

THE PROGRESSIVE FARMER

Vol. XXXI No. 37.

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 9, 1916.

\$1 a Year, 5c. a Copy

Timely Farm Suggestions

By TAIT BUTLER

ALSIKE clover does well on those lands which have proved best for lespedeza—the moist lands that are rather fertile, according to Prof. Martin Nelson, Director of the Arkansas Experiment Station. On the higher or dryer lands lespedeza is not doing much except for pasture. Moisture is essential to a good crop of lespedeza, but still it covers and furnishes some feed on our thin dry lands.

Lack of Capital a Serious Defect in Southern Farming

WE OFTEN hear it stated that farming requires less capital than other lines of business, but this is not generally true. Indeed, it is this erroneous belief which goes a long way toward making failures in farming.

To do work economically a large investment in farm implements is now necessary. Economical production is no longer possible without a comparatively large investment in machinery implements and livestock. The smaller the farm the larger this investment in proportion to crops produced. There is probably no one defect in Southern farming, which is more largely responsible for inefficiency and failure than lack of capital. Capital is not only necessary for farm equipment, but the amount required is increasing every year and the advantages of sufficient capital to take all cash discounts are yearly becoming greater.

We not only need more capital for successful farming, but we need very much more capital, to such an extent that those without capital must eventually be forced out of business. The farmer without capital can no more compete with the man who has, than in other lines of production, and the more quickly this is recognized the larger number of failures will be avoided.

Fall Oats Will Pay You

IN THOSE sections where forage crops are short this season, the opportunity to produce early feed next spring should not be overlooked. Early fall seeding of oats, barley or wheat may enable one to harvest an early crop of hay or grain. When the rust-resistant fall varieties of oats are sowed early and the seed treated for the prevention of smut, oats are as reliable a crop as we have. Late sowing and poor lands, poorly prepared, are the chief causes for failures of the oat crop.

Oats should be quite largely grown on every farm, because they are in themselves an excellent forage crop; but more especially because being sowed in the fall they form a good cover crop to prevent washing and leaching during the winter and because they are sowed in the fall when farm work is not so pressing and harvested after the rush of spring planting is over. They also fit well into a double cropping system, which is essential to the best results in Southern farming. Oats as the only crop on the land for an entire year are not profitable, but there is ample time after the oats are harvested to grow a crop of soy beans, lespedeza or cowpeas.

A crop that covers the land during the winter, furnishes a fair amount of excellent forage early in the summer and gives an opportunity for the growth of a legume crop the same year is certainly one which should receive more consideration at the hands of Southern farmers. The fact that

the crop of 1916 was generally a failure should not be given too great weight, for failures of the oat crop when sowed early on good land are extremely rare.

Great Work Being Done by Girls' Clubs

THE magnitude and value of the educational work being done among the girls on the farms of the South is not fully appreciated. Few realize the far-reaching results of this work and its effects on the future homes of the land. There are 47,749 girls engaged in club work in the 15 Southern states. There are 32,965 girls studying canning problems; 10,205 girls are learning more of poultry raising; 3,721 are devoting special attention to bread-making; and 858 are enrolled in other work.

The far-reaching effects which the information gained by the girls engaged in this work will exert during the years to come on the farm homes of the South can scarcely be over-

estimated. There is but one serious deficiency in this work, and that is that it does not reach every girl in every home throughout the entire South.

Pasturing Oats and Wheat Intended for Seed

A READER wishes to know if we advise the pasturing of oats and wheat that are sowed to be harvested for seed.

If the oats are sowed late, or if the wheat is sowed as late as generally advised to escape damage by the Hessian fly, we do not advise pasturing. Neither do we advise pasturing these crops when the land is soft or wet, especially by large animals like cattle and horses. Nor is it advisable to pasture at all, unless care is taken not to graze these crops too closely and to cease pasturing sufficiently early in the spring.

It requires considerable care to graze these crops and avoid all damage from the tramping of the stock and from too close cropping of the plants.

On the other hand, if the proper care is taken, the crops are sowed early and the grazing ceases suffi-

ciently early in the spring, grazing may be practiced without injury to the yield of seed, and sometimes the yields may probably be actually increased thereby. But, we must admit that as these crops are generally grazed in the South this grazing is probably a considerable injury, taken as a whole.

Our oats are generally sowed too late, and it is certain that late seeded wheat or oats should not be grazed. Our winters are open and wet, oat and wheat fields are generally soft, if not actually wet, and it is quite certain that on wet or soft lands fall-sowed oats and wheat are injured by grazing, especially by large or heavy animals.

