

# THE PROGRESSIVE FARMER

AND  
SOUTHERN FARM GAZETTE

"You can tell by a man's farm whether he reads it or not."

The Progressive Farmer Company  
(Incorporated under the laws of North Carolina.)  
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A GREAT meeting of the Canning Club agents is that planned for the State Normal College at Greensboro, May 31 to June 5. Mrs. McKimmon and her co-workers have prepared a remarkable program, covering every feature of the work of canning vegetables and fruits and marketing them after canning. We regret that a copy of the complete program reaches us just too late to appear in this issue.

EVERY summer thousands of Southern farmers die from typhoid fever, and thousands of others who recover yet suffer greatly themselves and cause others to suffer as a result of having the disease. Even the economic loss, the loss in doctors' bills, absence from work, etc., makes a staggering total. And yet as a result of the success of the typhoid vaccination we may now say that **typhoid fever is an unnecessary disease**. At first the cost of a typhoid vaccination was considerable but it is now very small. We earnestly urge every Progressive Farmer reader to take the treatment. Ask your doctor about it.

ONE thing we forgot to mention on page 1 was that the consolidated school in every case of course should have a good library, and if possible a reading room. We should have noted in our write-up of the Sailemburg community last week that a boys' reading room was one of the gratifying features we found there, as we should also have noted that just as we left the Sailemburg village we passed a beautiful spot beside a running stream which is to be made into a common park as a place for picnics and outdoor meetings. A more intense love of nature, a more intense love of literature, and a keener appreciation of play, will indeed do much to enrich country life in the South.

IN CONNECTION with our article last week showing what a tremendous power for progress the farm women's clubs have been in Sampson County, N. C., it is interesting to note this statement in the Sampson County School Record:

"It is only a question of a brief time now until every rural community in Sampson will have its club for women."

It's a pity the same thing cannot be said about every county in the South. With a woman's club and a local Union in every school district, and a community league in every township or consolidated school district, how the South would hum these next ten years!

WE MUST keep agitating the idea of organizing "Community Leagues" all over the South, after the fashion of the Sampson County organizations described in last week's Progressive Farmer. As County Superintendent Matthews says, after watching them a year:

"I believe that nothing tends more greatly to enhance the progress of a community than the organization of the Community League, for this is an organized effort for progress. I am convinced that nothing would contribute more substantially to the development of the county intellectually, socially and morally than the organization of a 'Community League' in every district in the county."

THE notable remark of ex-Governor Hoard's reprinted in a recent Progressive Farmer, "I cannot bear to go to my grave until I see imparted to my Nation the spirit that will make agriculture not only the support of men's bodies but an inspiration to their intellects," reminds us of President Wilson's own expression of the same thought. In a message of "greetings to the farmer boys to whom The Progressive Farmer goes," sent our Young People's Special three ago, he said:

"I wish I knew some adequate way in which to express to them the interest that every

thoughtful man must feel, who knows what a power they have in their opportunity to be thoughtful and public-spirited citizens, and to look abroad upon the interest of the country as a whole—the country which they feed and which they should wish to supply with brains and disinterested purpose, as well as with food."

## We Need Coöperation in the Ownership and Use of Harvesting Machinery

AS THE oat and wheat harvest time approaches, we are reminded anew of our pressing need for better facilities for handling these crops. Especially is this true this season, when the South's acreage of small grain is larger than for many years.

A well understood principle in the operation of machinery of any kind, or in working horses and mules, for that matter, is that maximum profits from the operation of any implement or machine only come when the implement or machine in question is kept busy the maximum possible time. In other words, there are certain fixed expenses that go on whether the machine is employed or not, and when it is unemployed these expenses may largely be reckoned as dead loss. Nowhere is this truth more apparent than in the use of grain binders and threshers, which at best can only be employed during comparatively short periods. The average binder costs probably around \$125, and will handle from sixty to one hundred acres of grain a season; a threshing outfit will cost from \$400 to \$500 up, and the daily capacity will range from 300 bushels a day up.

It is safe to say that in the South by far the larger part of our oats and wheat is grown on fields twenty acres or less in size, and this acreage, in most instances, constitutes the entire crop of small grain on the average farm. Now this small grower, to handle his crop most economically and to greatest advantage, needs improved machinery; but his small acreage alone seldom justifies the heavy outlay.

