

## MODERN IMPLEMENTS PAY ON THIS THREE-MULE FARM

Work of the Stag Breaking Plow and Disk Cultivator—Using the Gasoline Engine as Handy Man of All Work—First Prize Letter

By William E. Blocker, Jr., Arton, Ala.

I AM writing of my experience with improved farm tools on a farm that is moderately level and stumpless. Last year by means of labor-saving tools my nine-year-old boy, one wage hand and myself, with three mules, cultivated 14 acres in cotton, 55 acres in corn and beans, 30 acres in peanuts, and one acre in cane and potatoes—making a total of 100 acres. The crop was kept as clean as the average without the use of the hoe, except to chop cotton.

The nine-blade stalk cutter was used instead of school boys to rid the field of stalks. Terraces were then laid off and plowed up with a stag plow, such as is seen on the front page of *The Progressive Farmer*. The road scrape was used to drag up the low places. The entire farm was then flat broken with the stag plow. It is light draft and so constructed that the weight of plow and rider is carried by three wheels, all of which run on hard land. The three mules stay on hard land also.

This plow cuts slices, according to depth of furrow and strength of team, up to 18 inches wide. It has a rolling coulter that divides the turf. Clay and Bermuda sod are easily turned. With it my nine-year-old boy can do the work of three men with single mules. The labor saved in breaking the 100 acres was enough to pay for the plow, besides the work was done better than was possible with small plows. Stumps and small plows are keeping many a man poor.

After the land was broken the riding cultivator was converted into a disk harrow and with this and a 10-foot section harrow, with riding cart attached, clods were broken and soil pulverized.

The land was then bedded with riding the disk cultivator, one row at the time, the wheels marking uniform width for rows.

A Miss Dixie planter was then used to plant corn, cotton, peanuts, velvet beans, and sorghum. It opens, drops and covers any depth, and a roller packs the soil on the seed if desired.

Just before the plants were up the section harrow, with teeth slanting backward at an angle of 45 degrees was run diagonally across the rows of corn, cotton, and peanuts; this was repeated at right angles just as the next coat of vegetation was "being born." Nowhere in creation is the adage, "A stitch in time saves nine," truer than at this time. Eighteen acres may be covered in one day with my 10-foot harrow, and when done at the proper time saves much tedious and expensive hoeing.

The riding cultivator was used until the crops were too large to straddle. The 30-inch scrape did the rest.

The guano attachment, consisting of two zinc hoppers holding 50 pounds each, was put on the cultivator and the crops fertilized and cultivated at the same time. Peas may be dropped from one hopper while guano is being strewn from the other. On hot days the umbrella is attached.

But few people appreciate the value of the mowing machine and rake. These were used to save peanut tops and crow-foot grass. Only the hay press made it possible for me to store and preserve the strength and flavor of the hay.

The four horsepower gas engine is indispensable as a labor saver on my farm. From a line shaft, it spins a wood saw that makes cutting wood a real pleasure. It runs a crusher, grinding all kinds of feed, making cow feed of corn cobs, velvet bean hulls and cotton seed mixed, equal parts.

A corn sheller with a capacity of one bushel in two minutes is turned, while the grindstone is whirled at a

rapid rate sharpening the farm tools. Water is forced with a pump from a well 190 feet deep into a tank 30 feet high, from which I run pipes to barn, dwelling, garden and pasture, watering 30 head of cattle and 50 head of hogs at one-fourth the expense of watering by hand. At the same time water is being pumped, the washer and wringer are cleaning the clothes, saving my wife much hard labor.

Before many months I hope to install a dynamo and make my lights while the water is being pumped.

No farm is complete without a canning machine to save the surplus fruits and vegetables for market and winter use. Ours is a small one used on the stove, but amply large for almost any farm.

Improved farm tools make farming a real pleasure and at the same time more profitable. They will help keep the boys on the farm and raise farming to a higher plane. To keep abreast of the times improved implements must be used, else farmers become



Two Farm Helps—The Boy and the Typewriter  
Young Ralph Tilghman, Kenton, Tenn.

bankrupt. Too many farmers are economizing on labor-saving tools to their own hurt. They walk behind a mule a whole half day through the plowed ground to pay the drummer's way over the paved streets from depot to town, and call the farmer on the riding plow a lazy man.

### IMPROVED IMPLEMENTS SOON PAY FOR THEMSELVES

(Second Prize Letter)

I HAVE more implements than the average farmer on a farm of the size of mine, but some of them were bought very cheap and the others were tried and found to pay for themselves.

The plow I use is the Oliver N. 23, two-way plow. It needs three good heavy horses to do good work in tough soil. It does beautiful work and leaves no dead furrows. About the only plowing I've found that it doesn't do well is turning under tangled vines, such as vetch and rank peavines. This would be remedied by using a rolling coulter. I use a jointer, which is a valuable attachment for turning under any trash, weeds, etc.

After the plow comes the Clark double-action cutaway harrow, which does fine work. The objection to it is the difficulty of oiling. By using this harrow both before and after plowing the land can be gotten in excellent condition. Then follows the spike-tooth harrow (3 sections) or plank drag or roller, as necessary.

