

The Progressive Farmer Better than Ever in 1907—See Announcements on Page 10.

# THE PROGRESSIVE FARMER.

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## ON A SHEEP-FARM IN THE PIEDMONT SOUTH.

*The Piedmont and Mountain sections of the South have, I believe, a great future before them in the matter of live stock production, these sections being, in the writer's judgment, peculiarly adapted to stock growing and better adapted to this branch of farming than to any other. We have large areas of rough land that will ever be a source of loss rather than profit to the husbandman if handled in any way except as pasture for stock. My belief is that the mutton ewe will gradually work herself over these beautiful hills as the days go by and men come to know her as she is—one of the most profitable and pleasant animals we have to handle.*

*The American people have learned of the good qualities of real lamb and are clamoring for more of it. What is the reason we of the South are not in shape to furnish our share of this delicacy? One reason is that we haven't awakened to our opportunity, haven't realized the profits that await the successful breeder of the mutton sheep.—A. L. FRENCH, R. F. D. 2, BYRDVILLE, VA.*

### THIS WEEK'S FEATURES.

Again, twenty pages!

Notwithstanding the extra work involved in making this number, we believe our readers will agree with us after inspecting the several departments that every one of the regular and special features is well up to previous standards of excellence, and we feel sure that many of them forge a little ahead.

There is the Sunny Home Stock Talk, for instance, page 4, which departs just a little from the expected route and makes a delightful "detour," as the college lecturers call it, over a big but neglected estate and tells how to reclaim it and make a profitable stock farm of it while getting from it all the while a good living for the family of the new owner. It is what might be called a "problem" article, and if our readers do not find Mr. French's treatment of the subject really fascinating, they will read it with feelings different from those which a reading of it gave to us.

Some things which impress us with the bigness of the business of the American farmer are set forth in the "Year's Progress in Agriculture"

on page 12. This article contains for our readers, within small compass, the meat of Secretary Wilson's recent annual report to the President. Every item of it is interesting to the farmer or farmer boy who belongs in the progressive ranks of his calling. The value of the year's leading crops, the problems of the near future, the advances won on the "firing line" of experiment, are set forth successively in nut-shell form.

How the busy housewife, who has to look after the chickens as well as the house and the folks, may profit by adopting the hopper system of feeding chickens is set forth by "Uncle Jo" under his very practical poultry talks. It is suggested by him to other poultry raisers as a labor-saving, time-saving, and money-saving method of feeding, both for old and young chickens.

Our readers in three States may learn on page 16 what their agricultural colleges offer them in the way of a short course in farming. Letters are printed from the colleges of Virginia, North Carolina, and Tennessee. We repeat that there is no better way for farmers from sixteen to sixty to spend a few winter weeks. There ought to be a thousand farmers at every agricultural short course in the South.

Some "Snakes You Have Met"—and probably fled from—are handled by Mr. C. S. Brimley in the Young People's department, and are far less forbidding there than they were where you "met" them before. These unpopular creatures are here treated in a popular way and some erroneous popular notions about them are corrected. This article will prove as interesting and informing to some of the older people as it will to the young folks.

The fact that you do not live in Virginia is no reason why you should not be interested in the progress Virginia farmers are making, and we believe the story of Old Dominion progress on page 2 will be suggestive and helpful to farmers in other States.

And lastly, do not overlook our summary of Progressive Farmer features for 1907. It is our determination each year to beat the previous year's record, and there is no doubt about our doing this these next twelve months. We have a dozen features, any one of which will be worth the dollar your subscription costs you.

As for next week—that will be our Christmas number: twenty pages, too, and better than this issue!