



# THE PROGRESSIVE FARMER

AND SOUTHERN FARM GAZETTE

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## SAVE ALL THE CLOVER SEED THIS SPRING

WE want to inoculate every Progressive Farmer reader with "clover fever,"—want every one of them to have a severe and protracted case of it. The general prevalence of this disease among the farmers of the South will, we believe, mean more than any other one thing in increasing our yields, adding to our livestock, and bettering our agricultural conditions generally.

However, in order to grow clover, clover seed are necessary. Seed of crimson clover, and this, we believe, is the premier clover for the South, are usually scarce and high-priced, and in the past this scarcity has kept many a farmer from trying the crop. As long as the European war continues seed are likely to continue high in price and hard to get, and the only way to remedy the shortage is for us to save our own seed.

It used to be said, on account of our wet springs, that it is difficult to save sound crimson clover seed in the South. Our observation for the past two years leads us to believe there is very little basis, in fact, for such statements. We have seen Southern-grown seed, both hulled and unhulled, used, and the results have generally been good. Of course if the seed are allowed to get wet and are stored wet, rotting is bound to occur; but this is a result that may be expected with seed corn, oats, or seed of any other crop. The truth is that home-grown clover seed, where reasonable precautions are taken, are just as good and dependable as the high-priced foreign-grown seed we have each year been paying several million dollars for.

Not only should each farmer who has clover growing now save enough seed for his own use next fall, but all he has in excess of his individual needs should be carefully saved and marketed. In all probability seed will be high again next fall, and any surplus can be disposed of at a good profit. On another page we are reproducing with descriptive matter, a drawing of the clover seed stripper designed by the United States Department of Agriculture. A number of our readers made and used this stripper last year, and they are enthusiastic about it. Depending on the quantity of seed to harvest, it can be made in any size, from a small hand stripper twelve inches wide to one four or five feet wide drawn by two horses. In case a stripper such as is shown cannot

be made, the seed may be harvested by waiting until they are mature and then cutting with a mower and raking. When handled in this way, the clover should be cut when the plants are moist with dew in order to prevent shattering, and the straw scattered on a tight barn



HOME FROM SCHOOL  
Little Jewell Campbell, West Point, Ga., who Drives Her Ponies to and From School, Two and One-half Miles Away

floor, to avoid any danger of heating and spoiling. When thoroughly dry, the seed may be threshed out with flails; in the way cowpeas are sometimes beaten out.

Upon those of our readers who have tried this great crop, we would urge that every seed possible be saved for enlarging the acreage next fall and for supplying the neighbors; and upon those who haven't yet tried crimson clover, we would urge that arrangements be made now for seed enough to start next fall. The crop is simply too fine a one to be without. Any plant that will grow in the winter and early spring and be out of the way in time for cotton and corn; that is suited to nearly every well drained soil type in the South; that will give valuable grazing during the winter; and that, when plowed under, will be equal to several tons of stable manure or a thousand pounds of cottonseed meal per acre.—such a crop as this indeed should have a place on every farm in the South. Let's do our part by saving every seed possible.

DON'T FAIL TO READ—		Page
Advertise These Things in Your Local Paper . . . . .		4
A Clover Seed Stripper That Is Cheap and Effective . . . . .		6
More Horse-power and Machinery on Our Farms . . . . .		6
Farmer Must Be a Broad Man . . . . .		7
Improving Town Markets . . . . .		9
Summer Spraying for Stone Fruits . . . . .		11
How We Can Have Better Livestock . . . . .		12
Coöperation the Only Way Out . . . . .		15
Preventing Waste of Road Money . . . . .		15
Send for the Agricultural Yearbook . . . . .		15
Incubator Directions . . . . .		19
Thoughts for Campaign Year . . . . .		20
Shipping Livestock Cooperatively . . . . .		21