

NEXT WEEK'S PAPER.

Three or four notable features for next week's Progressive Farmer are already on hand. First, Zach McGhee, the gifted Washington correspondent of the Columbia State, has interviewed the authorities at Washington, and is going to explain just what all this talk about Denatured Alcohol means, just what the Government regulations are, and just to what extent our Carolina and Virginia farmers may profit by this much-talked-of innovation. It will be an authoritative and helpful paper.

Next we are going to try to help our farmer readers by giving an article of practical advice about the use of spoiled cottonseed—great quantities having been damaged by the fall rains. Mr. C. B. Williams, of the North Carolina Department of Agriculture, will handle this topic.

Our Dr. Butler says the cotton boll weevil is surely coming to North Carolina and South Carolina, and when it comes, it is going to waste hundreds of thousands of dollars annually, although our farmers might prevent practically all loss by beginning now to get ready for their surely coming enemy. There is undoubtedly no question of more vital interest to the man who makes cotton than this, and Dr. Butler having just come from the boll weevil district in Louisiana, and from conferences with authorities in Texas and elsewhere, has something to say which should command attention.

For our tobacco farmers also we have in hand a feature of no small interest—the story of how the Kentucky tobacco growers have built up the most successful tobacco farmers' organization in the world.

And all the regular departments will be up to the usual standard.

GETTING BETTER HORSES.

For practical money-value, there is nothing in this number of The Progressive Farmer which can rank ahead of Mr. Scott's article emphasizing first, the urgent need of better breeding horses, and secondly, the no less urgent need for caution in buying these horses. The plan on which he is at work for Alamance County we regard as the very best we have heard of, and we wish a half-dozen wide-awake Progressive Farmer readers in each county would take up the matter and organize similar companies all over the South. We thank Mr. Scott for his suggestion of a Horse Special for The Progressive Farmer—we are always glad to have our subscribers indicate ways of making the paper more useful—and we hope later to put the idea into effect. Meanwhile we should like to have a full discussion of the views set forth by Mr. Scott and Mr. Harrow.

PEANUT GROWERS ORGANIZING.

Eleven counties in Virginia and North Carolina, producing seven-eighths of the world's peanut crop, were represented Tuesday of last week at a big peanut convention at Suffolk, Va.—the first ever held.

It was unanimously decided to have an exhibit at the Jamestown Exposition under the direct auspices of the new association, and a committee to perfect arrangements was appointed.

Officers of the new organization were elected as follows: President, C. W. Mitchell, of Aulander, N. C.; vice-president, N. T. Ridley, of Newsome, Va.; secretary, G. T. Stephenson, of Pendleton, N. C.; treasurer, George W. Nurney, of Suffolk, Va.

A statistical committee, consisting of J. L. Bryant, of Newsome, Va.; W. H. Howell, of Severn, N. C.; J. A. Garriss, of Conway, N. C., and W. M. Cobb, of Franklin, Va., was also named.

Growers, it is said, will demand five and a half cents a pound for prime grades of peanuts of this year's crop.

It is the wish of The Progressive Farmer to give more attention to the peanut industry in the future, and we hope the officers of the new organization will make the freest possible use of our columns.

SUGGESTIONS FOR DECEMBER FARM WORK.*

Any crops that yet remain ungathered should be gotten in at once. To remain in the fields longer will result in deterioration. The early frosts and the continued rains in October caused great loss to our pea and cottonseed crops. It will be the part of wisdom to save all the peas possible, though many of them are unsound. Peas will be scarce and high another year. The farmer who has peas to plant and to sell will be fortunate indeed.

It is now too late to sow small grain with any degree of certainty of making a full crop, yet it will pay to sow rye on the land on which we intend to make that increased yield of corn next year; also for spring grazing. The roots of the rye will literally fill the soil with millions of hungry mouths taking up the soluble fertility which would leach out during the rainy spells of winter and be lost if the land were left uncovered. The rye will hold this fertility and give it to the corn crop next spring and summer when it will be so badly needed.

Rather than have no wheat at all, it may be well even now to sow a piece of well prepared land if this is done as quickly as possible. With a favorable winter the results may be satisfactory. It is now too late to sow winter oats. It will be better to prepare land intended for oats and sow in spring oats in February or March, according to location. The Burt oat and the Rust Proof are both good spring oats, especially on good land. We do not know the name of the oats that will make a good crop on poor land. If any one does, please advise us!

In localities where fall and winter plowing is practiced, every nice day in December should find the plow running—some good two-horse chilled plow or a disc plow, set to run just a little deeper than ever before. After the holidays there may not be much good weather that will admit of plowing for some time. On heavy clay lands a day's plowing now will be worth much more than it will be next February or March.

Now is the time to fix up the barn and stables. Make them tight and warm for the stock. Stop the leaks in the roofs. It requires less food to carry stock through the winter when they are warm and dry than when left exposed to the weather. This is important, for many reasons. Save all the manure possible. Prepare an extra quantity for that corn-field next spring. You must feed the stock, so do not waste the manure. Fertilizers will be higher next year than they are this; besides, many people are going to buy more than ever to put under cotton and possibly some other crops. Get ahead of these people by saving more farm manure than ever before to supplement your commercial fertilizer. The results will justify the work required.

