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THROUGH an oversight a corn planting note prepared for our Mississippi Valley edition was printed in this edition last week. For most of North Carolina early April or later May planting should be advised, with variations from this standard north or south to suit climatic conditions.

ALL over the state farmers will welcome the news of the appointment of Dr. H. Q. Alexander as a member of the State Board of Agriculture. At the same time there will be regret that the Eighth Congressional District cannot have two representatives and so keep W. J. Shuford also. There will also be general approval of the reappointment of Messrs. A. T. McCallum of Robeson and R. L. Woodard of Pamlico. New trustees of the A. & M. College are D. R. Noland of Haywood County, W. R. Bonsal of Richmond, and A. M. Dixon of Gaston.

IN SPITE of the desperate fight made against it, both Houses of the North Carolina Legislature finally passed the bill to regulate crop lien usury as described in The Progressive Farmer week before last. We do not think it too much to say that this is the most momentous piece of agricultural legislation that has come out of the South in many a day. In next week's paper we expect to print the bill in full. And we predict that in every state the tenant farmers and all small farmers who have to give crop liens will now demand similar relief. The demand "Give us the North Carolina crop lien reform," ought to be a battle-cry in every other Southern State until the remedy becomes South-wide.

DR. LIBERTY H. BAILEY in his book, "The Outlook to Nature," mentions five things needed to improve the average country home: (1) sanitary waterworks; (2) a more systematic and scientific system of woman's work; (3) better planning of home grounds "to make them convenient, neat, attractive, even artistic;" (4) more reading "to increase knowledge and direct the development of good taste." All these matters have had much attention, but the fifth matter mentioned by Dr. Bailey is not so often discussed. We commend it to our readers: "Then I should improve the architecture. I often wonder how it is possible for human beings to construct such homely dwelling places. Every building, even though it costs only five dollars, is either good architecture or bad architecture." Nobody should attempt to build any house without securing, directly or indirectly, a competent architect's plan.

THE National Farm Loan Board is now putting the finishing touches on the national rural credits machinery. Next they will press the electric button and set the wheels going. If no "national farm loan association" has been organized in your community, please send for the free bulletins on rural credits mentioned in our "Reference Special" and prepare yourself to assist in organizing one. Prof. W. R. Camp wisely calls attention to the mistake some sections are making in organizing county farm loan associations. The unit should be the neighborhood. As Prof. Camp says:

"In some counties the applicants may be so few that only one association can be formed at the beginning. But as soon as applicants become sufficient to divide into several associations, a county should be districted according to its natural meeting places at trading centers, churches, schools, or Farmers' Union halls. Generally, the smaller area covered by national farm loan associations, the less will be the trouble and expense of operation."

A SHORT time ago we wrote the Office of Roads and Rural Engineering, United States Department of Agriculture, Washington, D. C., with regard to its system for furnishing building plans to prospective builders. In reply to our

inquiry Mr. P. St. J. Wilson, Chief Engineer, writes us:

"We have a number of designs for farm houses, barns, and other buildings, blueprints of which are available to those who contemplate building. Upon receipt of information from anyone who intends to build, as to the requirements of any particular building, we select and send a design which more or less closely meets the conditions. The prints are sent with the understanding that if the recipient builds from them, he will keep a detailed account of the cost, advising this office in regard thereto. Should any departure be made from the drawings, we ask that a description of such changes be furnished us, together with a memorandum as to any resulting increase or saving in cost."

With the years of experience this Office of Rural Engineering has had in designing and watching the construction of farm buildings, it will surely pay a farmer to get its help before building any farm structure, no matter how inexpensive. This is an opportunity to get government help that few tax-payers knew about. We commend it to our readers.

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

KEEP an eye on the horses' shoulders; a bad fitting collar or badly adjusted hames may cause trouble that will last for weeks.

2. Look over the cotton planting seed and see to it that they are sound and dry.

3. Spend a day in the crib selecting the best seed corn available, unless this work was done in the field last fall, as it should have been.

4. A top-dressing of 75 to 100 pounds per acre of nitrate of soda or sulphate of ammonia on the oats and wheat will pay if these crops appear to be making insufficient stem and leaf growth.

