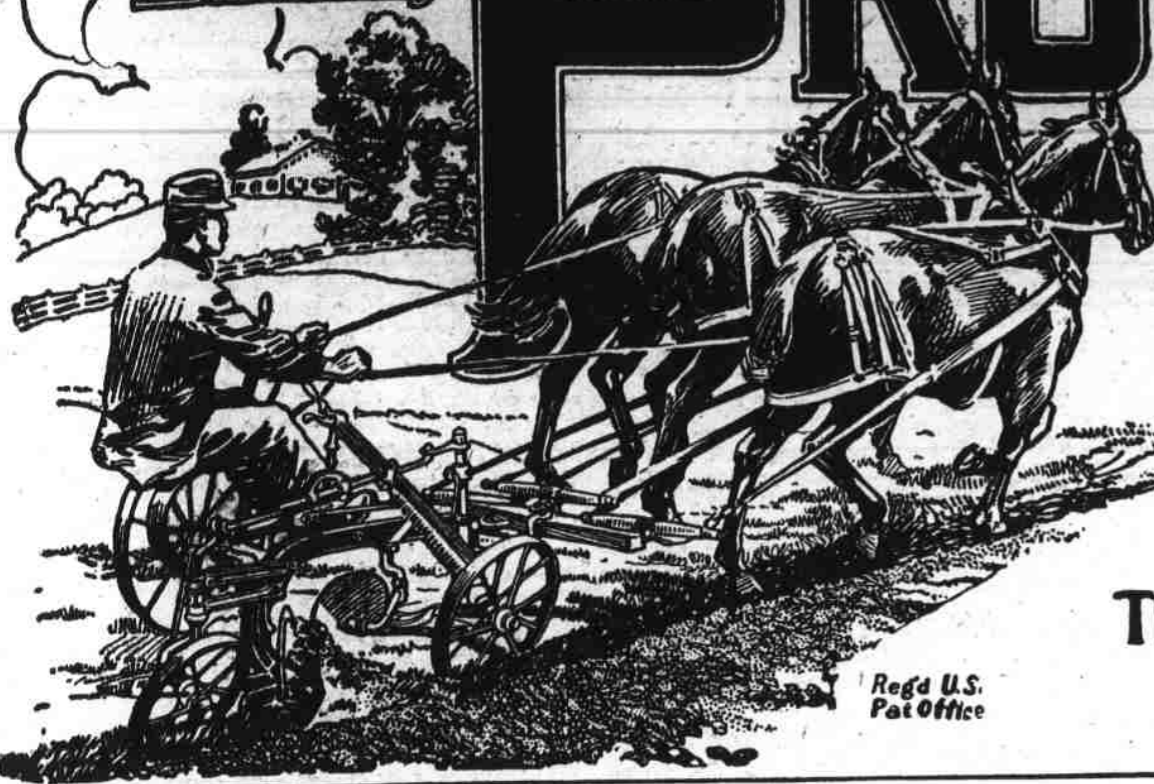


# THE PROGRESSIVE FARMER

AND SOUTHERN FARM GAZETTE

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## FIFTY HENS FOR EVERY SOUTHERN FARM

