

THE PROGRESSIVE FARMER

AND
SOUTHERN FARM GAZETTE

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

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IF YOU can't break the stubble land as soon as the oats are off, disk it thoroughly to prevent its getting hard.

IF YOU haven't cowpea seed, buy them. As a food and feed crop, the cowpea should have a big place on nearly every farm.

MR. CAMPFIELD'S article, "A Successful Co-operative Creamery," in last week's Progressive Farmer, is one you should not only read but file away if you live in a county where there is prospect of starting a creamery soon.

THOSE farmers who are so fortunate as to be using lespedeza for hay after oats are not bothered at this season by the heavy work incident to getting in a crop of peas or beans after the small grain. South of the thirty-third parallel anywhere east of east Texas lespedeza may be depended upon to make a good cutting of hay on most soils of fair quality.

IF OUR farmers are to do their part in the war with real enthusiasm, they must understand the fundamental issues involved. They must understand just how a German victory would endanger human progress and the world's peace. Are you able to tell your neighbors just why this is so? If not, look for our article on this subject in next week's Progressive Farmer.

GREAT Britain has fixed minimum prices on farm products and farm labor, and it is not unlikely that the United States will shortly do likewise. We doubt if anything will serve as a greater stimulus to the farmer to grow big crops than the absolute assurance by the Government of fair prices. Once let the grower feel certain of \$1.50 wheat, \$1 corn and prices of other products in proportion, and he will do his part. The trouble with the present high prices is that the producer is not getting them, he in most cases having sold at much lower prices several months ago.

THE annual "Educational Special" of The Progressive Farmer will be issued June 30. For this issue send us short, pointed experience letters telling how schools have been improved in your community, how the agricultural or farm life schools are doing their job, send any interesting facts bearing on consolidation, local taxation, transportation of pupils, school farms, school libraries, schoolhouse meetings, reducing expenses of pupils in boarding schools, or about any other phase of agricultural education or better public schools. A cash prize of \$5 will be given for the best letter received from a Progressive Farmer reader, \$3 for the second best, and regular rates for all other letters published.

A RULING by the Federal Farm Loan Board in regard to when a man may be considered as personally cultivating or operating his farm will be of particular interest to our readers. The law provides that "No loan shall be made to any person who is not at the time, or shortly to become, engaged in the cultivation of the farm mortgaged." In order to "cultivate" a farm, the Board has ruled that it shall be worked (a) by the owner personally; (b) by a hired manager or by wages hands; or (c) by share tenants or croppers. In the latter case the Board requires that the contract specify that the land-owner is to pay the cropper a certain part of the crop for the work done, rather than the cropper paying the owner a part of the crop for the use of the land. This ruling settles a rather perplexing question, and makes it possible, by working the farm in one of the three

above-mentioned ways, for a man not living on his land to borrow from the Federal land banks.

WE HOPE many Progressive Farmer readers have written their United States Senators protesting against the increase of from 100 to 500 per cent in newspaper postage and asking instead for heavier taxes on large incomes and on excess profits of large corporations. It will cost you only two cents to mail such a protest to a Senator. It may cost you a thousand times two cents to pay the increased subscription price of papers hereafter if you do not protest and the bill passes. Mr. A. M. Worden, a thoughtful Tennessee farmer, sends us a copy of a letter he has written both his United States Senators, and one paragraph in his letter deserves the attention of everybody at this time. He says:

"We are none of us too wise, and in the South, where illiteracy is far too common, it strikes me forcibly that a tax on information should be the last resort for raising money, especially a prohibitive tax on farm papers. A raise in postage equal to 25 to 100 per cent of the subscription price would cut off a very large share of the subscribers, and the farmer who would drop out first is just the one who needs the help of farm papers the most. The men who farm poorly are the men hardest to induce to take and read the farm papers and bulletins, and they are the men who would cancel subscriptions first. The rich man would pay the price and needs the paper less."

Food and Feed First—Plant Plenty of Cowpeas and Lima and Snap Beans

FOR the Southern farmer, peas and beans furnish the best of all substitutes for high-priced meat. Moreover, as a steady article of diet, particularly during warm weather, they are more wholesome.

Cowpeas particularly should be widely planted this year. Successive plantings from now on until the latter part of July will mean a supply of green peas until frost, and any surplus may be dried and saved for winter use.

