



PUBLISHED EVERY SATURDAY BY  
**The Progressive Farmer Company,**  
 (Incorporated under the laws of North Carolina.)

OFFICES:  
 Birmingham, Ala., 1702 Fourth Ave.; Raleigh, N. C., 119 W. Hargett St.;  
 Memphis, Tenn., 24 First S. M. C. Bldg.; Dallas, Texas, Slaughter Bldg.

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**A**S MARCH and April are months in which to fight clods, so is May the month to clean the crops of grass and weeds and start them off thrifty and vigorous. "Get the grass before it gets you."

**I**T'S poor business to plant a crop and then let the bugs and worms get it,—nay, it's almost criminal during these times of world-wide scarcity. We trust you are keeping fully informed on how best to fight these pests. Be sure to read Professor Conrad's monthly articles on fighting insects in the orchard and garden, and also get in touch with your county demonstration agent if you are threatened with an invasion.

**T**HIS year every farm family should grow all the legume food crops possible to take the place, in a measure at least, of high-priced meats. Cowpeas are excellent human food and are highly nutritious; bunch and pole beans are easily grown, may be had all summer, and are relatively high in protein content; and the same is true of lima or butter beans, both the bunch and climbing varieties. Don't fail to plant liberally of all these.

**I**N LINE with the campaign for making the South self-sustaining in the matter of food and feed, careful attention should be paid to canning and preserving any surplus of fruits and vegetables. Just now the outlook for fruit is generally good, and there are gardens where gardens never grew before. This means that many families will have more than can be immediately used. Let's call the cans and jars into service and save everything.

**O**LD Dr. J. B. Hunnicutt made one distinct contribution to Southern agricultural thought. He kept everlastingly preaching against clods in the cultivated fields—"sundried brickbats" he called them. And there is still need for more preaching of the same sort. It is a pity that when old Dr. Knapp came to write his "Ten Commandments of Agriculture" he didn't go a little further with Commandment No. 1. It begins "Prepare a deep and thoroughly pulverized seed bed," which is all right, but he ought to have added, "by harrowing all land the same day it is plowed." Every day now one sees fields full of "sundried brickbats" which could have easily been pulverized if the one simple rule had been followed: **Harrow all land the day it is plowed.** That is to say, in breaking land always stop long enough before night so as to harrow every foot of ground you have plowed before "taking out" for the night. The two H's—Humus and Harrowing—are the best cure for clods.

**A**S CONCRETE illustrations of what business men may do to help farmers in the campaign for making the South self-sustaining, we have in mind two examples. We are advised that the banks at Laurel, Miss., are extending credit to the extent of \$25,000 to needy farmers for purchasing seeds, fertilizers and feeds—the actual necessities for making a crop. The business men there are also guaranteeing to farmers, without any obligation upon the part of the latter, a price of not less than \$1 a bushel for corn and peanuts and \$20 a ton for velvet beans in the pod. Of course these are minimum prices, and more will be paid if the market justifies it. Then down at Corpus Christi, Nueces County, Texas, in a section which, like east Mississippi and west Alabama, was hard hit last year by adverse weather conditions, we have another striking example of what business men may do. Here it is announced that "Seed will be sold to the farmers at actual cost, they to give a note for the amount drawing 5 per cent interest.

The entire loan is to be obtained by subscriptions from business men, who will be paid back after the farmers have made their crops." This is help that counts.

### Submarine Campaign Threatens Cotton and Tobacco Prices

**I**MPERATIVE as were then the reasons for making every farm feed itself, these reasons have been made doubly emphatic by developments since America's entry into the war, a month ago. We refer, of course, to the newly discovered facts as to the alarming success of Germany's submarine campaign. A month ago most of us supposed that this campaign was not succeeding so well as Germany had expected. On the other hand, it appears that it is now surpassing the Kaiser's expectations. Germany planned, it is said, to sink each month ships totalling 1,000,000 tons capacity, while as a matter of fact it is announced that her destruction has recently been at the rate of 1,200,000 tons a month. So conservative an agency as the Associated Press declared last week: "If the Germans keep up their present rate of destruction officials admit without hesitation that their campaign threatens to sweep clean the seas."

It is the belief of The Progressive Farmer that the Germans will not keep up this "present rate of destruction." We feel confident that some method must and will be found to lessen the extent of their ravages. But at the same time we must face the fact that after all we can possibly hope for in this respect is accomplished shipping to European countries is even then going to be seriously curtailed and food will certainly have the right of way everywhere over cotton and tobacco. Men and women abroad can wear worn and patched clothes and thus get along with mighty little American cotton, while they can do without tobacco entirely, and the Government of England may regulate shipments accordingly. For these reasons food prices are most certain to continue relatively higher than prices of cotton and tobacco, and the demand for the latter products is absolutely uncertain.