After crops are planted I use the spike-tooth harrow before they come up and the same and the weeder after they come up, and before they are large enough to cultivate. I have a No. 76 Planet Jr. cultivator, with

roller bearings and depth regulators, and various sizes and shapes of attachments which are adapted to all kinds of work, such as making cotton beds at one passage, cultivating and plowing up peanuts. For two years I have planted my corn in five-foot rows and this allows me to go between the rows after corn is too tall to straddle. The singletrees are taken off and short ones substituted.

The manure spreader is one of the implements which does a hard, disagreeable job in a short time and a good deal better than is possible by hand.

My latest addition to my lot of implements is a hay tedder. Not being able to do a great deal of heavy work and with extra help unavailable, I found the tedder enabled me to cure my hay when I could not have done it without.

I hired a binder last summer to cut my grain, and intend to do so again this year, as it saves more and better grain and does it promptly.

One of the biggest labor savers I use is a hay carrier with slings to carry hay, etc., into the barn. I put corn from shock, peanuts from stack, etc., into barn with it, and then cut up the corn on rainy days. I also put wheat and oats in the barn and thresh from the barn by feeding through a shute onto the thresher table. The straw

## THE PROGRESSIVE FARMER

ing from 12 to 30 acres, and has not cost one cent for repairs. Whenever necessary to leave in the field overnight it is covered up with a large canvas. No one has ever driven it but myself or my sons. You see it is likely to last us a life time.

Just so with other implements. Although we only work a small farm, I find it pays to own a drill, stalk cutter, mowing machine, hay rake, disk harrow, spike-tooth harrow, plows, cultivators and planters. When we want to use an implement we know it is in the tool shed ready for use, and we do not have to hunt around over two or three farms to find what we want.

At first thought the amount invested in implements seems large, but when you think of the ease with which we do our work, and the satisfaction of knowing just when and how we can do it, is not the money well invested, and could it be invested better?

W. D. NELSON,  
Hephzibah, Ga.

### Nothing Ahead of the Disk Harrow

FIRST of all, after the farmer has bought such tools as one and two-horse plows, double shovel, and the common drag harrow, he should purchase a disk harrow, even if he is compelled to borrow the money to buy same. There is nothing ahead of it for pulverizing a good seed bed—especially in turf land.

I also use a disk cultivator, which is a good tool for bedding land for cotton or corn in low lands, because you can make a bed as high as you like, or only raise the bed above a level. The disk cultivator is good to bar off small plants, as well as dirting them later on. I also use a wheat drill and a binder to cut the wheat when ripe.

Every farmer should keep a good portion of his farm sowed to clover, peas and grass. I keep a mower and rake to take care of the hay crop.

Last, but not least, let the farmer keep his tools housed when not in use.

ROBIN YALE,  
McKenzie, Tenn.

### A Hint for Demonstration Agents

I HAD a striking illustration a few days ago of the wisdom of the county farm demonstration agent keeping a good supply of bulletins on hand for free distribution. It was at Monroe, where the representative of a nursery was delivering fruit trees, one hundred of which had been sold as making an acre orchard. T. J. W. Brown, the live agent for that county, at once distributed to cash purchasers two Government bulletins: "The Apple and How to Grow It," and "The Family Orchard and How to Care for It." Mr. Brown keeps on hand a full supply of bulletins and takes pleasure in distributing them from his office in the courthouse.—J. F. F.

### Get These Books and Bulletins

You may get any of the following bulletins free by applying to the address given; while books may be had of *The Progressive Farmer* at prices mentioned.

From United States Department of Agriculture, Washington, D. C.

Farmers' Bulletin No. 623—Ice Houses and the Use of Ice on the Dairy Farm.

Farmers' Bulletin No. 632—Growing Peaches—Pruning, Renewal of Tops, Thinning Inter-planted Crops, and Special Practices.

Bulletin No. 147—The Effect of the Cattle Tick Upon the Milk Production of Dairy Cows.

Bulletin No. 159—Soils of the Sassafras Series.

Bulletin No. 163—A Field Test for Lime sulphur Dipping Baths.

State Publications

Missouri Experiment Station, Columbia, Mo.

Bulletin No. 120—Rations for Breeding Ewes; Circular No. 71, Shock Corn for Silage; Circular No. 72, Silage for Horses and Mules.

Pennsylvania Experiment Station, State College, Pa.

Bulletin No. 131—The Use of Lime on Land.

If you have neighbors who do not read *The Progressive Farmer*, send us their names and we will send them some sample copies. Then call on them and ask them to subscribe.

### THE SELF BINDER A GOOD INVESTMENT

(Third Prize Letter)

WHEN I bought my present binder I had 12 acres in grain. My three boys (the oldest not 18 and the youngest 12 years old) and I were working our farm. Cradling was too hard work for us, and if we depended on hiring extra labor for the harvest we were at the mercy of day hands and likely to lose part of our grain. I bought a binder and in one day our grain was in shock. The next day we were back at work in our crop, no time lost, our grain saved. We are now independent of hired help. That binder has cut six crops, rang-