

THE PROGRESSIVE FARMER

AND
SOUTHERN FARM GAZETTE

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

PUBLISHED EVERY SATURDAY BY

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GET THE PROGRESSIVE FARMER INDEX AND BINDER

THE Progressive Farmer Index for the latter half of 1916 is now ready, and will be sent to all applicants on receipt of postage. This index with the bound copies of The Progressive Farmer makes a most excellent reference volume for the farmer; in fact, the farmer who has kept all issues of The Progressive Farmer for two or three years and has the indexes for them possesses in an easily reached form dependable information on nearly every imaginable agricultural subject. The price of the binder is 50 cents postpaid.

THE recent cold wave in Florida is said to have been the most disastrous that has visited that state for more than twenty years, doing countless thousands of dollars worth of damage to orange and grapefruit groves.

THE inauguration of President Riddick of the A. and M. College occurs under happy auspices. The College has never had a firmer place in the affections of the people or greater possibilities for usefulness than now.

THE new Federal Land Bank at Columbia, S. C., is now ready for work, with the following officers: President, F. J. H. Von Engelken of East Palatka, Fla., recently Director of the Mint; Vice-President, L. I. Guion, Lugoff, S. C.; Secretary, Howard C. Arnold, of Greenville, Ga.; Treasurer, D. A. Houston, of Monroe, N. C.

WE TRUST you are carefully saving last week's big Reference Special. It is filled with a thousand facts of practical value, some of which you are sure to need during the next twelve months. Put this number away in your desk or bureau drawer or, better still, get a Progressive Farmer binder and preserve it along with all other issues. Please mail your service blank promptly.

ILLUSTRATIVE of the increased interest in livestock, it is stated that in Mississippi cattle shipments to St. Louis have increased from 3,000 head in 1906 to 160,000 head in 1916, while hog shipments last year were 800 per cent greater than for the year previous. In Georgia, the Moultrie packing plant killed 60,000 hogs, against 30,000 the year previous, and this despite the fact that other packing plants were drawing on the same territory.

THE North Carolina Department of Agriculture and Experiment Station now has a bee expert at the service of any farmer who has one or more hives. The great need in North Carolina for improvement both in breed of bees kept and in character of equipment used is indicated by the fact that while the state ranks fourth among the states in number of colonies kept, it ranks eleventh in value of honey produced. If you keep bees but would like to get more out of them, drop a line to George H. Rea, Apiarian, North Carolina Experiment Station, Raleigh, and ask for such information as you want.

A GOOD example for other bankers and business men is set by the Farmers and Merchants Bank of Williamston, N. C., which carries the following announcement in the local paper, the Williamston Enterprise:

"Realizing the great need for rest rooms for the women of the county who come to Williamston to do their shopping, we have decided to equip the two front rooms on the second floor of our building with waterworks and all modern conveniences. Plumbers and other workmen are now at work on these rooms and

they will be ready for service February 1. A special invitation is extended to the women of the county to visit these rooms when in Williamston."

Cotton Is Not High, but Money Is Cheap

WE TOO often overlook the fact that the dollar is a measure of value, and that the true function of money is to give us a standard by which we may judge of the values of the thousand and one commodities of commerce, and in overlooking this fundamental economic fact, we are led into grave errors.

Just now, particularly, are we treading on dangerous ground if we assume that, because cotton has a high price, it has a high value. If we remember that the true measure of the value of our cotton is not to be expressed in dollars and cents, but rather in its exchange value for other commodities, we will at once perceive the error of assuming that high-priced cotton is high-valued cotton. Let us apply the exchange value yard-stick and see what cotton is really worth, according to an idea suggested by the Arkansas Experiment Station.

A bale of cotton with the seed is now bringing around \$100. In what might be termed an "average year" a bale of cotton with the seed has brought \$70. But while cotton has gone up \$30 a bale, the things we use have gone up in even greater proportion. In the figures below on the left are given the quantities of commodities a bale of cotton would exchange for in an average year, while on the right are shown the quantities a bale of cotton at \$100 will purchase this year.

| AVERAGE YEAR | THIS YEAR |
|----------------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| One bale at \$70 would buy— | One bale at \$100 will buy— |
| 100 bushels corn @ 70c. | 80 bushels corn @ \$1.25. |
| 466 pounds bacon @ 15c. | 400 pounds bacon @ 25c. |
| 140 bushels oats @ 50c. | 125 bushels oats @ 80c. |
| 7 tons hay @ \$10. | 5 tons hay @ \$20. |
| 14 barrels flour @ \$5. | 10 barrels flour @ \$10. |
| 700 pounds lard @ 10c. | 500 pounds lard @ 20c. |
| 70 bushels Irish potatoes @ \$1. | 33 1/2 bushels Irish potatoes @ \$3. |

Every commodity listed above may be considered "standard," in that each is used nearly every day on most of the farms in the South. A glance shows that, compared with these articles, cotton is now actually cheaper than in average years, instead of higher. In fact, in purchasing power our \$100-a-bale cotton is about equal to that of the nine or ten-cent cotton of a few years ago. The truth is that cotton has not gone up in value, but money has become cheap.

