

THE PROGRESSIVE FARMER

SOUTHERN FARM GAZETTE

"You can tell by a man's farm whether he reads it or not."

The Progressive Farmer Company
(Incorporated under the laws of North Carolina.)
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ON ALL lands to go in corn and cotton and which are not occupied by cover crops, it will be well from now on to keep the plows running every dry day, turning under stalks, vines, trash, etc., in ample time to rot well before planting. Doing this will obviate any apparent necessity for burning—an evil that has cost the South many millions of dollars in destroyed humus and plant food.

THE problem of getting and maintaining soil fertility is indeed an important one—one that to us, at least in many respects, overshadows all others in importance to the Southern farmer. This week, on page 5, we are beginning a notable series of articles dealing with this subject, and we hope all of our readers will begin this series now starting and keep up with it all through the year. The rich land farmer is most often the successful farmer.

THIS year, more so perhaps than ever before because of the high prices, it is exceedingly important that the user of commercial fertilizers give close study to his soil and crop needs, and then make his purchases with these in mind. To apply an expensive element where it is not needed and where it will not profitably increase the yield is simply money wasted. Use fertilizers, but use with intelligence based on careful study of the soil and previous crops.

THE Secretary of the Federal Farm Loan Board issues a timely warning to farmers against fake loan promoters, who falsely claim to represent the Government. These tricksters are operating in some sections, their sole aim being to fleece the farmer out of as much money as possible, promising a loan in return, and then moving on to new fields. Progressive Farmer readers are warned to be on the lookout for such crooks. Organize your own local loan association, or, at any rate, be sure that the organizers are personally known to you as honest men. Pay out no money unless you are absolutely certain about the whole proposition.

ANY farmer could well afford to pay \$1 a year just for the advertisements in our paper and for The Progressive Farmer's guarantee of reliability that stands behind them. In fact, if he is a real business farmer, he could well afford to pay \$10 every year for this service and this insurance—a guarantee of a square deal no matter what it is he wants to buy: farm machinery, livestock, poultry, seeds, and household supplies, etc. The man who doesn't look over our advertising columns every week is simply cheating himself. But don't forget that in order to claim the benefits of our Progressive Farmer guarantee you must mention this guarantee as stated on page 26.

A VERY interesting document, and one that should be in the hands of every farmer in territory recently or about to be invaded by the boll weevil, is the "Report of the South Carolina Boll Weevil Commission." This report embodies the findings of a commission composed of representatives from Clemson Agricultural College, the United States Department of Agriculture, South Carolina State University, South Carolina Bankers' Association, South Carolina Cottonseed Crushers' Association, the state Farmers' Union and the South Carolina Press Association, and concludes with recommendations as to the best methods to follow in order to meet successfully the boll weevil crisis. Copies of this report may be had on application to W. W. Long, Director of Extension, Clemson College, S. C.

WE HOPE no reader will miss Mr. J. Z. Green's article on page 20 calling for the repeal of the infamous crop lien law. Sentiment against this iniquity is growing fast. As one thoughtful legislator, a prominent lawyer, writes us:

"I think it is high time that this creature and fiction of the statute law should be rele-

gated to the cemetery along with its contemporaries, the repudiated bonds, and other relics of Reconstruction days."

And yet, in spite of the fact that no unbiased man can study the system without recognizing its injustice, it will never be abolished until the farmers go after their legislators hammer and tongs. Townspeople usually take the lead in agitating legislative matters and they are not interested in the crop lien. It's up to the farmers to speak to the legislatures.

ON THE next page we are mentioning school auditoriums in connection with the advice, "Remember the community in your will." It is well for some citizen to leave the community a building of this kind, but if there is no such prospect in your neighborhood, we have another plan to suggest. Why not get fifteen or twenty of your neighbors interested, have each one donate a few logs, a few dollars, and a few days' work, and put up a school auditorium, with stage and also equipment for entertainments and producing amateur plays? If fifteen or twenty farmers would cooperate in this work, it wouldn't cost anyone very much real money to put up a building worth \$1,000 or \$1,500. Most farmers have on their land trees that have matured and might give way to younger growth; every farmer is a carpenter by necessity; in every community there is almost sure to be a man capable of planning and directing the work; and at this season of the year, men and teams are not so busy. With all these essentials present, the only thing needed in many neighborhoods is just somebody to agitate and lead in the work.

Why Not Profit-sharing Between Landlord and Tenant?

SOME of the greatest industrial plants of the country are adopting the system of sharing profits with their employees. They are doing this after careful investigation—after having found that such a plan, in the long run, is profitable alike to employer and employee.

