

LIVE-AT-HOME SPECIAL



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AND SOUTHERN FARM GAZETTE

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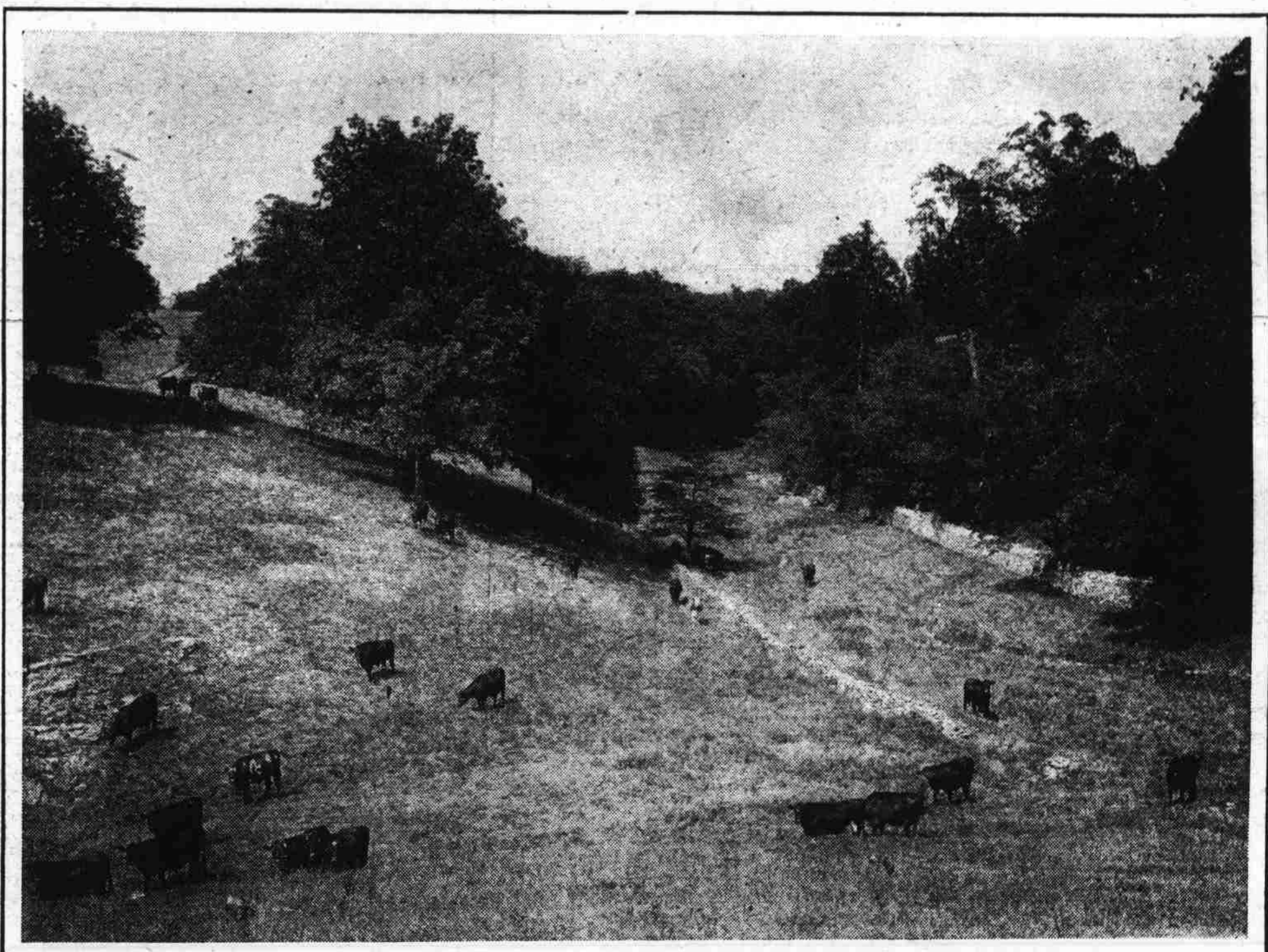
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FOOD AND FEED FIRST IN 1915

ABOUT a year ago, when cotton was selling at almost double present prices, we used this page to emphasize the importance of "Food and Feed First" on every Southern farm. If this need was apparent then, how much more so is it today, with food and feed crops soaring and cotton prices low, with no immediate prospect for improvement.

The truth is that the time has come, all over the South, on every farm, and in every year, when the farmer who would succeed must, first of all, make his primary business that of feeding his family and livestock and building up his soil fertility. Just as surely as we look to these problems, attacking them with common sense armed with modern methods, so will the bogeys of cheap cotton and hard times vanish and vex us no more.

On the other hand, there is the other extreme to which it is possible to go—the extreme of expecting, with limited capital and a still more limited knowledge of the business, to convert in one year a run down cotton farm into a paying stock or truck farm—and which may prove even more disastrous than the exclusive production of cotton. Livestock production is a splendid line of farming and a great business, but it is idle to expect an over-night transition from all-cotton to all-cattle. Rather we must first meet the home demand for pork, beef, milk and butter, enlarging our production as we grow in experience and knowledge. In the same way, fruit and vegetable production may be made profitable when rightly handled, but who will deny that our first, biggest and most profitable job lies in supplying our own tables the year round with healthful fruits and vegetables? We have never held that cotton, as a cash crop, should not have an important place on the average Southern farm; but we do hold that cotton, grown year in and year out to buy food and feed that should be grown at home, cotton grown to the exclusion of crop rotations and at the expense of soil fertility, is a poor crop, and a crop that will break the average man. In other words, it is the abuse of a really excellent crop, rather than its legitimate use, that we protest against.



KNEE-DEEP IN BLUE GRASS

Good Pastures Are an Essential Part of Any Live-at-Home Program

Bear in mind, too, that in breaking away from a system that has meant poor farmers and poor farms, we are outlining a program that is within the reach of every Southern farmer, large or small, rich or poor,—a program that has already brought prosperity to thousands, and that will bring it to every man who intelligently adopts it. Here it is:

A good garden, with something coming from it twelve months in the year; a liberal patch of sorghum or Louisiana cane for syrup, not forgetting next fall a liberal supply of seed; not less than two or three good brood sows; a yard filled with well housed, well cared for chickens, well supplied in winter with green crops to augment the egg crop and the family income; two or three good milk cows; a liberal acreage of small grain, to be followed by peas, beans, or lespedeza for hay and soil improvement; cover crops next fall on every possible acre, so that fertilizer bills may be cut to a minimum; plenty of corn, planted on rich land, to supply the farm, with perhaps a surplus for sale; and then the devotion of what lands and time may be left to the production of a reduced acreage in cotton.

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