December is the hog killing month in many sections, as it should be. Hogs should be fat enough to slaughter before the very cold weather sets in. It is always better to kill hogs in medium cold weather than to wait until cold freezing weather. Hogs intended to be killed should not be fed for twenty-four hours before killing. They will butcher much better for not having been fed.

A friend, by the way, recently gave us a new idea about heating water for scalding hogs that is unique and commends itself. He said: Take a piece of iron pipe some 10 or 12 feet long and about two inches in diameter. Bore a hole a few inches above the bottom of the barrel in which you intend to scald the hogs, plug up one end of the pipe, and fasten the other end in the hole near the bottom of the barrel. Put the necessary quantity of water in the barrel which will fill the pipe also. Make a fire some few feet from the barrel and let this pipe pass through the fire. The steam generated in the pipe will soon heat the water in the barrel sufficiently hot to scald hogs.

Use a thermometer so as to not get the water too hot. For grown hogs, a temperature of about 175 degrees will be hot enough, while pigs will not require water so hot. A cheap thermometer, such as is used in a tobacco barn, will answer. With the pipe for heating the water and a thermometer for keeping it at the right temperature, hog killing should not be a hard job.

We cannot refrain from making one other sug-

*This department, conducted by our Secretary-Treasurer, Mr. T. H. Parker, and Agricultural Editor Butler, is now a permanent feature of The Progressive Farmer, an article in the last number of each month giving "Suggestions" for the month following.

gestion, and that is: be sure to clean the heads and feet well. Many men just give the feet a twist and the nose a kick or stamp with the foot and expect the women to do the rest. It is so much easier to clean them well when you are at it.

We prefer to kill one day and cut up and salt the next day. Use plenty of salt; it is much cheaper than pork. Salt well and put away in a box or dark place where flies cannot reach it. Mr. Troutman's recent articles in The Progressive Farmer have so nearly covered the ground that we will make but few suggestions as to curing the meat, making sausage, etc. The meat should lie in salt from four to five weeks, and then be smoked slowly, without heating, until the job is thoroughly done. Tastes differ as to the degree to which it should be smoked. If for family use, then smoke the way you like best. If for market, study the wishes of your customers and smoke accordingly. As to sausage, we suggest that you weigh all meat and also the seasoning. Then all your sausage will be seasoned alike. Two pounds of salt to one hundred pounds of meat is about right and other seasoning to taste. Tastes differ in this respect. For instance, some want a good deal of sage while others want none. Some want sausage so hot with pepper as to remind the average person of the Jap's attack on Port Arthur, while others want only a trace. Suit your household or your customers in this respect; weigh the quantity of each ingredient and there will be no further guessing as to quantity. Mix the seasoning well with the meat before grinding; then the grinding will mix still further—better than is possible in any other way.

Have you arranged to plant that orchard we referred to last month? If not, do not delay longer. Be sure to plant out enough trees to supply you with fruit in abundance throughout the entire fruit season—which should be practically all the year.

Now is a good time to set out the strawberry plants. Set out at least 1,000 plants for an ordinary family. Have them of three or four varieties, early, medium and late. Do not reserve all your best land for cotton, but take a part of it for your fruit trees, vines, etc.

Again, have you arranged for putting out cabbage plants as was suggested in last month's "Suggestions?" Now is the time to set them out if you are to have early cabbage next spring. Manure the land heavily. Do not be stingy with it. Use also commercial fertilizers liberally—principally acid phosphate and potash, about equal parts of kainit and acid phosphate at the rate of 1,000 pounds per acre in the rows. Run the rows three feet apart, sow the fertilizer, and ridge up with two furrows. Set the cabbage plants on the south side of the ridge and near the bottom of the ridge. Set them deep, clear up the leaves, so the stems will not be exposed to the cold weather. This deep setting is important. The ridge will protect the plants from the cold North winds. Other suggestions in regard to cultivation will be made later. Set at least 500 plants for a family of ordinary size. Charleston Wakefield will probably be the best variety to plant out. Plants can be bought at reasonable prices, and are advertised in The Progressive Farmer.

The yield of corn for 1906 in almost every State is better than usual. North Carolina, for instance, is credited with an average yield of fifteen bushels per acre against a ten year average of thirteen bushels. South Carolina has not done quite so well, while Virginia and Tennessee average about twenty-five bushels per acre. Let us see if the corn crop in the Carolinas next year cannot be put at a much higher average than for 1906. This will be easy if we will give more attention to the corn crop than we are now doing. Begin to plan for an increased yield for next year.

A THOUGHT FOR THE WEEK.

You would compliment a coxcomb doing a good act, but you would not praise an angel. The silence that accepts merit as the most natural thing in the world is the highest applause. Such souls, when they appear, are the Imperial Guard of Virtue, the perpetual reserve, the dictators of fortune. One needs not praise their courage,—they are the heart and soul of nature.—Ralph Waldo Emerson.