5. Pulverize the clods right behind the breaking plow, never giving them a chance to bake and get hard.

6. Keep the garden in apple-pie order and thus save grocery bills.

Yield per Acre Is the Greatest Single Factor in Profitable Cotton Raising

IN A recent bulletin, "An Economic Study of Farming in Sumter County, Georgia," issued by the United States Department of Agriculture, there is brought out, among other very valuable information for cotton farmers, the fact that profitable cotton raising is very directly dependent upon per acre yields. If these are low, profits are small, or lacking entirely; if yields average high, profits likewise average high. Illustrative of this point, the following figures are given:

On 43 farms with 100 acres or less in cultivation and making one-half bale or less per acre, the average labor income, which means the net income after expenses of operation and interest on investment have been deducted, was \$120; on 33 farms of 100 acres or less making one-half to two-thirds of a bale per acre, the net income was \$308; and on 24 farms of 100 acres or less making over two-thirds of a bale per acre, the net income was \$504.

On a group of farms with from 101 to 250 acres in cultivation, 32 that made one-half bale or less per acre averaged \$423 net income; on 46 farms making one-half to two-thirds of a bale per acre the net income was \$749; and on 25 farms averaging over two-thirds of a bale per acre the net income was \$1,721.

In a group of farms with over 250 acres in cultivation, 30 that made less than one-half bale per acre averaged \$430 net income; on 22 farms making one-half to two-thirds of a bale the net income was \$3,159, and on 13 farms making over two-thirds of a bale per acre the net income was \$4,649.

The same investigations showed also that on all the farms studied, large and small, the cost per pound of producing cotton bore a direct relation to the per acre yield. Thus on farms of all sizes making less than half a bale per acre

it cost an average of 12.51 cents a pound to make the crop; on those making from one-half to two-thirds of a bale, 10.53 cents; and on those making over two-thirds of a bale, 9.65 cents.

These official figures bear out what we have long contended, namely, that we can never expect fair profits from our work without better than average yields. Until the information necessary to raise yields and do it economically is widely disseminated, there will be plenty of work for every agency engaged in agricultural extension work.

The Tenant Farmer's Golden Opportunity

WITH the benefits that will accrue from the operation of the new Federal Farm Loan Act, and because of the fact that good lands in the South are still relatively cheap, tenant farmers in the South have a golden opportunity to become home-owners. As never before, money in the form of long-time loans and at the lowest interest rates farmers have ever known is going to be available.

Tenants in the North and West, where lands are valued at from \$100 to \$300 an acre, are finding it difficult indeed to buy and equip farms of their own, for the simple reason that it is a very difficult matter to net even 5 or 6 per cent interest on such a high valuation. Here in the South, on the other hand, with good lands available at from \$10 to \$50 an acre, the ambitious tenant has a far better opportunity. And now that the new rural credits system, with money at 5 or 6 per cent, is getting fairly under way, his opportunity is indeed a golden one.

We do not expect the new system to be of much help to the tenant who has absolutely nothing. Even where local bankers or landowners are willing to accept a second mortgage from the purchaser, it is going to be necessary that he have at least something in the way of equipment. But with the present high prices for all farm products, the hustling, thrifty tenant should be able to outfit himself in a comparatively short time.

Let us emphasize, however, the fact that the coming of cheap money for the farms of the South is going to tend to boost land values as probably nothing else has. With easier means of buying available, it is inevitable that more lands will be bought, that the demand will increase, and an increased demand always means higher prices.

Wise indeed is the tenant who sets his heart on a home of his own, and who has the grit to win it before it is too late.

The Sleeping Porch a Great Boon

IN PLANNING the new home or in remodeling the old, don't forget the sleeping porch. As a source of comfort on hot, humid summer nights and as a health-promoter every night in the year, it is unexcelled.

Preferably, the sleeping porch should be open on two or three sides, but with windows that may be closed during stormy weather. However, these windows, while a great convenience, are not an absolute necessity. By all means the porch should be well screened against flies and mosquitoes.

If you haven't a sleeping porch, it's an improvement you may well consider. As a source of health and solid comfort, it's one of the best investments we know of.

A Thought for the Week

IT IS the knowledge of all this imperfection forever flowing from myself to all others, that has taught me charity with all the wrongs that flow from others toward me. . . . To lose faith in men, not in humanity; to see justice go down and not believe in the triumph of injustice; for every wrong you weakly deal another or another deals you to love more and more the fairness and beauty of what is right; and so to turn with ever-increasing love from imperfection that is in us all to the perfection that is above us all—the Perfection that is God: this is one of the ideals of actual duty.—John Gray in James Lane Allen's "The Choir Invisible."