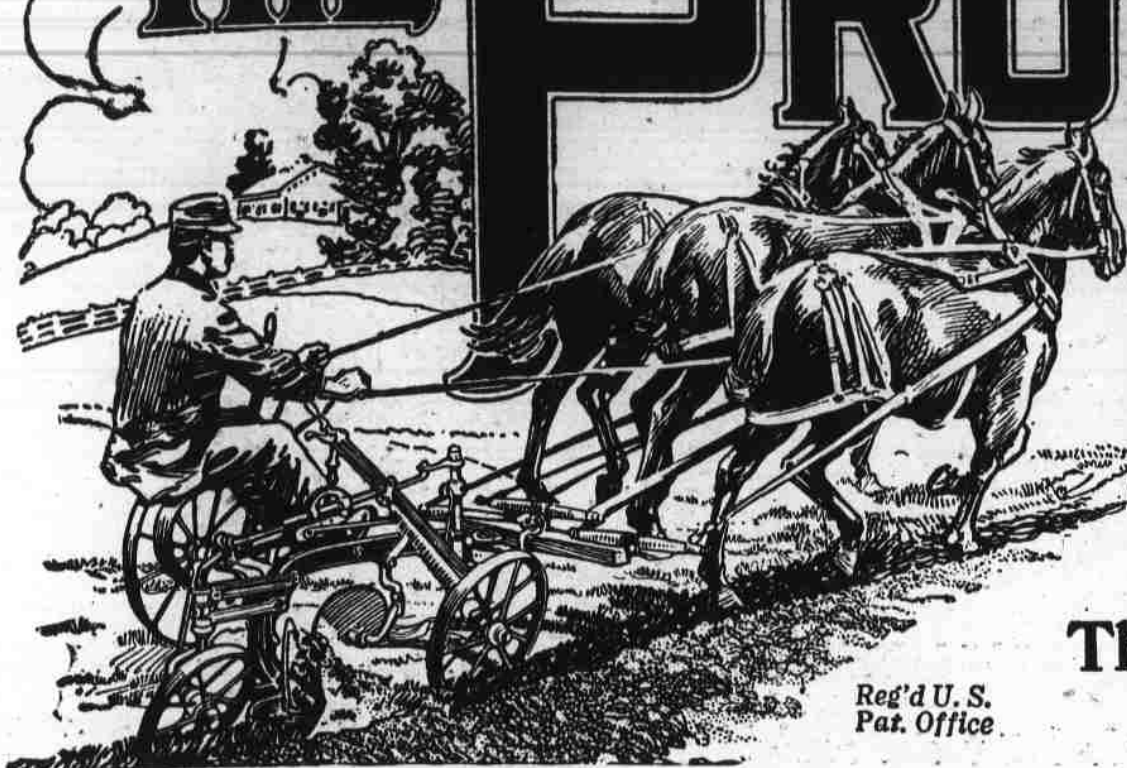


# THE PROGRESSIVE FARMER

AND SOUTHERN FARM GAZETTE

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

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## A SAFE AND SANE CROPPING SYSTEM FOR 1917

**M**ISLED by the glamor of 20-cent cotton, there is grave danger that many a Southern farmer will stake his all on this one crop—forgetting that cotton, compared with other commodities, is not really high-priced; forgetting the need for living at home first of all; forgetting the great lesson that soil fertility must come first in successful farming.

