



The Progressive Farmer Company
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CLARENCE POE,	President and Editor
TAIT BUTLER,	Vice-President and Editor
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NORTH Carolina farmers should write Secretary Joseph E. Pogue, Raleigh, for a copy of the State Fair premium list on field and garden crops. Send a postal for it and begin planning to bring an exhibit to Raleigh next fall.

THE postmaster at Nashville, Tenn., has done something that postmasters in other cities might well do—as in fact numbers of them are doing. As a part of his work in promoting the usefulness of the parcel post system, he has prepared and sent to the citizens of Nashville “a list of producers who have agreed to furnish butter, eggs, chickens, farm products, and the like, direct to the consumers in Nashville, all of those named being near enough the city so that perishable goods can be received from them with perfect safety.” Write the postmaster in your nearest city and ask him if he has such a list.

BECAUSE of our Education Special next week, which will necessitate leaving out of that issue our “Diversification and Independence” articles and letters, we find it necessary to make a slight change in our announced program. Because of the lateness of the season and the consequent fact that most farmers intending to make side applications of fertilizers have already done so, we deem it best to postpone the fertilizer discussions announced for this week, substituting therefor a discussion of the livestock problem as it affects Southern farmers. This allows us more space for a full discussion in our issue of June 26 of our educational problems. We trust that this arrangement will meet with the approval of our readers.

NEVER a June passes, with the sun burning hot, with the oat crop coming off, stubble lands needing to be seeded, the corn and cotton demanding attention, and men and teams as a consequence rushed to the limit, but that we are sorely tempted to leave the stubble lands bare and idle. Lespedeza sown on the oats in March is the greatest help we know of in avoiding this heavy June rush. On any fair grade of upland, anywhere south of a line drawn from Shreveport, La., through Jackson and Meridian, Miss.; Montgomery, Ala.; Macon, Ga.; and Charleston, S. C., we are certain that lespedeza will, under average conditions, give a good yield of hay after oats. Of course on bottom lands and the better uplands it will give a good cutting of hay much farther north. Try some another year,—you’ll like it.

A NORTH Carolina reader writes to say that he wishes to get on the lists for all available agricultural bulletins, and wishes to know to whom he should make application. He should write the State Department of Agriculture, Raleigh, for its bulletin, which is published monthly; write the Agricultural Experiment Station, Raleigh, for its bulletins, which are published frequently but not at stated periods. Then he should write the United States Department of Agriculture, Washington, D. C., and get its list of farmers’ bulletins, or consult the list published in the recent “Reference Special” of The Progressive Farmer. He will have to specify just which of these bulletins he wishes, as it is the policy of the National Government only to send those bulletins asked for by name or number. We hope many subscribers, now while this information is before them, will sit down at once and write for these publications. Your taxes pay for them and you should get the benefit.

WE DO not wish to be unfair to anybody, but the evidence we get certainly indicates that those North Carolina lawyers who have been making a good part of their living investigating land titles have a very convenient way of misunderstanding the Torrens System. In spite of the fact that Attorney-General Bickett, who should be the best authority in the State, estimates that the average cost of getting a Torrens title should be about \$25; and Attorney Bruce Craven, who

has made an exhaustive investigation of the subject and written a book on the Torrens System, thinks that \$20 should be nearer the average cost, yet we continue to get reports such as the following from a Sampson County reader:

“Your article on the Torrens System is very timely. A lawyer in my home town told me some months ago it would cost me at least one hundred dollars to get a title.”

But for the efforts of organized farmers we should not yet have had the Torrens System in North Carolina or Mississippi, and farmers in both states should find out the attitude of the neighboring lawyers, and govern themselves accordingly. They should give their patronage in all legal cases to such lawyers as show themselves fair and square by offering to get Torrens titles at reasonable rates.

A Letter From a Sterling Farmer-Citizen

A FEW days ago we wrote a beloved former contributor to The Progressive Farmer asking him why we had not heard from him in recent months. In the course of a private letter just received in reply he says:

“Since January I have been unusually busy with my farm, getting out stumps, opening an avenue to a public road that I have worked twenty years to secure, ditching, repairing, planning, and building in a small way. I was also supervising trustee in building our new schoolhouse and in planning and planting our grounds for a school farm; librarian and treasurer of our church, and planning to put a permanent fence around the church cemetery. I have been so tired when night came that a game or two of parcheesi with my wife and mother was about all that I could stand for.”

This is such a cheerful and inspiring catalog of useful activities that we cannot refrain from passing it on to our readers. This man is every year making both his farm and his neighborhood better for his having lived; and in addition to doing all this work for school and church, we happen to know that he is always active in his local and county Farmers’ Union.