Is there any better argument for the urgent need for living at home, and making cotton a purely surplus cash crop? If there was any force in such an argument during the days of low-priced cotton in 1911 and 1914, there is equally as much today, for, relatively, cotton is worth little if any more.

Training for the Race With the Boll Weevil

CLOSE observation and study, as well as the experience of others, have demonstrated beyond the shadow of a doubt that the making of a cotton crop in competition with the boll weevil is absolutely dependent upon the doing of certain things.

These things consist in first doing all that is humanly possible to retard the multiplication of the weevil, for, despite all that can be done in this direction, we can rest assured that by the first to the middle of August, with anything like favorable weather, there will be one or two boll weevils ready for every square that the cotton plant can put on. In other words, the weevil will have won the race for any cotton not safely in the boll form. On the other hand, while doing all that it is possible to do to retard the development of the weevil, the man in the race should do all he can toward hastening the growth and maturity of his cotton plants.

There are certain rules laid down for the accomplishment of both of these purposes. In the effort at retarding the development of the weevil, we should remember that every weevil prevented from going through the winter will mean thou-

sands less to attack our cotton. So it is well to spend the winter industriously hunting out and destroying the hibernating insect. Of course we can't actually find many weevils during the winter, but we do know that they hibernate in the old cotton stalks, in any trash left in the field, in rail fences and weeds along the fences, as well as in and under the bark of trees. Deep burying of all plant refuse left in the field, as well as the cleaning up of the fence rows, will alone destroy many a weevil. Besides, this deep burying will also serve to hasten the growth of our plants, for it adds humus to the soil, allows it to absorb moisture and helps to render available plant food.

Later efforts toward retarding weevil development consist for the most part in frequent cultivation, especially in hot dry weather. Then connected with the problem of hastening maturity come the questions of soil preparation and fertilization, the selection of seed, early planting, as well as proper and frequent cultivation. Many of these questions can be better looked into right now than later, and wise is the man who busies himself along these lines.

Effect of the Recent Freezes on the Boll Weevil

TO JUST what extent the recent severe freezes have destroyed the boll weevil is problematical, though it is highly improbable that the hibernating weevils have been totally destroyed anywhere except in sections experiencing zero temperatures. In years past in Oklahoma and Arkansas zero temperatures have forced the line of weevil infestation southward many miles, and where similar temperatures have occurred this winter it is not unlikely that the weevil has been totally destroyed or at least greatly reduced in numbers.

However, since zero temperatures have occurred only over very small areas of the boll weevil infested territory, it is not at all likely that the weevil has been wiped out in the regions where its damage is always heaviest. Of course where minimum temperatures have ranged as low as ten or twelve degrees above zero, the hibernating weevils have probably been considerably reduced in numbers, but it is dangerous to assume that they have been entirely destroyed.

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

CAREFULLY examine the oats for damage from the recent freeze, and replant at once if the fall-sowed crop has been killed.

2. Save last week's Reference Special of The Progressive Farmer; it will help you a hundred times during the next twelve months.

3. If the bur and crimson clover do not appear to be doing as well as they should, give them a light dressing of stable manure and watch for results.

4. Make the garden rich and mellow, and get the hardier crops, like English peas and Irish potatoes, started.

5. Utilize the wet days for repairing fences, clearing and cleaning up around the farm; all dry days will be needed for plowing.

6. Plant a patch of rape for the hogs and chickens, fertilizing it liberally.

7. Build the terraces wide and high against the spring rains, seeing to it that all gullies are filled with trash, straw or other refuse.

8. Look over the lists of bulletins, state and United States, given in last week's Reference Special, and order those that will help you to be a better farmer.

9. Make "Food, Feed and Fertility First" your 1917 slogan, and then stick to it.

A Thought for the Week

LET every young man who has to make his way unaided realize that to say "I have money in the bank" is a certificate of character and ability.—Judson Harmon, Ex-Governor of Ohio.