

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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WE HAVE never run a good roads article that attracted more attention than Mr. Page's letter last week. It is bound to wake up the South to the need for road maintenance as well as road building.

YOU know how bad roads will be next February if nothing is done. To keep them from being so bad, see your county road authorities and get them to start a system of dragging, paying farmers to do the work.

THERE were 131,000 white illiterates in North Carolina over ten years of age in 1910. That means that on an average there were 1,310 to the county. Resolve now that you are going to help our brothers and sisters who "never had a chance". Or if they had one and missed it, let's be generous enough to give them a second chance.

IT IS gratifying to find so many subscribers writing for information as to how to organize cooperative marketing associations, needed forms of by-laws, constitutions, rules, etc. It is impossible, of course, for us to give full information in a letter, but full and detailed directions as to how to organize and conduct all such organizations are given in Editor Clarence Poe's new book, "How Farmers Cooperate and Double Profits".

NOW that the boll weevil in its eastward march is nearing the Atlantic Coast, farmers and business men in the eastern portions of the Cotton Belt will be anxious to learn all they can about this pest. For the seeker of information in regard to the weevil and what may be expected from it, our book, "The Boll Weevil Problem," by B. L. Moss, Managing Editor of The Progressive Farmer, is based on experience and is dependable.

OUR issue of next week will be a "More Fruit Special", dealing particularly with the problem of more and better orchards for the South. Noteworthy articles on "Home Orchards for the Gulf Coast Country," "Home Orchards for the Middle and Northern Portions of the Cotton Belt," "Strawberries for Home Use," "Fighting Diseases and Insect Pests," and "How to Prune" will be special features, with some unusually good experience letters from our readers. Don't miss this issue.

THREE highly important meetings are to be held in Charleston, S. C., December 13-17. It was decided sometime ago that the annual session of the Southern Commercial Congress should be held there and then, and now President E. J. Watson has called the Southern Cotton Congress and National Drainage Congress to meet at the same time and place. We hope many of our readers interested in the big questions of Southern progress will resolve to be on hand.

IN ADDITION to next week's "More Fruit Special", packed with useful articles about all the common orchard fruits, we wish in our issue of October 30 to publish all the most helpful, practical and inspiring experiences sent in by readers regarding the growing of nut trees, grapes, berries, and flowers, shrubs, vines and shade trees that require fall planting. We offer a prize of \$5 for the best letter received, and regular rates for all other letters printed. Mail your articles before October 16.

NOVEMBER is to be "Moonlight School Month" all over North Carolina. That is to say, November will be the month marking the state-wide beginning of the effort to teach all grown-up men and women to read and write. But in some counties the schools will begin this month. In some others they will probably not begin until the middle of November. But the idea will be to have it so that by Christmas-time every white man and woman of good common sense, from Currituck to

Cherokee, will be able to read and write. Get ready to help in this work.

ALL over North Carolina October 9 is to be observed as "Seed Selection Day." Demonstration agents and farmers working with them and corn club boys are especially interested, but it is hoped that all farmers who have not already selected seed corn and cotton will go into the fields October 9, and prepare for bigger crops next year by providing better seed. Get better seed and you will increase your profits without one extra lick of work or one extra drop of sweat.

EVERY now and then we get a letter from some farmer who is also a merchant, only to find the fact that he is a merchant boldly emblazoned on his stationery in large type, while not a word is said about his farming interests. This is not right. Why not name your farm and put the name on the stationery together with the names of whatever brands of livestock you handle or crops and seeds you specialize on? At the very least be sure to list yourself as "Farmer and Merchant."

Four More Facts for Cotton Farmers

THE question now seems to be no longer whether we shall have twelve-cent cotton, cotton futures for next spring having passed twelve cents early last week, but the question now is whether fifteen-cent cotton is not in sight. Meanwhile let us reiterate just a few points:

1. Look out for scab farmers. Farmers who don't know the facts as to the cotton situation are liable to think ten cents a good fair price and so prevent twelve or fifteen-cent prices by over-feeding a ten-cent market. The New York Times says the only cotton bears now are the Southern cotton farmers themselves, and it is right. Don't prevent twelve cents by jumping at ten.

2. Help the men who grew the crop get the profits. Look out for the merchant who tries to compel customers to sell to him early. Make the merchant safe when his account is fairly due, by borrowing on the cotton and paying him or by turning the cotton over to him as security, but demand that the grower have the privilege of saying when it shall be sold.

