

THE PROGRESSIVE FARMER

AND SOUTHERN FARM GAZETTE

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Food and Feed Crops Will Pay Best This Year

TO THE thinking, reading, wide-awake farmer, there can be only one sensible course to follow in 1916, and that is, first of all, to feed his family, his livestock and his land, and then devote his surplus lands and energies to the production of whatever cash crop may be best suited to his particular conditions.

Of course, as in the past, there are going to be thousands of tenant

any cotton farmer. We can raise these crops at home at from one-third to one-half the store prices, and improve our lands at the same time. Now is the time to get an acreage—amply sufficient to supply your home needs, with a surplus to spare; now is the time to plan to put velvet beans, soy beans, cowpeas, or peanuts in all the corn and after the oats.



A BUMPER CROP OF SOY BEAN HAY ON FARM OF A. M. WORDEN, TULLAHOMA, TENN.

farmers, along with others who, by reason of their methods, are on the straight road to tenancy; who will put everything in cotton, tobacco, or some other single crop, depending on it to furnish the money to pay for food, feed and fertilizers; but this is all the more reason why the thinking farmer, the man who is getting ahead by using his head, should make living at home his primary business.

Cotton now is bringing only fair prices; the price is tending downward instead of upward, and there is no definite assurance that prices will be high next fall. But whether prices are high or low is aside from the main point; for even were cotton selling at twenty cents a pound, we hold that no man can afford to grow it to the exclusion of food, feed and soil-building crops—grow it to buy bread, meat, molasses, corn, oats, hay and fertilizers.

Let's get right on this question, Brother. Let's make a good living, whether we make any cotton or tobacco or not. The following are, it seems to us, points that every farmer in the whole South should make it his business to see to, and see to now:

1. *Cut out the feed bills.* Dollar corn from Iowa and \$25 Western hay will break

2. *Cut out the meat and bread bills.* Plenty of corn, peanuts, peas and beans usually mean plenty of meat, milk and butter; these produced on the farm, in turn, mean cotton money to go in the bank instead of into the pocket of the "time prices" supply merchant.

3. *Cut down the fertilizer bills.* For 75 per cent of the farmers of the South, a really good system of rotation farming, a system that would include the planting of peas, beans, or some other legume in every field of corn and after every acre of oats; a crop of crimson clover to plow under for every acre of corn to be planted; and a crop of green on every single acre every winter, would enable us to cut out commercial nitrogen and potash, leaving only phosphoric acid to be bought, and this could be purchased in rock phosphate at only a fraction of the cost in acid phosphate. In other words, living at home and farming as we should will enable us to cut our fertilizer bills anywhere from 50 to 80 or 90 per cent.

Let's try these plans this year. They will place us on the straight road toward rich land, fat cattle, big crops and independence.

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