Here is where coöperation must come to the rescue, and here it will find one of the greatest fields for its expansion and usefulness. One farmer with an acreage of twelve acres of oats each year will hardly be justified in buying a binder; but five neighboring farmers, each with an acreage of twelve acres a year, can certainly purchase and use a binder to great advantage. Moreover, their combined grain acreage will be sufficient for them seriously to consider the coöperative purchase of a threshing outfit.

Think these things over and, if you have not already done so, see if you can't, by the time the next harvest period comes round, have something of the sort definitely under way in your own neighborhood.

## Don't Let a Partial Failure With the Clovers Discourage You

LAST fall it is safe to say that a bigger acreage was seeded to bur and crimson clovers than ever before in the South. These seedings were followed by a November freeze that broke records for severity. The remainder of the winter was unusually cold, frosts and freezes continuing one right after another until the first week in April. Weather Bureau reports show that nearly all over the South March, 1915, was the coldest March in forty years, and in many sections April broke all records as the driest month.

Is it any surprise that the clovers have not done their best under such circumstances? Under the same conditions the oat crop has done poorly and failed in many instances, and garden and truck crops generally are far behind what we would expect in a normal year.

Nevertheless, because fall and winter crops have made little growth this season is no reason to condemn and discard them. We have seen the cowpea crop a failure in dry summers, but this is a poor excuse for a farmer's failure to plant peas; drought and heat may cut the corn crop, but this is little reason for not planting corn.

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Similarly, we insist that because of a season more unfavorable than any we may reasonably expect again within the next ten years the bur and crimson clover crops have not done their best, is no valid reason why these great crops should be pronounced worthless for our conditions. It is the average that counts, and we are absolutely certain that on an average, where the well known and often repeated rules requisite for success are adhered to, bur and crimson clover are a great success on every well drained soil type from southwestern Virginia to Texas.

We will go even further, and say that, so far as we have been able to learn, even during the very unfavorable season of 1914-1915 farmers who adhered strictly to the rules necessary for success have been rewarded with good crops of clover. In fact, bad as the season has been, we believe that failure has been due less to unfavorable weather conditions than to the farmer's failure to do his part. We have already repeated them many times, but we are going to enumerate again the essentials for success.

With crimson clover, these are (1) seeding at a date early enough in the fall to avoid winter-killing; (2) thorough inoculation; and (3) sowing on a firm, well settled seed bed. With bur clover, if the seed are not boiled, it is necessary to sow even earlier than crimson clover; but we would prefer to boil the seed for one minute and then seed at the time best for sowing crimson clover. When the seed are boiled inoculation is safest, and a firm seed bed is also important.

Failure to observe these few simple rules has, more than bad seasons, been responsible for failure; and where they are carefully adhered to, we believe we can say that nine years in ten these crops will be an unqualified success.

## The Week on the Farm

NOW that the 1915 oat crop is practically made, it is well that we take stock of some of the factors that contributed to its success or failure. All reports indicate that winter-killing has been unusually heavy, and has led to considerable discouragement. In the Cotton Belt we doubt if there has ever been any valid reason why winter-killing of oats should occur, and believe that two precautions will largely prevent this loss.

In the first place, it is high time we were realizing, especially in the northern half of the cotton states, that late seeding is dangerous. In a year like 1914, with very hard freezes before Christmas, the October and November-sown oats have little chance of surviving; while if seeded in September the plants are sufficiently well rooted and established to withstand severe freezes without loss.

Another practice that is bound to grow in favor is that of seeding in the open furrow. Experiment station evidence amply backs us up in the statement that, anywhere north of a line drawn through Dallas, Texas; Shreveport, La.; Jackson, Miss.; Montgomery, Ala.; and Macon, Ga., open-furrow seeding has resulted in larger yields and less winter-killing than any other method. Open-furrow drills that seed two or more rows at a time are now on the market and do their work very effectively. With some of these it is possible to plant three rows of oats in each cotton middle in September, thus securing, without in the least injuring the cotton crop, earliness and open-furrow seeding at the same time.

## A Thought for the Week

BUT the prostration of body and mind which through the mass of our citizens, now calls the attention of the legislator on a very different principle. One of his important duties is as guardian of those who from causes susceptible of precise definition, cannot take care of themselves. Such are infants, maniacs, gamblers, drunkards. The last, as much as the maniac, requires restrictive measures to save him from the fatal infatuation under which he is destroying his health, his morals, his family, and his usefulness to society. Thomas Jefferson.