In every community we need more such sterling farmer-citizens, men who are not only anxious to improve their own farms and homes but “make themselves neighborhood leaders”—men who when they die will leave something else behind them besides a few acres, barns, and dollars.

Are you such a citizen, Mr. Subscriber? If not, you can make yourself one.

A Cropping System for a Forty-acre Farm

IN PLANNING a cropping system for the average small farm, we would, for a number of reasons, advise that staple crops, such as corn, oats, hay, cotton and livestock, be grown at first, and then truck and fruit crops, if found profitable, could be gone into gradually. Certainly it is much safer to go about it in this way than to risk everything at the beginning on crops that are perishable and uncertain.

Going about the matter in this way and making the production of the above mentioned staple crops the main business, we would suggest as a first step that the forty acres to be farmed be divided into four equal areas of ten acres each. We will call these plots 1, 2, 3, and 4. Plot 1 should be devoted to the house and lawn, the barn and barnyard, garden, chicken yard and runs, orchard, and a small pasture adjacent to the barnyard and so placed that it will open into plots 2, 3 and 4. Generally the uses to which plot 1 are to be put will be fixed, and it is not to be included in the rotation plans for plots 2, 3 and 4.

Plots 2, 3 and 4 we would devote to a well planned rotation, and, once under way, we would hold to this rotation, regardless of any temptation to deviate from it. A number of combinations suggest themselves, but, with corn, oats, hay, cotton and livestock as the main crops, we believe the following will be as good as can be found:

Beginning with plot 2, we will plant it in oats in September or October, drilling the oats between the cotton rows. Oat drills are now made that do this work rapidly and satisfactorily, without injuring the cotton crop. In February or March

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one bushel per acre of lespedeza or Japan clover seed should be broadcasted over the oats, to be cut for hay the following fall. By cutting the lespedeza hay in September, there will still be time, particularly in the lower half of the Cotton Belt, to seed this plot to crimson clover, this to be plowed under for corn the following April or May.

The second year plot 2 goes in corn after crimson clover, as above indicated, peas to be sown in the corn at the last cultivation. After the corn is harvested the peas are to be grazed and the vines and corn stalks plowed under preparatory to planting cotton the following spring.

The third year plot 2 goes in cotton, oats to be sown in the cotton middles in the fall, thus beginning anew the three-year rotation. Of course plots 3 and 4 are handled in the same way, plot 3 going into cotton after clover the first year, while plot 4 goes into cotton the first year.

Such a rotation as this furnishes a crop each of oats, corn and cotton and three legume crops in three years, and, with enough livestock to handle the surplus feeds raised, affords the quickest way we know of to get rich land. And farming without rich land is generally a losing business.

In the lower half of the Cotton Belt all the crops above suggested will unquestionably succeed; in the upper half, especially on the thinner soils, cowpeas or soy beans might be profitably substituted for the lespedeza. Some authorities would recommend that the oats follow the corn crop, but, especially with corn after clover plowed under in April or May, we cannot see how it is possible to harvest the corn, give the livestock the run of the pea fields, and then get the oats in at a date early enough to avoid the danger of winter-killing.

Helping Build a Good Neighborhood

IN OUR morning daily we find this item about a Mr. J. W. Penny, not far from our office, who is taking the surest steps to help build up his neighborhood. Said Mr. Penny to the newspaper man:

“I have had a tract of land divided up last week to sell on easy terms; the whole plot contained some 400 acres, and I had it split up into farms that averaged about 50 acres each. The coming of six or seven new families to that neighborhood will do as much as anything you can put on the land toward building it up—provided they are the right sort of people, and that is the only kind that I want to settle down anyway.”

It’s a pity that more farmers who have more land than they need to cultivate do not sell off fifty-acre tracts to good people who will help build up the neighborhood. Frequently a farmer holds on to three or four times as much land as he needs, saying that he wants it for division among his children, only to find in his old age that all the children have left because of the absence of a good neighborhood and social life. We heard of a case recently where a farmer who owned more than 500 acres and was cultivating only a fraction of it, would not sell small farms off it even to his children and grand-children. The result was that they have been forced to leave, leaving him in pitiful loneliness when he might have been in the center of a happy colony of his offspring.

Many a farmer would greatly increase his own happiness and that of his family by selling fifty acres to some good white neighbor.

A Thought for the Week

THE South is a land that has known sorrows; it is a land that has broken the ashen crust and moistened it with tears; a land scarred and riven by the plowshare of war and billowed with the graves of her dead; but a land of legend, a land of song, a land of hallowed and heroic memories. To that land every drop of my blood, every fiber of my being, every pulsation of my heart, is consecrated forever. I was born of her womb; I was nurtured at her breast, and when my last hour shall come, I pray God that I may be pillowed upon her bosom and rocked to sleep within her tender and encircling arms.—The late Senator E. W. Carmack, of Tennessee.