

# THE PROGRESSIVE FARMER

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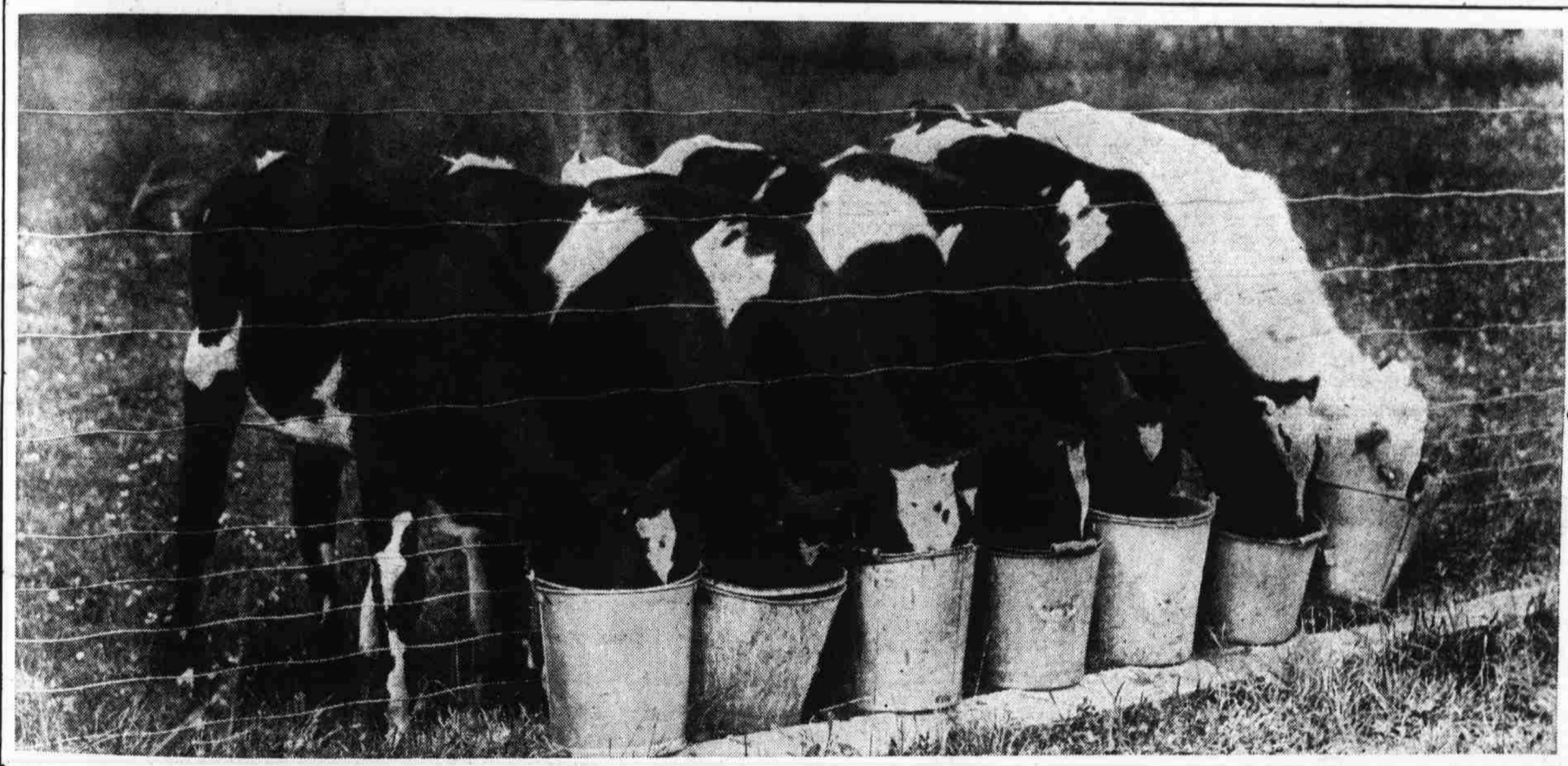
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## SOMEBODY MUST LEAD—WHY NOT YOU?

IN LAST week's Progressive Farmer we emphasized the importance of forming neighborhood marketing associations all over the South. And undoubtedly, Kind Reader, you are willing to admit that such an organization is sorely needed in your community. "Of course we ought to have one," you say. "We could get more nearly accurate grading of our products and more nearly full market prices for them after they are graded."

We have noticed, for example, that in many a neighborhood in which a local Union or other farmers' club exists, the organization lacks the coöperation of the very men who might do most to make it the power it ought to be in developing and waking up the community—the power it ought to be in promoting better farming, better marketing, better schools, a richer and more satisfying social and intellectual life, and generally making the neighborhood a better place to live in. "I am



"DINNER TIME"

Why then won't you have one? "Because," you say, "there is no one to take the lead." And then we put the question up to you, why shouldn't you—you, yourself, Kind Reader—why shouldn't you take the lead? Some one must do it; why not you?

In the opinion perhaps of most men who are working for rural betterment today the sorest need is just here—the need for leadership. Men who ought to lead try to dodge their duty as did Moses when he protested to Jehovah, saying, "But I am slow of speech and of a slow tongue," or as Jonah did when he tried to run away from his mission of warning to corrupt Nineveh. Farmers say, "But I am not able to take the responsibility of making this plan a success," forgetting that responsibility breeds ability. It was responsibility that made world-figures of such men as Lincoln and Jackson and Forrest and Grant, plain men who until war's testing-time came to them, had not shown capacity for such mighty burdens as they were called upon to bear. Thousands and thousands of farmers who might find their minds and souls grow and develop and unfold under the responsibility of leadership are shrinking from the very tasks that are needed to make full-grown men of them. They are living narrow, selfish lives when they should be doing team-work with their fellows.

too busy," these men say, or "the meetings are dull," or "So-and-so are running it and I don't care to have anything to do with it." They forget that the man will die of selfish dry rot who is too busy to work with his fellows. They forget that if the meetings are dull, all the more urgent is their duty to help enliven them. They forget that if the organization has poor leadership it is probably because better has not been available.

We repeat it, Mr. Farmer, if anything is to be done to make your neighborhood better and more prosperous there must be team-work, must be coöperation. And in getting such coöperation somebody must take the lead; why not you? You should not covet position but you should yearn for an opportunity to serve—and especially for an opportunity to find and encourage and stimulate and develop and support others who will lead or serve. Here is the true leader's greatest power: to develop leadership in others.

You need a marketing association in your neighborhood; and more than that you need a general farmers' club that will be ready to protect the farmer's interests and promote the community's welfare in every conceivable way. Somebody must lead in promoting and maintaining such an organization. Why not you?

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