The farmer who makes his farm feed itself and then grows cotton and tobacco as a surplus crop may come out all right in the end, but there is no polite language to describe the farmer who in the face of present conditions fails to put food and feed crops first, who fails to provide the biggest acreage ever in gardens, potatoes, pork-making crops and crops to feed man and beast next year. The success of the submarine campaign makes absolutely necessary what was already a patriotic duty.

### How Deep Shall We Cultivate?

**T**HE two ends primarily sought in crop cultivation are weed and grass destruction and moisture conservation. Another factor that must be considered, however, is the plant root system. If this in cultivation be too greatly injured, it is evident that whatever weed destruction and moisture conservation may be attained will be more than offset. The point, then, is to kill the weeds and save the moisture, and at the same time do the least possible injury to the plant roots.

When the crop is young, that is, before corn and cotton get six or eight inches high, it is probable that no harm and some good may be done by rather deep cultivation. Especially is this so in case heavy rains have packed and run together the soil. Later, however, it is important that all cultivating implements be run shallow enough to break as few roots as possible, but at the same time deep enough to make a mulch thick enough to save a good part of the soil moisture. This depth, as generally agreed upon by our experiment stations and best farmers, should average about two inches, unless it be in the dry sections of Oklahoma and Texas, where three inches may be better.

As to the implements we shall use, soil and cli-

matic conditions, as well as personal likes and dislikes, allow of a wide range. The main thing should be to get rid of weeds and make a good dust mulch with the least possible harm to the roots. The man who does this is doing good cultivation.

### "Farm, Fight or Finance"

**A**S COMMISSIONER of Agriculture Wade of Alabama very aptly says, there are three ways men of the South can help win the war: produce, fight, or furnish credit. That our young men will help do the fighting is certain. Then it is up to our farmers to do the producing and our business men to finance them in order that they may produce to the utmost.

This matter of producing bountiful crops is not alone the farmer's problem. The city dweller too has a vital part to play in it, and playing this part is going to mean a whole lot more than holding meetings and advising through the daily papers and otherwise as to how the farmer should conduct his business. It is going to mean that the business men must solidly back the farmer with credit to aid him in growing the crop and marketing facilities next fall that will insure him in so far as possible against gluts and low prices.

Talk is cheap, but it is all right if it is the right kind. In this case, the right kind is the kind that is backed up by deeds. The farmer's duty in this time of National need is plain, but the business man, too, has a duty and the manner of his performing it will be the test of his earnestness and patriotism. Let every man attest his loyalty by concrete service.

### Food and Feed Crops First—Put Every Acre on the Farm to Work

**I**DLE acres, like idle folks, are up to little good. This year, particularly, every farmer in the South should aim to get the utmost possible returns from every acre on the farm. Let's see some of the ways in which this may be done.

1. **Drain the wet spots.** There's hardly a farm but has wet spots that are making nothing and are eye-sores as well. A good ditch or a line of tile through these will not cost a great deal and will make of them some of the best land on the place. If they cannot be drained in time for general crops, plant them in soy beans in June or July.

2. **Kill the pasture pests.** If our pastures, so-called, are to furnish the best of clovers and grasses for our stock, it is high time that the robber weeds, bushes and briars be dug out. To leave them to shade the land and steal plant food is sheer waste.

3. **Follow all oats and wheat with another crop.** To leave stubble land idle is another form of waste that should be seen nowhere this season. Cowpeas are excellent crops to use, but if seed of these cannot be had, plant corn or sorghum.

Let every man work every acre to its utmost capacity.

### A Thought for the Week

**A**ND now we see all America rise and sharpen her weapons in the midst of peace for the common struggle. Together we will carry on that struggle; and when by force we have at last imposed military victory, our labors will not be concluded. Our task will be, I quote from the noble words of President Wilson, "to organize the society of nations." I well know that our enemies who have never before them anything but horizons of carnage, will never cease to peer at so noble a dream. Such has always been the fate of ideas at their birth; and if thinkers and men of action had allowed themselves to be discouraged by skeptics, mankind would still be slaves. After material victory we will win this moral victory. We will shatter the ponderous sword of militarism; we will establish guarantees for peace; and then we can disappear from the world's stage since we shall leave at the cost of our common immolation the noblest heritage future generations can possess.—M. Viviani, Vice-Premier of France, in address before House of Representatives, Washington, D. C., May 1, 1917.