Why can't a similar plan between landlord and tenant be inaugurated? We have before pointed out that a share-cropping system, rather than the payment for a fixed rent, is more likely to conserve the land and the interests of the landlord and tenant. Under such a system, both parties are interested in making good crops and saving the soil; where a fixed rental is paid, the tenant has no interest in soil-saving or soil-building, and the landlord is only concerned with the collection of his rent.

But why can't we go even further than the ordinary share system in rewarding the tenant for better work? Suppose, as an illustration, that in order to break even on the year's operations, a certain half-and-half tenant must make on a certain area six bales of cotton. Why not, as an added incentive, say to this tenant: Make six bales, and get a bonus of ten dollars, and for each bale over six, an additional bonus of five dollars? Then as an inducement for good tenants to remain year after year, why not progressively increase the bonus with length of service?

We do not know that such a system between landlord and tenant has been successfully used, but is there any reason why it cannot be done? If some of the greatest manufacturing plants in the country are using it to the profit of all concerned, is it not worthy of a trial on the farm?

Such a system affords the surest of all means for getting the interest and intelligent cooperation of the tenant, and without these the landlord's profits will always be doubtful.

What Is the Cheapest Nitrogen-carrying Fertilizer?

IN THESE days of high-priced fertilizers, particularly nitrogen-carrying materials, the fertilizer-using farmer may well give careful study to the problem of what can be used most economically and effectively. Cottonseed meal and nitrate of soda are the sources of by far the larger part of the commercial nitrogen used by the farmers of the South, and it is instructive to compare the two, with a view, if possible, to determining which we may use to best advantage.

Cottonseed meal carrying 6.18 per cent of nitrogen is now quoted at about \$42 a ton, or about 34

cents for each pound of nitrogen it carries. It carries also, however, about 25 per cent phosphoric acid and 1.5 per cent potash, and these, reckoned at 5 cents a pound each, have a value of \$4 in each ton of meal. On this basis, we are getting the nitrogen in our meal for \$38, or at the rate of about 31 cents a pound.

Nitrate of soda carrying 15 per cent of nitrogen is now quoted at about \$75 a ton, or 25 cents a pound for the nitrogen it carries.

These being the facts, is there any reason why we should not use the cheaper nitrate of soda, rather than the relatively high-priced cottonseed meal, as a fertilizer? On this point, Prof. J. F. Duggar, one of the South's leading authorities, says:

"The farmer should buy either nitrate of soda, cottonseed meal, dried blood, or tankage, choosing that one in which a pound of nitrogen costs least. Most experiments fail to show any notable difference in the value of a pound of nitrogen from these different sources."

There is a precaution that should be observed in the use of nitrate of soda, and that is to make applications at the proper time; otherwise, serious losses from leaching may occur. A good rule to remember is that nitrate of soda on an average will remain in the soil and at the disposal of the crop for about eight weeks. Consequently, on oats maturing the latter part of May, nitrate of soda is best applied the latter half of March; around corn, it is best used when the plants are from two and one-half to four feet high; and around cotton, generally about the time the earliest blooms are beginning to appear.

The Business Farmer's Calendar: Ten Things to Do This Week and Next

FIRST, let's size up the farm and its needs, planning then to put it on an efficiency basis before another New Year rolls round.

2. Let's plan to buy all needed supplies, particularly fertilizers, early, so as to avoid delays next spring because of a probable car shortage.

3. Let's cooperate with our neighbors in buying fertilizers, so as to get carlot prices.

4. Let's organize that farm loan association, if we have not already done so, and thus plan to get the benefits of the new rural credits law.

5. Let's make certain of an ample supply of seed peas and beans for the spring and summer planting, buying the seed if necessary to sow a big acreage. Buying seed of these crops simply means buying feed and fertilizers at a price far lower than the present market quotations.

6. Let's put the orchard to rights, cleaning it up thoroughly. Also plant any trees that are needed.

7. Let's be turning in the stalks, peavines and trash every bright, dry day, that they may have ample time to rot before planting time.

8. Let's burn nothing this winter or spring that can be plowed under or used to stop a wash.

9. Let's repair, broaden and strengthen the terraces, building new ones where needed.

10. Let's give the road an occasional dragging and see what a big improvement it will make.

A Thought for the Week

"YOU and I, Hiram, can remember when the hills were full of little factories, and little shops at every water power. They have all been taken away, absorbed by the great manufacturers. In like manner will come the tendency for great corporations and for the great railroad companies to take up land and produce food on a large and cold-blooded plan. By cold-blooded I mean that farming will be done by such people with as little regard for sentiment and home feeling, as cloth is now produced in our great factories. The only way that I see for our farmers to stand up against this in the future is for them to form organizations in which they can work together and still preserve their manhood and individual character. I need not tell you what it will mean for the children now growing up on the farms, should the time come when by means of the lower classes of foreign labor the railroads and great corporations are able to produce the food which our cities will call for."—From "The Child," by Herbert W. Collingwood.