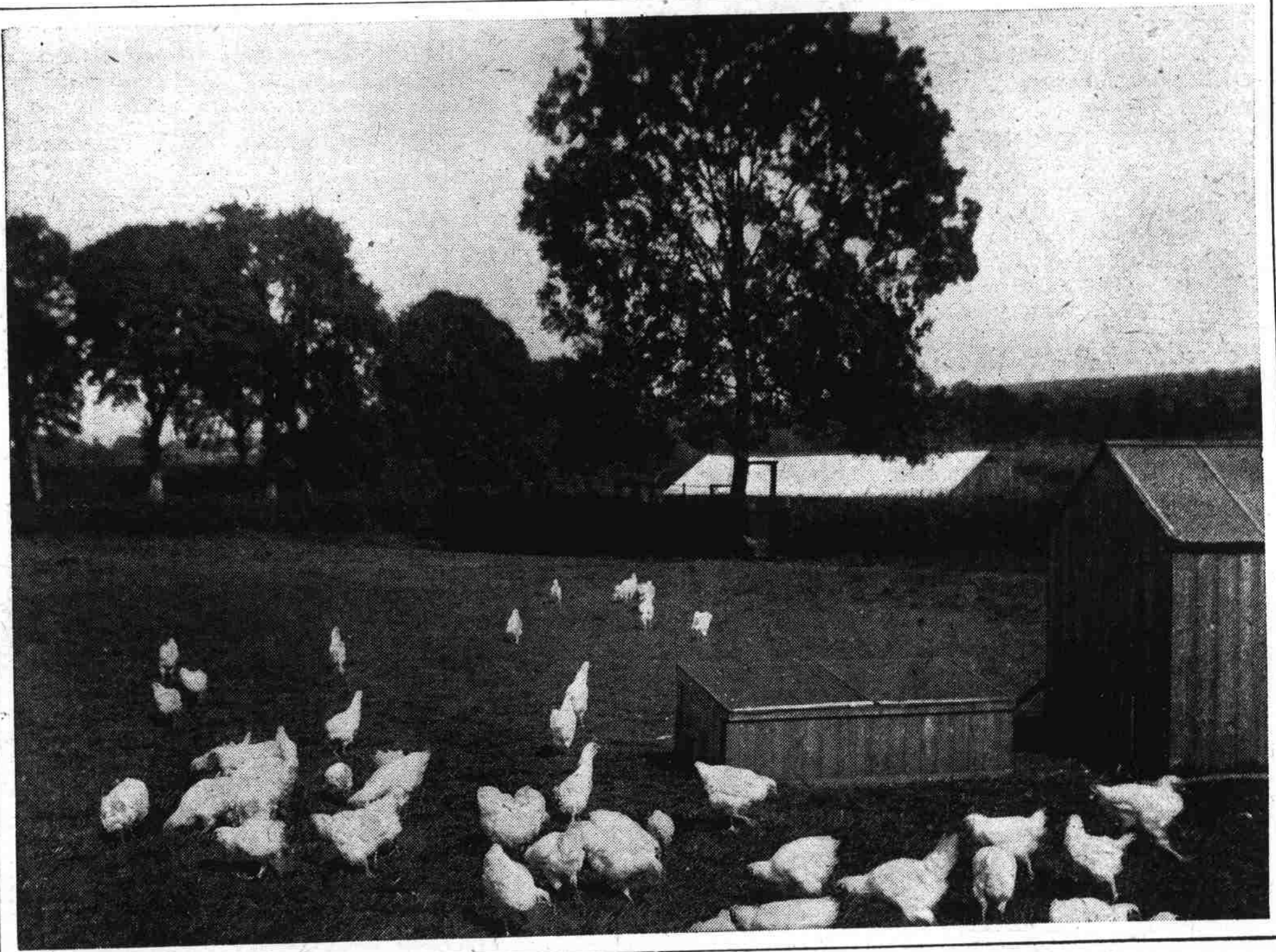
IN THE Corn Belt states it is reliably stated that the average farm flock of poultry numbers nearly 150, while in the Cotton Belt the average is not more than 20 or 25 to the farm. In the Corn Belt the average annual income per farm worker is double that of the average in the Cotton Belt.

Now there may not be any necessary connection between these two facts, but to us it looks very much like there is, and a very important connection, at that. The truth, we believe, is that the greater earning power of the Northern and Western farmer is due to the fact he makes every edge cut; he cashes in on every opportunity. He uses labor-saving machinery; he uses more horse power and less human labor; and he uses cattle, hogs and chickens, all his farm will carry, to clean up the waste products and put them in marketable form.

The Northern and Western farmer long ago learned that a goodly flock of hens is the best kind of insurance against store accounts at credit prices, and he accordingly makes Bidly pay the grocery bill, with some to spare. Judging from the few nondescript hens found on a great many Cotton Belt farms, we have yet to learn this lesson, and right now, at the beginning of 1916, is a splendid time to be about it.

In the first place, let's understand that the Iowa or the Missouri farmer doesn't keep a big flock of hens because he has a better climate than we for chicken-raising. If anything, the reverse should be true. Our winters are mild, and there is not a farm in the South that cannot have something green growing every day in the year.

Nor do we believe it to be due to a lack of a market in the South for chickens and eggs. We don't know of a community anywhere in which these products are not salable practically every day in the year. They are almost as staple as cotton. True, better



A BUNCH OF YOUNGSTERS ON AN OPEN FIELD, OWNED BY C. P. MILLER, RICHMOND, VA.

results would come from marketing coöperatively and in large lots, but chickens and eggs in any quantity can practically always be sold, and generally at prices that will afford a profit.

The carrying of not less than fifty laying hens on every farm in the

South is easily possible and would each year add many millions of dollars to our wealth. A really good hen should lay 150 eggs a year; but if we make each farm flock of 50 hens average 100 eggs a year for each hen, we have a total of 5,000 eggs, or 416 dozen, worth, at an average of 20 cents a dozen, \$83.20,—an amount amply sufficient to buy all the flour, coffee, sugar, salt, etc., needed, with some to spare. Of course with good management there is no reason why this amount might not be materially increased.

Why not let's make this one of our 1916 slogans: "Fifty Hens for Every Southern Farm?" Such a flock, well cared for, will convert waste products into marketable meat and eggs, and will be a big step forward toward a live-at-home policy and emancipation from "time-prices."

### DON'T FAIL TO READ—

	Page
Hats Off to the Humble Hen! . . . . .	4
Developing a Farm Flock . . . . .	6
How to Organize and Operate an Egg-selling Association . . . . .	6
\$226 From Fifty Hens . . . . .	6
Feeding Cottonseed Meal to Poultry . . . . .	7
How to Get Winter Eggs . . . . .	8
The Poultry-marketing Problem . . . . .	9
Hens—or Incubators . . . . .	10
Look Out for Ox Warbles in Cattle . . . . .	14
Uncle John Says Friday Is Unlucky for Many Folks . . . . .	16
Legislation Needed by Our Rural Interests . . . . .	17
February Suggestions for the Housewife . . . . .	19
Poultry Items for Women . . . . .	19
Thinks Better Defeat Rural Credits Bill. . . . .	22