

THE PROGRESSIVE FARMER

AND SOUTHERN FARM GAZETTE

A Farm and Home Weekly for
The Carolinas, Virginia, Georgia, and Florida.

FOUNDED 1886, AT RALEIGH, N. C.

Vol. XXXI. No. 14.

SATURDAY, APRIL 1, 1916.

\$1 a Year; 5c. a Copy

A Nitrogen-gathering Crop for Every Acre This Year

IN our article last week on green manures, or crops to be plowed under for fertilizers, we produced experiment station evidence of the great value of these crops. For example, sorghum planted after rye stubble yielded 5,525 pounds of hay per acre; after crimson clover stubble, 9,750 pounds per acre; and after crimson clover, entire plant turned under, 10,300 pounds. Reckoning sorghum hay at \$10 a ton, we have here an increased yield worth nearly \$25 an acre due to the clover crop. Again, oats after velvet beans plowed under yielded 33 bushels per acre; after cowpeas plowed under, 31 bushels per acre; and after crab grass and millet stubble, only 8 bushels per acre.

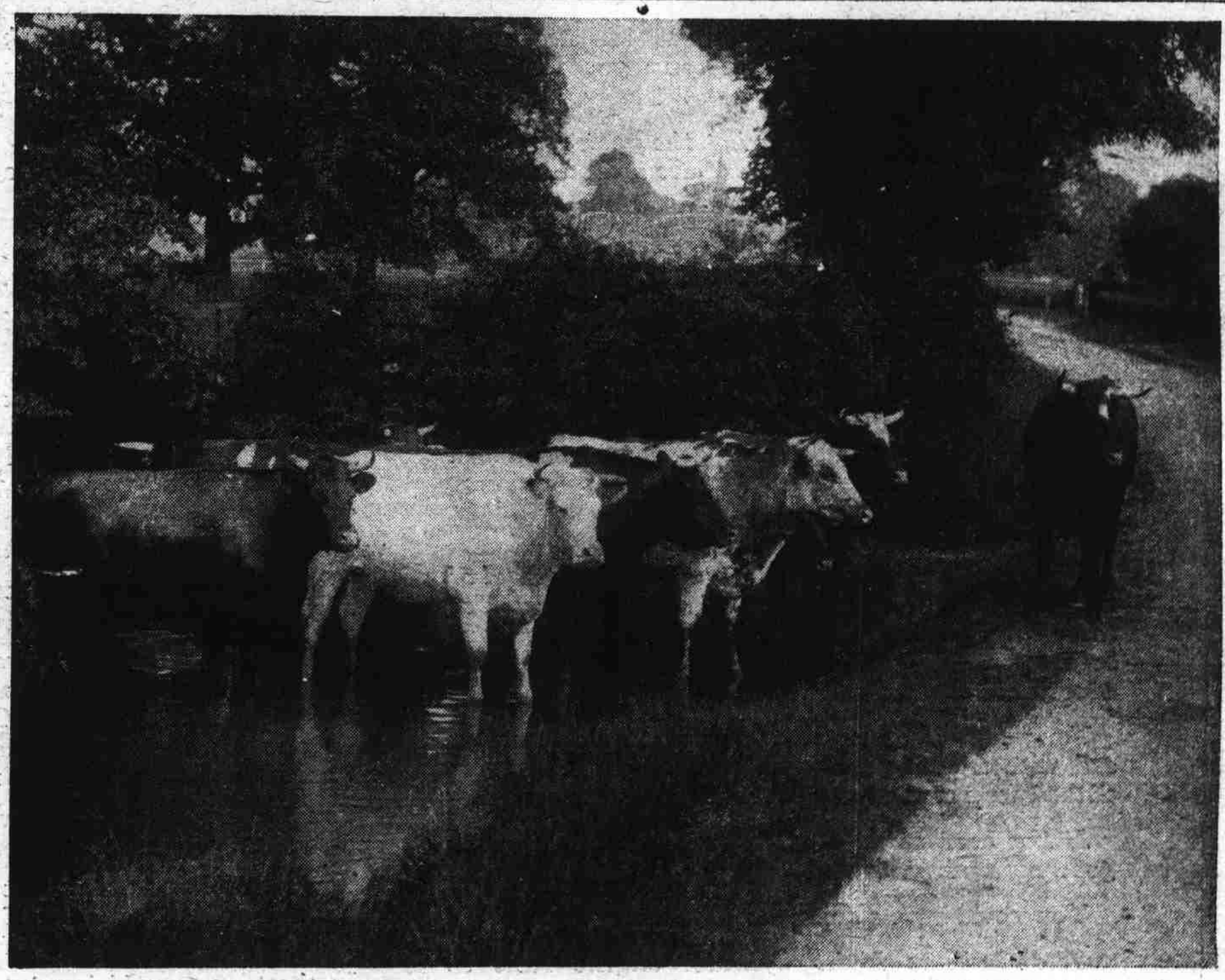
We hold that these facts are of tremendous importance to Southern farmers; so important, indeed, that we believe every single cultivated acre in the South should have some sort of nitrogen-gathering crop planted on it this year.

But this is impossible, you say? By no means! Not only is it quite possible, but it can be done at the same time we are producing our crops of corn, oats and cotton. Let us see.

In the first place, the oat land is only doing half its duty unless it produce a legume crop after the oat crop is harvested. In the lower central South lespedeza or Japan clover makes a splendid hay and soil-building crop after oats; on the stiffer clay lands, soy beans produce an immense lot of feed; cowpeas do well nearly everywhere; and in the Coastal Plain sections the Early Speckled velvet beans may very profitably follow oats for soil improvement and fall and winter grazing.

Then we must come to regard our corn fields as not returning anything like a maximum profit if they produce corn only, and must put all of them to work growing, in addition to the corn crop, a crop of peas, soy beans, velvet beans, or peanuts.

Finally, every cotton field in the South should next fall go in crimson clover, to be plowed under the following spring and followed by corn or cotton. This clover can be put in in September without at all interfering with the cotton crop on the land. In view of the demonstrated fact that, when



A PAUSE BY THE BROOKSIDE

the soil is inoculated, crimson clover is at home on practically every well-drained soil type in the South, no cotton field should be without this great winter-growing legume.

This, then, is an outline of what we consider the only sound cropping system, and we believe every farmer in the South whose main crops are corn, cotton and small grains might well adopt the slogan, "a nitrogen-gathering crop every year for every cultivated acre." Adopting such a plan and sticking to it year after year will accomplish at least two far-reaching results: First, it will enable us to laugh at high-priced fertilizers, for in most of the South such a system will make us independent of them; second, it will enable us to turn the tables on the Northern farmer and ship him corn and meat instead of our buying his, as is now the case.

Nor is this theory. Every year thousands of our best farmers are doing these very things, and doing them to the eternal betterment of themselves, their soils, and their neighborhoods. Why not you? Why now *now*?

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