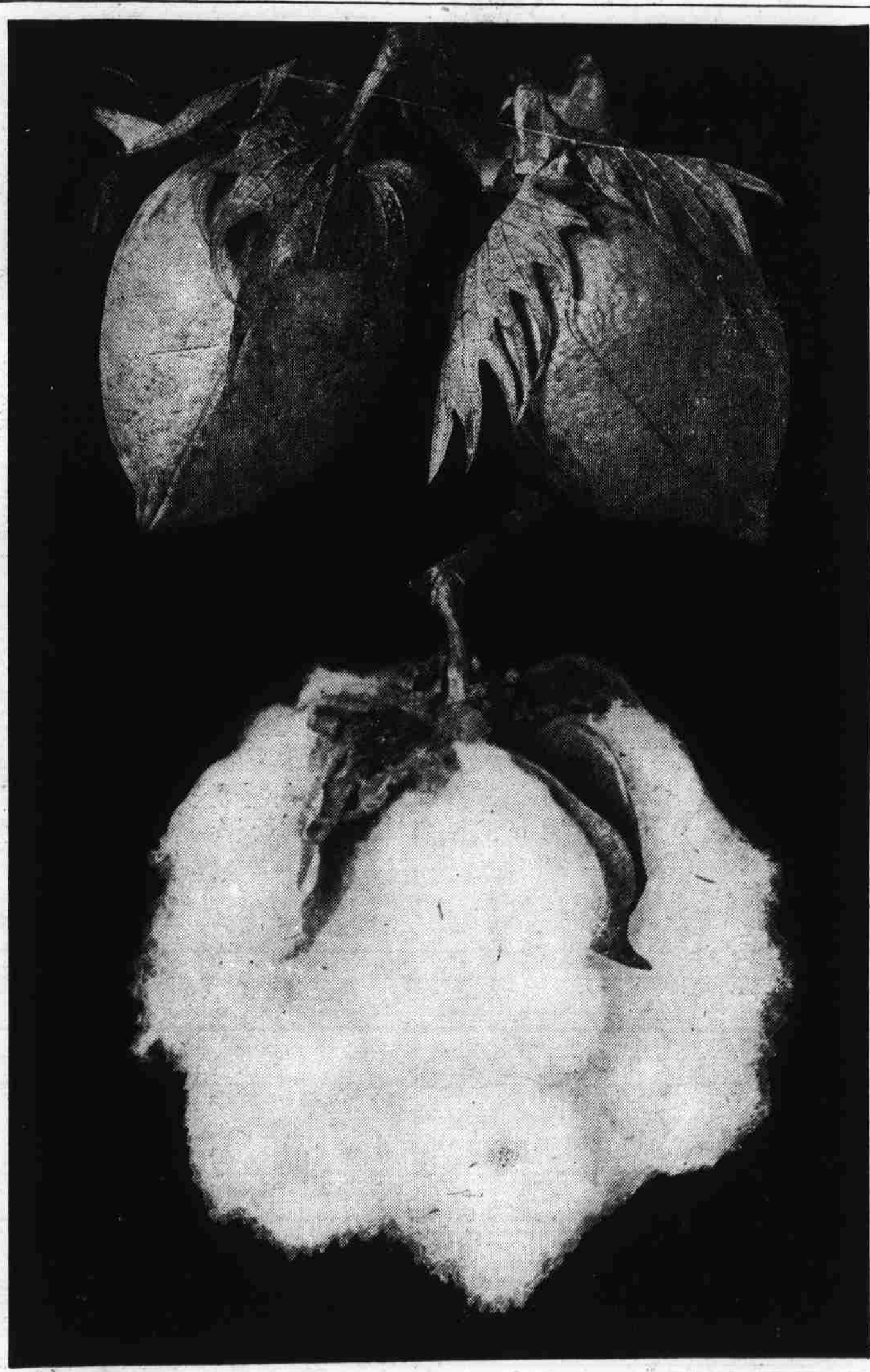
By spring, corn will probably be selling for \$1.50 a bushel, flour at \$12 a barrel, hay at \$25 to \$30 a ton. Cottonseed meal and acid phosphate are soaring, and potash fertilizers in quantity cannot be had at all; consequently every farmer who expects to get his soil fertility in sacks is going to have to pay dearly for it. Shoes and leather goods of all kinds are higher than this generation has ever known; implements, wire fencing and nails are high and apparently going higher.

All in all, then, cotton, relatively, is *not* high. True, it is now 50 per cent higher than the standard price of recent years, but practically everything else we eat, wear, or otherwise use is also 50 per cent or more higher. This being true—and any man with his eyes open knows that it *is* true—where is there a particle of logic or commonsense in rushing pell-mell into all-cotton?

Whether cotton is high or low, for the cotton farmer anywhere in the South we have consistently held that there is one and only one sound, safe plan, and that is to provide for food, feed and soil fertility first, and then raise what cotton he can on the acreage not devoted to these live-at-home crops. This means—

1. A good garden, plenty of Irish and sweet potatoes, cane for syrup, fruit trees, a big bunch of producing hens, some good cows to furnish plenty of milk and butter, plenty of meat hogs, and corn and wheat for bread.

2. A first-class pasture to furnish grazing for the chickens, hogs, cattle and horses, a good acreage in oats followed by peas or beans to



WHEN WE MAKE COTTON STRICTLY A SURPLUS CASH CROP, IT IS ONE OF THE BEST WE CAN GROW

furnish cheap feed next summer and fall, and an abundance of corn and peas or beans to insure us against having to buy feed another season.

3. A legume crop on every acre every year, to build up our lands and save fertilizer bills. It is of course too late now to put in the winter-growing legumes, but it is possible to put in next spring a big acreage of peas, soy and velvet beans, and peanuts. Then next fall, let us begin with crimson clover and use it hereafter as a green manure crop to plow under in the spring for our corn.

Such a simple system as this will provide first of all food, feed and fertility, all grown at home. Without these, no country and no people can ever advance very far agriculturally; with them will come big crops, large net profits, prosperity.

Which shall it be for you, Brother Farmer, commonsense and a bank account, or all-cotton, big food, feed and fertilizer bills and poverty?

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