

# THE PROGRESSIVE FARMER.

Consolidated, 1904, with The Cotton Plant, Greenville, S. C.

PROGRESSIVE FARMER—VOL. XX. NO. 89  
THE COTTON PLANT—VOL. XXII. NO. 88.

RALEIGH, N. C., NOVEMBER 7, 1905.

Weekly—\$1 a Year.

## CORN CRIB SUGGESTIONS.

### A South Carolina Farmer's Plans For Keeping Out Weevils and Rats.

Messrs. Editors: I see Mr. W. R. Hayes tells how to keep weevils out of grain. He starts out by keeping rats and mice out by the use of lime. If Mr. Hayes will use sulphur instead, he will not be sneezing and shedding tears when shucking next summer. Sulphur will not cost more than 4 to 4½c. per pound retail, and one pound is sufficient for 100 bushels. He need not sprinkle all through his corn; only sprinkle around the walls of his barn, and then on top after he has all his corn in barn.

I have been housing corn for over forty years, and my experience has not been like that of Mr. Hayes. When I put it wet I am not bothered nearly so much with the weevils. I frequently keep it pretty well wet with water in dry weather; prefer to pull it down, leave it on the ground until wet by rain, then haul in as soon as possible. It will never take a heat, as he supposes, if dry when pulled—I mean the corn and cob dry, not grain. Just try some; it makes no difference how wet.

If you do not like that plan, just gather a lot of what is known here as Jerusalem oak weeds, throw about through the corn when housing. It is not the best of remedies it is the cheapest, as most of us farmers have plenty of the weed growing around our lots and garden fence corners. I find from experience and observation that the weevils are much worse some years than others. I don't know the cause. It may be in the time it is gathered, or the mild winter, or something else.

If any one has a better remedy than sulphur for rats, or a better remedy for weevils than a thorough wetting, or the Jerusalem oak, I'd like to know it.

The sulphur remedy is fine to use in your oat stacks. Just sprinkle around stack pole, or sprinkle occasionally on the heads as you are building the stacks. If you do, put the oats up in tiers, turn the heads of bundles in, the butts out. Sprinkle occasionally with sulphur and you'll find no cut oats or rat beds. I have not been out of oats in fifteen years or more and am seldom bothered with rats or mice. Sprinkle over your seed oats after threshed in pile, boxes, barrels, or anywhere kept.

MARION FARMER.

Marion Co., S. C.

## SEVEN SELECTED SUBJECTS.

### Mr. Moyer's Seven Farming Questions Answered by Mr. Rue.

Messrs. Editors: I wish to reply to A. J. Moyer, of Pitt County, N. C., but I will not attempt to occupy too much of your valuable space, as you have many thousands of other readers who may not be so much interested in his queries as he is. He has given six things he does know and wants to know seven other things he does not know; and if possible, I will try to inform him on some, at least.

"1. Is there a practical hay loader upon the market?"

Yes! there are several, but only one I would recommend. That is on wheels, works eight feet wide, rakes up the hay and carries it upon the wagon to which it is attached and drawn by the same team that pulls the wagon, direct from the field, if the hay is thick enough; if not, it is best to rake up in windrows with a horse rake and then follow in the direction of the windrow in loading. Weighs about 850 pounds, is of light draft, and costs \$45 at factory.

"2. The cost of an apparatus for unloading hay into a barn or hay rick?"

For barn work the "champion" reversible cable hay carrier is the best; is operated on a half inch wire cable, or rods, placed in barn, and costs from \$3.50 to \$5.00. For unloading and stacking in the open, it costs more. For a stack fifty feet long, requires 150 feet of cable for length of stack and anchorage at each end of the stack and costs about \$15 and freight.

"3. Is the Planet, Jr., potato digger a success?"  
I have not used one, but those who have say it is, as well as the makers of the implement. Their tools and implements are well made and usually give entire satisfaction.

"4. If any of your readers uses a one-horse tread power, report as to its use and its cost?"

The one-horse tread power, in my opinion, is not a desirable power to buy, as it does not develop enough power to accomplish what the farmer wishes to do. The cost between a one and two-horse power is but slight. The two-horse power will thresh grain of all kinds, clover seed, shell corn, cut wood and do anything else a two-horse power in any other form will do. These cost about \$100. A second-hand tread can be had that has been slightly used for about one-half the cost of a new one, and will then last an ordinary life time.

"5. Has any farmer had any experience with acetylene gas lamps? Is it as cheap as kerosene for a country residence?"

