

# THE PROGRESSIVE FARMER

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## HOW TO MAKE THE CORN CROP PAY

AS A result of a number of years' work, the Mississippi Experiment Station has found the average cost per acre of growing corn to be \$12.50. This includes no charge for fertilizers, and, as the average Southern farmer uses fertilizers on his corn crop, it may be assumed that the average per acre cost of production over the entire South will be in the neighborhood of \$15. Then since the South during the last ten years has averaged little more than fifteen bushels per acre, it follows that on an average the corn we have raised has cost us around a dollar per bushel.

If this has been the average cost, how about the thousands and thousands of acres that have made less than the average? We have all seen them—runty, neglected, weed-infested patches of the 'little yaller kind' of corn that actually fail to make enough to pay for the seed and fertilizer used. Of course the fellow who farms in this way can better afford to buy his corn than raise it; but we are inclined to think that such a farmer has missed his calling, and that he would be better employed working for wages at a dollar a day, where his employer can do the heavy thinking for him.

But these facts are not arguments against our raising corn; rather they indicate that until we double our present average yields we are going to find corn raising a mighty poor business. This brings us around to the undeniable truth that the farmer who only makes average yields, whether they be of corn or cotton, is never going to do anything more than break even, if he be fortunate enough to keep out of debt. The ten-bushels-of-corn per-acre man is generally the man who averages a third of a bale of cotton, and a lifetime of poverty is all that such yields can ever mean.

What's the remedy? If we had ten loads of stable manure to go on every acre that goes in corn this year we believe we'd have an almost certain means of doubling our corn crop. The trouble here is that we haven't the manure, and the simple truth is that we can't afford to continue to buy corn until we have enough livestock to produce sufficient manure to double our corn yields. Nor can commercial fertilizers, while valuable

in their place, ever alone safely be depended upon as the most economical means of doubling our yields of corn. As supplementary sources of plant food, particularly as sources of phosphorus and potassium, we never expect to be able to do without commercial fertilizers; but to use them as a source of nitrogen for corn is poor economy.

Our choice then would be a rank growth of bur or crimson clover to turn under for every acre that goes in corn. Here too the embarrass-



A DOUBLE CROPPING SYSTEM THAT PAID

Corn and soy beans on farm of J. D. Carmichael, Sunny South Ala. These are growing on land from which the same year had been taken three tons per acre of hay from a mixture of oats, vetch and crimson clover

DON'T FAIL TO READ—		Page
Cotton Prices and Acreage Reduction . . . . .	3	3
Facts for Corn Growers . . . . .	10	10
Forage Crops That Are Good . . . . .	6	6
Get the Boys Over Sixteen to Join the Union . . . . .	18	18
Last Call for Saving the Clover Seed . . . . .	10	10
More Forage Crops on Every Farm . . . . .	5	5
Not a Single North Carolina County Feeds Itself . . . . .	10	10
Organize a Marketing Association Now . . . . .	11	11
Ten Livestock Suggestions for May . . . . .	8	8
Thinning Apples and Peaches . . . . .	7	7
Twelve Things to Do in May . . . . .	4	4
Uncle Cornpatch Presents a Problem . . . . .	10	10

ing fact bobs up that we haven't these clovers for every acre; but we do believe that they are within easier reach of the average farmer than the required amount of stable manure.

Here, as we see it, is the key to profitable corn crops in the South and the solution of the problem of moving our corn cribs from Iowa to Dixie; see that hereafter every acre of your corn follows a crop of clover plowed under. Good seed is important, thorough preparation and cultivation are necessary; but the greatest problem of all is getting and keeping rich land. Bur and crimson clovers, crops that are at home on every well drained soil from Virginia to Texas, furnish the means.

Are you going to use them hereafter?