2. Manure Spreader. | 15. Grain Drill. |
| 3. Corn Shredder. | 16. Mower. |
| 4. Corn Harvester. | 17. Peanut Picker. |
| 5. Fanning Mill. | 18. Clover Huller. |
| 6. Pea Huller. | 19. Grain Thresher. |
| 7. Spraying Outfit. | 20. Meat Chopper. |
| 8. Canning Outfit. | 21. Horse Clipper. |
| 9. Cowpea Thresher. | 22. Cement Tile Machine. |
| 10. Traction Plow. | 23. Road Drag. |
| 11. Harvester and Binder. | 24. Farm Level. |
| 12. Hay Press. | 25. Cane Mill. |
| 13. Potato Digger. | 26. Lime and Fertilizer Distributor. |

"Strangled to Death With Red Tape"

WHEN the rules governing the Wade Cotton Loan Fund of \$135,000,000 were first published, we had it in mind to denounce the whole business as a sham and a fraud. Through the multiplicity and troublesomeness of the regulations, the principle of lending money to farmers on cotton was "strangled to death with red tape," as Theodore H. Price himself said.

We thought, however, that if we said nothing about the general ineffectiveness of the proposition that some farmers might make application for loans and some of them get some benefits. Now that it has been announced, however, that no further applications will be considered, we have no hesitancy in saying that the regulations finally adopted made the whole scheme a snare and a delusion. So many restrictions were put upon the loans that it was announced on January 15 that only \$10,000 of the \$135,000,000 total had been applied for in proper form. And the worst part of it is that such a policy of "keeping the promise to the ear and breaking it to the heart" simply arouses additional bitterness on the part of the farmers toward the moneyed classes.

We must have a rural credits system so planned that farmers may get money on terms suited to agricultural conditions, and not be forced to submit to whatever compilation of foolish and unnecessary conditions the commercial interests see fit to dictate, as was done in this case.

Get the Fields Ready for Improved Implements

UNITED States Government reports show that in practically every farming district of the country incomes per farm worker vary in almost direct proportion to the number of work stock employed. In other words, in Iowa, where each farmer has an average of three horses or mules against an average of about one for each farmer in the Cotton Belt, the average income per farmer is almost three times that in the South. The late Dr. Knapp believed that it is possible for the Southern farmer to increase his income 800 per cent, and estimated that 330 per cent of this increase could be brought about by the use of more and better horse power and farm machinery.

Two and three horses or mules per farmer mean adequate, up-to-date, labor-saving farm machinery, and this in turn means the production of larger crops at less labor cost and consequently increased profits.

One of the most serious obstacles to the use of improved implements has been and is the presence of stumps, gullies, thickets and small patches, instead of broad, open fields in which machinery can be operated most advantageously and profitably. Here, too, we have the reason why some farmers believe improved implements don't pay, and why we see cultivators and harrows lying cast aside in the fence corners, rusting and unused.

The truth is that there are few better invest-

ments than wisely purchased farm machinery; but it is equally true that before this machinery may be operated most profitably conditions must be made right. This consists in the possession of adequate horse power; fields clear of stumps, rocks, gullies and ravines; and at least fairly intelligent operators.

None of these requirements is difficult of attainment; none is anything more than should be found on any farm making any pretensions to being up-to-date and fairly progressive.

If you are not using labor-saving implements now is the time to begin preparing for them, for we believe the time is at hand when, without them, you can not hope to make your farm operations most profitable. Preliminary preparations mean keeping persistently after the stumps until they are a thing of the past; in substituting wherever possible tile drains in place of the open ditch; in filling gullies and cleaning out thickets; in general, in having a farm made up of fields instead of a multitude of crazy-quilt patches.

February Ideas for Busy Farmers

WE HAVE often wondered what is the most useful single improved farm implement. Of course this involves a definition of what an "improved implement" is. Doubtless in one sense the modern breaking plow, contrasted with the crooked limb, shod with iron, of our forefathers, may be considered most nearly indispensable and therefore most useful. Certain it is that no good farmer can do without it, and hence it may be considered a contender for first place.

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Another implement that is of immense value and importance is the harrow, and it does its best work right along with the breaking plow. Particularly is this true during the spring months, when most soils, unless harrowed immediately after breaking, tend to become so cloddy and rough that a good seed bed is nearly impossible. Then after planting and just before and after the crop comes up the section harrow across the rows is a wonderful crust breaker and grass killer. Farmers who have not tried this have an agreeable surprise ahead.

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And speaking of harrows, the disk harrow ahead of the breaking plow is certainly demonstrating its worth in making the breaking easier and in preventing clods. Another place where it may be used to great advantage is in cutting up a growth of crimson clover preparatory to turning. A heavy growth of clover turned under without first being cut to pieces may cut off the moisture supply and cause trouble all the year.

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The time has come when no really well equipped farm can be without a good gasoline engine. This may vary from the little one or two-horse power for pumping water up to the largest tractor, the size to be used depending upon local conditions.

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We believe, too, that the time has come when many Southern farmers may well consider the purchase of an automobile. Of course, as with the city man, the problem as to whether he is able to afford it must be given consideration. We believe that a nice home, with lights, waterworks and sanitary conveniences, ought to come ahead of the auto; but after these are supplied, and if the farm is showing a nice profit at the end of the year, we hold that the farmer and his family have as much right as any one else to the pleasures of a car.

A Thought for the Week

ABOUT the most useful patriotic service any American individual can do readily just now is to put some money in the savings bank. For generations Europe has been providing us with the capital whenever we wanted to build new railroads or set up new plants or open new mines. After this war Europe won't have any money to lend. Indeed, for the first time in history the situation will be reversed. We shall have to save not only for our own development, but to lend to Europe as well. For the person who does save there are going to be very great rewards as soon as things have settled down—Collier's Weekly.