3. Beware of the banks that refuse to advance money on cotton. If your local banks will not make reasonable loans, at least \$35 a bale, report the exact facts to your Congressman as basis for demanding thorough-going rural credits legislation.

4. Don't sell cotton seed yet. Conditions almost surely warrant the highest prices ever paid for seed in the history of the South.

Let's manage this crop wisely and recover all last year's losses.

Boll Weevil Makes a Remarkable Advance

ACCORDING to the state and United States entomologists who are investigating its spread, the boll weevil this fall has already made a longer eastward movement than has been the case since 1909, when the pest advanced 120 miles in south Mississippi. With about a month before frost left in which to migrate, the movement so far includes parts or all of twenty-two counties in southwest Georgia and a broad area in Florida and central, east and northeast Alabama, as well as some new areas in Texas.

This year's movement, while unusually extensive, is not unprecedented. Last year the new area infested was very small, while this year it will likely prove to be about double what experience has taught us to expect. Thus the average rate of about fifty miles a year is being maintained.

Upon Progressive Farmer readers everywhere in newly infested boll weevil territory we would impress the fact that there is no occasion for alarm and panic. True, the coming of the weevil to any cotton country, particularly south of the latitude of Birmingham and Atlanta, is a serious problem; but no problem has ever been successfully met and solved by fright and demoralization. The only proper and sensible course is first to learn what is necessary in the fight against the weevil, and then thoroughly apply what has been found most effective. In aiming at the best

plan of effective action, the following suggestions, based on past experience with the weevil, will, we believe, be of value to our readers:

1. In all territory infested this fall for the first time, weevil damage next year will not be heavy—rarely if ever more than 25 per cent. This comparatively light damage the second year is due to the fact that weevils the fall before are not sufficiently numerous to thoroughly infest all fields, and consequently the number living through the winter is not large.

2. Panic and fright may do more damage than the boll weevil itself. This is a point we would impress especially upon business men in newly invaded territory. We have, in a few instances, known of what virtually amounted to disaster to come with the boll weevil, but where this has been the case it has largely been due to fright: bankers, supply merchants, landlords refused to continue to extend credit where credit had been the rule, and in other ways plainly showed by their action that they believed that agriculturally "the jig was up". Quite true, our credit system is by no means ideal; but to eliminate it or to substitute a better is something that cannot be done over-night. It is important to understand the seriousness of the situation, but don't get stampeded.

3. A live-at-home policy is the first step in beating the boll weevil. We believe the majority of our readers will continue to grow some cotton despite the weevil, but they can never do this on "store-bought" supplies. The policy of living at home and soil building is sound the world over, but the coming of the boll weevil serves to accentuate its tremendous importance.

Facts for Oat Growers

HOW long will it take us to get it into our heads that spring-sown oats don't pay, and that on an average fall seedings yield twice as well? For the truth of this, we refer you to practically any experiment station in the Cotton Belt. Undoubtedly the time of seeding, more than any other single factor, greatly affects yields; yet every spring we see thousands of acres of spring-sown oats yielding little or actually nothing. Insure your crop by planting it at the right time.

The variety of oats planted should be, as a general rule, the Red Rust-proof or one of the selections from it. This variety is generally rust-resistant, and has proved one of our best yielders.

On our average grades of land fairly heavy seeding will probably be found most profitable. At the Mississippi Experiment Station in 1912, seed sown at the rate of six pecks per acre made twenty-five bushels; eight pecks, thirty-four bushels; ten pecks, thirty-five bushels; and twelve pecks, thirty-eight bushels.

If smut has given you trouble, why not guard against it another year? The formalin treatment described in a recent issue will do the work effectively, and it is not expensive.

Drill your oats in if practicable. We advise this because, practically without exception, drilled oats have outyielded those sown broadcast. On ten acres or more the increased yields from drilling will very soon pay for a drill.

A Thought for the Week

THE better we understand life, the more we come to the realization of the fact that happiness is a duty. It signifies that we are working in harmony with the laws of our being. It is one of the concomitants of righteousness. Righteousness in its last analysis will be found to be living in right relations with the laws of our being and with the laws of the universe about us. This attitude, this habit of happiness, is also a benefit to others. As cheerfulness induces cheerfulness in others, so happiness inspires and induces happiness. We communicate this condition to those about us. Its effects come back in turn from them to us again. As anger inspires anger, as love and sympathy inspire love and sympathy in others, each of its kind, so cheerfulness and happiness inspire the same in others—Ralph Waldo Trine.