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CIRCULATION OF THE PROGRESSIVE FARMER BY YEARS.

For the year 1903, average weekly issue less than 7,000
For the year 1904, sworn weekly average, 10,509
First six months 1905, sworn weekly average, 12,288
Last six months 1905, sworn weekly average, 15,482

The Progressive Farmer has—

- 1.—A larger circulation than any other weekly published between Richmond and Atlanta, and—
- 2.—A larger circulation than any other farm weekly published between Philadelphia and Dallas.

HOW SHALL WE GET THE PROFITS FROM MORE LIVE STOCK?

Messrs. Editors: I have been much interested in Dr. Burkett's recent articles in your esteemed paper, especially the last one on Growing More Live Stock.

Every one will readily agree that our State should raise more live stock. But the trouble is, our farmers haven't been able, as a rule, to find the profit in stock that would induce them to increase their supply. The dairy business is growing some in our county; and I don't know of any one who has made a success of beef cattle, although a good many have tried different kinds of the improved breeds. I hope it is the fault of those who have tried beef cattle and not our section of country.

I think the greatest drawback to this business in our county is the high price our farmers can get for their hay, especially pea hay. We all realize that our lands are in need of a rotation of crops, animal manure, and a change from the continued succession of food crops, which is burning up the vegetable matter and causing the soil to become compact and wash away by heavy rains.

Now, Mr. Editor, I believe there is a wide field of usefulness for your valuable paper and the Agricultural Department of our State in showing our farmers how to find the dollar in raising mules, cattle, hogs and sheep. Of course some favored few are succeeding, but most of our farmers (myself included) don't know how to keep profitably the various kinds of live stock, to the extent of increasing our farm revenue from this sources.

Dr. Burkett being raised in a stock section of country can easily see this defect in our system of farming and is faithfully calling our attention to our need of more live stock.

I think that the share system of raising cotton operates against the live stock business. But my experience has led me to believe that this is the cheapest way to raise cotton.

The amount of animal manure applied to the farms of our State is almost nothing, and I want Dr. Burkett to suggest a system of rotation that will build up the fertility of our soils without live stock, if it is possible to do so. I know that I have improved some of my land, when I have sowed wheat followed by peas for several years in succession.

From my experience I think it is not advisable to continue these crops longer than two years, then plant to corn or cotton. The pea crop does better on land that was in cotton the previous year, but some years we can't get the cotton off in time for wheat. In this case sow in spring oats followed by peas.
JOHN McDOWELL.

Mecklenburg Co., N. C.

Our soil and climatic conditions are all right in every way for live stock. If live stock husbandry does not pay it is because live stock machines are not good enough. You remember that the average milk production in North Carolina is

but 2,000 pounds annually, and in New York 5,000 pounds annually. Dairying pays in New York with prices not nearly so good as those prevailing in North Carolina and neighboring States, simply because New York cows are better machines.

In beef production it is much the same way. The average steer in North Carolina sells on the market for \$22. In the Western States he sells for \$50 or more. Why this difference? Because he is a better bred, more efficient meat-maker than is the beef animal of the South. Our need then is better live stock.

But if you, for any reason will not become a live stock farmer, then there is nothing in the way to prevent your being a legume farmer. If you will grow cotton, all well and good; for cotton is the best all-round money crop the world has. If its fiber only is sold, it is the least exhaustive crop that comes out of the soil. Hence rational farming is not a difficult proposition. It means cotton no more often than once in three years, legumes for winter and summer growth, deep plowing, plenty of green crops or such material plowed under, a thorough cultivation; and the land will improve and increase in its fat. Be always then a legume farmer.
C. W. BURKETT.

FIFTY BUSHELS OF CORN PER ACRE.

