

# THE PROGRESSIVE FARMER

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## ALL TOGETHER NOW FOR A BIG OAT CROP

THE SOUTH'S grain acreage and total yield this year is the greatest in our history, but there is every reason why the grain crop next year should be even bigger still. We have made a good start toward living at home and true diversification, and now let's keep the good work going. One of the surest means we know of for doing this is to begin planning now for a big acreage of fall-sown grain, particu-

Breaking land for oats should be done far enough in advance for the seed bed to become well firmed before planting. Do not plant on cloddy, freshly plowed land. Where the land has been well cultivated, drilling oats in the cotton middles after the first picking is often advisable.

5. *Sow on a fair grade of land.* Do not put your oats on the poorest land on the place and expect a good crop. Fall-sown oats,



A CROP THAT THRESHED 68 BUSHELS PER ACRE, FARM OF ED NEUWIRTH, WEST MONROE, LA.

larly oats. And not only should we plan for the biggest acreage ever sown, but we should plan as well to see that every acre planted gives us a profitable yield. What can we do now to insure this? Here are some of the things:

1. *Seed in the early fall and thus double the yield of spring seedings.* Experiment station results the South over have clearly shown the great superiority of fall seeding over spring seeding, and the farmer who waits until spring to sow is simply, on an average, cutting his yield in half.
2. *Seed with a grain drill.* This is another point on which experiment station evidence is very positive, results showing a very decided gain in favor of seeding with a grain drill over hand seeding.
3. *Treat your seed oats to prevent smut.* Every spring, after it is too late to apply any remedy, we are deluged with requests for information on how to prevent smut in oats. The time to prevent oat smut is before you plant the seed, and the way to do this is described elsewhere in this issue of The Progressive Farmer. This treatment is inexpensive and it may save you many dollars.
4. *Sow on a well compacted seed bed.*

under anything like favorable conditions, are a very certain crop, but, like everything else, they do best when you treat them best.

6. *Plan in advance to have the use of a binder and thresher.* Of course when raised entirely for home use, the necessity for up-to-date harvesting machinery is not so great; but where oats are to be marketed,

they should always be threshed and nicely sacked. Now is a good time to talk this matter over with your neighbors and local business men, with a view to getting what machinery may be needed.

7. *Plant a legume crop after your oats.* Failure to plant the stubble land to peas or some other soil-improving crop means failure to realize on one of our best opportunities for getting cheap feed. Save an abundance of pea seed this fall and prepare to let not a single acre of stubble land lie idle next year.

Looking after these few essentials will be neither difficult nor expensive, but whether you do look after them now will largely determine the success or failure of your oat crop next spring. So let's begin work now, not only to plant this fall the biggest acreage of oats ever sown in the South, but let's plan as well to make the biggest yield per acre.

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