

THE PROGRESSIVE FARMER

AND SOUTHERN FARM GAZETTE

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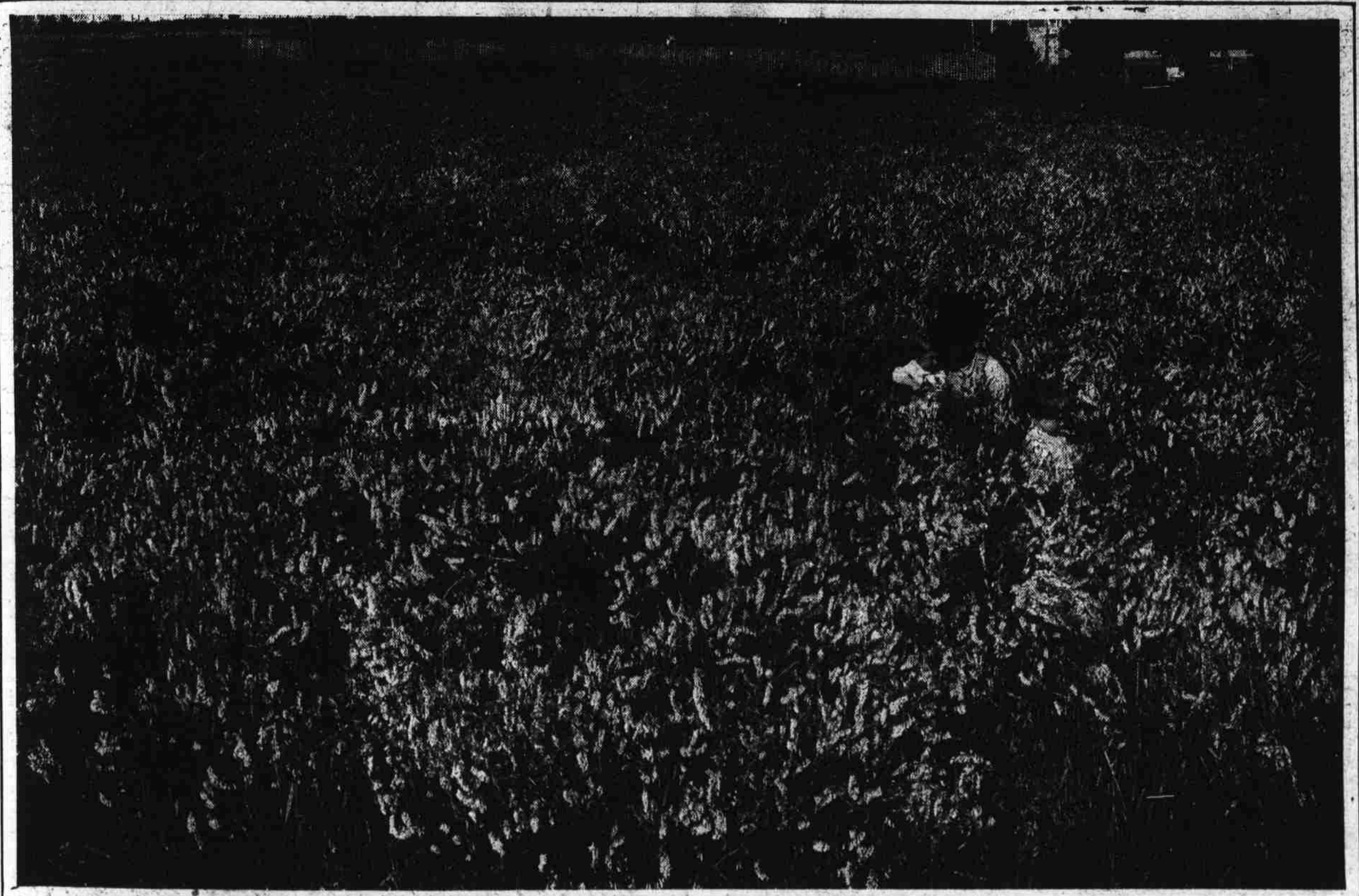


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PLANT VETCH FOR AN EARLY HAY CROP



VETCH AND OATS IN MAY

This is an Excellent Early Hay Combination, and the Crop Comes Off in Time to Plant Corn, Peas or Beans

WHILE hairy vetch is probably inferior to crimson clover as a crop to plow under for corn, or hardly the equal of bur clover for winter grazing, in combination with oats it is excelled by no crop as a producer of an early hay crop of excellent quality. Wherever there is the least likelihood of a shortage of forage during the next twelve months, a few acres of oats and vetch put in this fall will afford a most excellent means of bridging the gap.

In the first place, hairy vetch is suited to a very wide range of soil conditions, being at home on practically all soils in the Cotton Belt, anywhere from Virginia to Texas. Of course, where the crop has never been grown before, inoculation is necessary, but this is easy and comparatively inexpensive. On any well drained soils, from black waxy to light sandy loams, farmers may plant hairy vetch with every expectation that it will do well.

Still another advantage of hairy vetch is its

hardiness, it being practically never winter-killed in the South. This fact makes it possible to extend the planting time over a longer period—from August 15 to November 1—than is the case with bur and crimson clover, which are more subject to winter-killing when planted late.

Then vetch is a nitrogen-gatherer, and the quality of hay produced is higher than that made from any non-legume; and, in addition, the crop of vetch and oat hay matures in ample time to follow with a crop of corn, peas or beans.

So, we repeat, if a shortage of roughage threatens, instead of buying feed at high prices, why not try at least a small area of oats and vetch or rye and vetch? Twenty-five pounds of vetch seed with two bushels of oats or with one bushel of rye, preferably the Abruzzi variety, makes about the right proportion, and the planting may be done any time within the next six or eight weeks. A comparatively small area of this early hay combination will save your feed bills next spring and summer.

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