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Plant Legume Crops on Every Possible Acre



A BUMPER CROP OF COWPEAS IN BALDWIN COUNTY, ALABAMA

THIS is a year when every acre possible should be planted to a soil-building crop of some kind. Feeds are high-priced and so are fertilizers, and the man who grows these instead of buying them will be laying the firmest kind of foundation for a future prosperity.

One of the marks of the successful farmer is the ability to produce to the maximum possible extent the crops that feed the land, the family and the livestock; on the other hand, the mark of the mortgage-covered farm is generally a ruinous adherence to a one-crop system that forgets that fat soils, fat stock and an ample living for the family should be the primary considerations.

Let's see where we can use the soil-building crops to advantage: First, there come the oat and wheat fields, where the crops will be harvested in May and June. The man who fails to have a crop of peas, beans or clover after his crops of small grain is simply neglecting the biggest source of profit, for the feed and soil fertility that come from such crops often mean more per acre than the grain crop.

Then not a single acre of corn should be laid by without having peas sown in the middles, or in the southern part of the cotton belt velvet beans may be planted about the time the corn is planted, or just after. A corn field without peas, beans or peanuts for soil-building and fall and winter feed is seldom returning more than one-half the net profit that it should.

Then this fall, from seed saved during the next two months, every cotton middle should be seeded to clover or vetch. Read our articles in this issue and last week's on saving clover seed, and prepare now to make soil-building one of your most important jobs.

Plant the legumes everywhere this year. If you have the seed, so much the better; but if necessary, buy them, for you will find few investments more profitable. Then next fall, whether cotton be low or high in price, you will be largely independent, because you will have plenty of food and feed crops and will have materially cut your fertilizer bill for the following year.

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