Some weeks ago Mr. A. J. Moye sent us seven farming questions, six of which were readily answered, but the seventh found no one to tackle it—it being an inquiry as to how to make fifty bales of corn per acre—on ordinary Southern soils. Now corn growing is really quite as important a subject in North Carolina and the adjoining States as cotton growing. In fact, the last census year we made \$111,000,000 worth of corn against \$104,000,000 worth of cotton. Accordingly, Prof. B. W. Kilgore and Mr. C. B. Williams, who have managed the Agricultural Department's Test Farm experiments with corn for several years, are going to tell in The Progressive Farmer how to select the seed, improve the soil, cultivate the corn, and rotate the crops, so as to work toward the fifty bushels per acre Mr. Moye has suggested. These articles will begin in a week or two, and every subscriber who raises corn can get a dollar's worth of instruction from them—for they sum up the teachings of tests made on a scale of many thousand of dollars.

The Best Investment.

About the best investment a farmer can make is a postal or postage stamp used to apply for the free catalogs of our advertisers. These books are often worth several dollars apiece for the information they contain. The highest talent is usually employed in writing and illustrating our advertisers' catalogs, so that they may be of the utmost service. Aside from purely advertising matter—which of itself is often just what you must want to know about—almost every trade booklet contains technical instruction of rare interest and real practical value. The farmer and his family who send for catalogs early and study them closely are the ones whose plans for the season are sure to succeed.

THOUGHTS FOR FARMERS:

Sowing Spring Oats.

A wise rotation, a gradual deepening of the soil, and sowing small grain is the foundation of successful farming. The best time to sow oats is October 15th to December 1st. There are no oats that are specifically Winter or Spring oats. Some varieties are more easily killed by cold than others. All, even the hardiest, are often killed when sown broadcast or put in with a wheat drill. The tenderest will stand the hardest winters if put in with a drill in the open furrows. These are general principles. Now, there is not enough small grain sown in all the cotton counties to inaugurate a desirable rotative system. Since the middle of December the plows have been standing still on account of rain. Let every farmer sow all his spare land in oats. He has until the 10th of March to do this work. The sooner it is done the better, provided the ground is dry enough to break and harrow. If you wish a good yield of heavy grain, sow the Appler or Red Rust Proof, Southern grown seed. The Brest or ninety-day oats are the earliest and well suited for bottom land, for they will come off the first week of June, in time for a corn crop. The Georgia Grazing oats and other similar varieties make much straw, but the grain is light. The advantage of planting the early varieties is that they will ripen June 5th to 15th, giving time enough to sow cowpeas. Land that, with the aid of 200 to 300 pounds of fertilizer to the acre, will make 1,000 pounds of seed cotton, will make 25 to 30 bushels of oats and a ton and a half of peavine hay. The cost of the two crops will be about half the cost of a cotton crop. Do not use ammoniated fertilizers with oats, but if nitrogen is wanting apply 50 to 60 pounds pounds of nitrate of soda, March 20th to April 15th, and run a smoothing harrow over the land so as to cultivate the oats and level the ridges. Mix 600 pounds of 14 per cent acid and 400 pounds of Kainit and apply 150 to 300 pounds to the acre with the oats. It is better to put 300 pounds, for the peas will need all that is not required by the oats. We have found the Gantt drill eminently satisfactory. A lively hand can put in two acres a day with that, the rows being 12 to 15 inches apart. There may be other drills on the market as good. Some of these days a manufacturer may make a two-horse drill that will plant four rows at a time. Such a machine would require smooth land free of stalks, stones and stumps.
CHARLES PETTY.

Spartanburg Co., S. C.

A Voice From Tennessee.

Messrs. Editors: You are certainly on the right track as regards patent medicine and other fraudulent and doubtful advertisements; and if it isn't presuming too much, I wish to congratulate you on your action. The Progressive Farmer as been absolutely clean ever since I have known it; but I am glad to know that it is going to be not only personally respectable but also aggressively reformative. There are few things needed more by the country than absolutely clean and independent periodicals of all classes; and the demand for—and appreciation of such is daily growing greater.

I am confident your declaration of independence from questionable business interests will be to your financial interest as well as to the broadening and strengthening of your moral influence. If it is not, I am mistaken in Southern farmers.

Yours very truly,
Morristown, Tenn.

E. E. MILLER.