If, however, the oats or wheat is sowed early and has made a good growth and the land is sandy or is dry and firm enough, so that neither the crop nor the soil is injured by the tramping of the animals, then pasturing is advisable, because the feed secured is of value and the yields of grain are not lessened.

More Agricultural Knowledge Needed by Both Landlords and Tenants

THE tenant problem is one of the greatest importance to the development of Southern agriculture. In

There is no doubt but the tendencies in the United States are in the same direction as has been the case in the older countries. Tenancy is increasing, the ownership of the land is passing into the hands of the few, and the masses are not only losing possession of the land but are largely leaving the country and going to the cities and towns. When the population increases sufficiently to make the demand for greater food supplies pressing, it will be necessary to put more of the people back on the land as owners; for while small farms may result in smaller earnings per man, they have always resulted in a greater food production taken as a whole. But nothing will be done to check the tendency toward tenancy until conditions become very much more acute than at present. Under these conditions we must face the problem of evolving a more satisfactory tenant system than now exists if a higher type of agriculture is to be developed.

It is probable that any material change in our present tenant system will come slowly, and until tenants become much more intelligent a high type of tenant agriculture seems impossible. The ignorant Negro tenant, whether he pays a cash rental per acre or is a share-cropper, will not do good farming, unless an intelligent landlord maintains a close and direct supervision of his operations. This the average landlord is not able nor willing to do; hence, there is not much prospect of improvement in our tenant farming. Any great improvement is impossible until the tenant becomes sufficiently intelligent to do better farming, or until the owner is able and willing to introduce and maintain a satisfactory or efficient system of farming and give such supervision of it as may be necessary.

Our tenants are largely ignorant Negroes but there is no good to come from denying the undoubted fact that our landlords are about as deficient as landlords as are the tenants. Most landlords are not willing to provide the buildings, fences, etc., necessary for doing good farming, and knowing the inability of the average Negro tenant to pay rent with any other crop than cotton, the landlord is naturally unwilling to encourage any other kind of farming.

To talk about a long time tenant system and an intelligent and successful tenant agriculture in the South under present conditions is largely a waste of time, because an impossibility. Neither the tenant nor the landlord have either the ability or the inclination to do those things absolutely necessary to good tenant farming. The landlord having good business judgment will either continue the present system of cotton farming with Negro tenants; or will sell his land and invest it in other industries; or he will give his personal attention to the running of his farm, thereby making it practicable to introduce a system of farming that will increase soil fertility and make the earnings of the farm sufficient to justify giving his attention to it.

The greatest improvement in farming in the near future, in so far as the South is concerned, must come through the landowner who lives on his farm and the intelligent white tenant who has an intelligent landlord, and it must be admitted that this combination is now extremely rare in comparison. A longer term for the lease is desirable and the lease must provide for the increase of soil fertility in a way that is fair to the tenant and will still not cost the landlord too much; but these will not come, indeed they are impossible, until both tenant and landlord are better educated along agricultural lines.

The men who lead are the men who read.

"SUCCESS WILL DEPEND ON WORKING TOGETHER"

"For This Reason," Says Dr. Warren H. Wilson, "A Sense of Honor and Obligation Is Essential to Success"—This Week's "Success Talk for Boys"

[Rev. Dr. Warren H. Wilson, author of this week's "Success Talk for Boys," is one of the most forceful of present-day writers and speakers on rural problems. He is in charge of country church work of the Northern Presbyterian Church and author of several notable books, including "Quaker Hill," "The Church of the Open Country," "The Evolution of the Country Community," "The Church at the Center," and "The Second Missionary Adventure." Next week's "Success Talk" will be by Herbert Quirk.]

SUCCESS in the future will depend on working together.

Therefore, the boys of today must learn obedience and subordination to one another, in order that as they grow up they may cooperate. If farming is ever to be a master occupation the farmers must cooperate, find their own leaders, and stand by them.

2. A sense of honor and obligation is essential to success, for the same reason. The farmer of 50 years ago needed to be independent and had to decide everything for himself. The farmer of today needs to deliberate and to remain

faithful to the agreement he makes with his fellow-farmers.

3. Country boys must learn to use the materials at hand. This is the essence of living successfully in the country. You must be a creator. You must take dirt and make of it living things and even human health and courage.

4. The country boy must respect himself and enjoy himself. He must stand on his own feet. He must not be afraid to be poor or to live close, and he must know how to enjoy his life as it is, and to think it the best life in the world. WARREN H. WILSON.