Lima beans, both the bush and running varieties, grow nearly anywhere in the South with little attention, and make large quantities of fine food. Back-yard fences, back porches and even front porches may well be covered with the climbing limas. Surplus beans canned or dried will save grocers' bills.

Finally, the snap beans, bush and pole, should be grown in abundance. They will help to feed us until fall, and canned they will also be of great value next winter and spring.

These three legumes have a high human food value and, with plenty of corn, will largely make the South independent of the North and West. Let us grow them all to the utmost of our ability.

Where a Little Experimenting Helps the Farmer

A FEW days ago we were in an oat field on which the owner had used nitrate of soda in March. Through the center a strip some ten feet wide had been left without any of the fertilizer, and the contrast was a most striking one. The field as a whole, despite the poor land and a bad season for oats, was making a fair crop—certainly a profitable one at present prices for feed. But the oats on the strip that got none of the fertilizer were not over a foot high—actually hardly enough to rake had they been mowed. In this case the use of nitrate paid at the rate of about 1,000 per cent, and the farmer had before him the plainest kind of proof of its profitability.

The same man is using nitrate of soda as a source of nitrogen for his cotton and corn, and is planning to leave an occasional row without the soda and observe results. He feels fairly certain that it will pay, but knows that there's nothing quite so convincing as seeing with one's own eyes.

We believe farmers generally should conduct more of these simple little tests. For instance, if there is some doubt about the value of inoculating for clover, inoculate one part of the field and leave another part uninoculated; if broad terraces have not been tried, make a few and see

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how they work; if roads have never been dragged in the community, drag a short stretch for a few months.

We don't believe in farmers trying to do the work of our experiment stations, but there are dozens of ways in which we might do some very satisfactory demonstrating. Try some of them on your farm this year.

Three Ways in Which Business Men May Help Farmers in Marketing

ONE of the South's big problems this year is going to be to see to it that a fair price to the farmer is obtained for every pound of food and feed he has for sale. Failing in this, future advice to raise a surplus of food and feed will fall on deaf ears. What can be done?

1. **Provide a market for corn and beans.** It will be a crime if, next fall, communities, because of unorganized marketing facilities, are compelled to sell corn at 60 and 70 cents a bushel and velvet beans at \$10 and \$12 a ton, as was the case last fall. Of course the grower must do his part by seeing to it that his product is sound and dry, but it is the duty of the business men to provide power corn shellers and sacks, and to help see to it that prices are in line with the big markets of the country.

2. **Save the surplus of sweet potatoes.** It is easy to raise a big crop of sweet potatoes, but in the fall crop is often hard to sell at fair prices. Where such is the case, business men must help by providing sweet potato curing houses sufficient to hold the crop for better prices. These houses are entirely practicable. See your county demonstration agent, or write your state experiment station or the United States Department of Agriculture, Washington, D. C., for plans.

3. **Help market hogs and cattle in car lots.** Selling livestock on the local market is out of the question; carlot shipments direct to packing houses must be made. Rarely can individuals make carlot shipments and communities must put their livestock together. Scores of counties in the South are already following this plan, and hundreds of others must fall in line. The business man should actively help in this.

Our Duty Today

WHAT is your idea as to the probable price of tobacco the coming season?" asks a friend.

We believe that the day of low prices for farm products is past, and that for years to come the farmer will get good prices for all he can grow. But just now the duty of every farmer is to contribute with all his power to the production of food. Soldiers will be taken out of productive industry, and they must be fed and fed well, for an army fights on its stomach. Therefore no matter what the price of tobacco may be, it will be better to shorten rather than increase the area planted to tobacco, and increase the area devoted to food and feed for man and beast.

Europe is looking to this country to save it from starvation. We can easily feed our own people, but to aid in bringing the war to a victorious end we will have to help feed our Allies, whose own crops will be shortened by lack of labor. The feeding of millions of men and at the same time feeding the home folks is going to tax this country to its utmost. Hence we should make every effort to increase the food crops and cut out the tobacco and the whiskey-making. This war has been the greatest influence for total abstinence which has ever occurred. Soldiers do not fight on whiskey and tobacco, but on good solid nutritious food.

The doctrine of autocratic force is to be destroyed or the world will not be safe for our country nor any other government of the people by the people. We are enlisted in the crusade, and every one must do his best, either in working or fighting, and the fighters cannot do their best unless the workers do theirs.