I had occasion to investigate this subject and less than kerosene after you are ready to light your lamp. Your house would have to be piped all over in order to convey the gas to different parts of the house. The smallest gas generator of the best make costs \$70 in Chattanooga, Tenn. As to its safety, it is as safe as any other artificial light, if you thoroughly understand its workings and carefully carry out directions.

"6. How to produce in this section of the country upon Norfolk fine sand, fifty bushels of corn to the acre profitably?"

I give it up.

"7. What will remove a wart from the ear of a mule? I do not wish to have it removed with a knife."

If the wart is not too large and it is practicable to do so, make a strong string of several threads of fine cotton, silk, or linen, and tie tightly at the base of the wart and let it remain there. That will stop the flow of blood to the wart, prevent it from growing any more and probably perish it out in time. Try it anyway.

J. E. RUE.

Halifax Co., N. C.

### A Farmer's Ideas of Fall Plowing.

Messrs. Editors: In the idle moments while caring for the fall crops, sowing and reaping, planting and harvesting, our thoughts wander ahead and we plan for next year's crop. A good start is everything, so we want to help Mother Nature give us good returns for our labor. Fall plowing will add a few days to the length of the season. These few days often mean many bushels of grain to the crop and dollars to the farmer; so, with work out of the way in the cool days of October and November, fall plowing can be done very nicely, provided there is a good season in the ground.

No one, however, can consistently plow a field in the fall that needs draining. He should know that as fall plowing will add days to the length of the next season, draining adds weeks. So, if the soil needs draining, drain it, instead of plowing.

But with the land naturally drained, or well tilled, then it is up to the individual farmer as to fall plowing; for there are so many things that enter into the procedure at this season of the

year—cool or warm weather, hard or easy plowing, worn-out horses or ambitious ones.

The most serious objection to fall plowing is that the ground, if plowed, is exposed to the winter and bare, so that it can wash and puddle, and to weed growth until planting time. So, these things considered, the one condition we consider more exacting than all others is a soil covering. If a field is left bare in the fall from pasturing, or otherwise, it should be plowed or disced up and sowed to rye, for I consider two inches of growth better than none at all, and in the way of green manuring plowed under in the spring, will greatly repay for the labor expended.

Nature teaches us the lesson this way: If I plow up soil this fall, when plants and weeds cannot germinate, it seems they are a long time getting a start in the spring. Plow the same ground in spring, and it is very short time until every weed and grass seed in the soil (and some we did not know were there), are exerting all the energy they have (and part the farmer has) to get an even start in the race with crops or plants of their kin. It seem from this reasoning that fall plowing would lessen the chances for weed life, but I will not say positively that it does. I mean to say that should it be wet in the spring so the fall plowing could not be worked until seeding time, then I know weeds would mix in, and unless the ground was thoroughly renovated by discing, or harrowing,

in the spring, as the subsoil contains plant nourishment that the previous crops have not taken out, and though the subsoil puddles easier than the soil containing humus, this is largely set right by the winter's freezing. To plow deep in spring means hard labor to keep the soil from baking and getting hard. We could plow in the fall for wheat, and plow deep, disc well, and compact the soil by running a roller over it, and I think that would be all right, or we could "break up" our land for the next year's crops and seed down to rye or clover, and in that way have a cover crop upon the soil.

JOHN M. KESTER.

Cleveland Co., N. C.

Fall plowing is generally preferred for old lands that need to be reclaimed. Lands in good culture may be injured by fall plowing, since available plant food may be lost. Why not have a fall crop planted and have a cover crop, rather than leave this land open all winter? Old, stumpy, or abandoned land, should be the one to have the fall and winter nurture in way of plowing, cleaning up and putting into form.—The Editors.

### A THOUGHT FOR THE WEEK.

Beware of making your moral staple consist of the negative virtues. It is good to abstain, and teach others to abstain, from all that is sinful or hurtful. But making a business of it leads to emaciation of character; unless one feels largely also on the more nutritious diet of active, sympathetic benevolence.—From "The Autocrat of the Breakfast Table," by Oliver Wendell Holmes.

All the property of the commonwealth is pledged for the education of all its youth up to such a point as will save them from poverty and vice, and prepare them for the adequate performance of all their social and civic duties. To rob the children of to-day, or those of the future, of the opportunity for an education is, then, the greatest crime of which the State can be guilty.—Chas. W. Dabney.