

Timely Farm Questions Answered by Mr. Parker.

Getting Peas Out of Mowed Vines.

Messrs. Editors: Will you ask the question in your paper how to get cow peas out (where vines are mowed) without beating them?

A. P. BOBBITT.

Nash Co., N. C.

There is a special pea thresher used in some sections for threshing pea vines, but it has not come into general use. Some thresh them by taking some of the teeth out of a wheat thresher cylinder and run the thresher at a lower speed than when threshing wheat, and get the peas out in that way. This should be done before the peas are perfectly dried out or there is danger of splitting them badly. In the absence of this we know of no better plan than to beat them out with a pole.

A Cotton Plant Disease?

Messrs. Editors: In a field of very fine cotton, I noticed the other day some stalks with yellow or brown-spotted leaves that were all shedding off and apparently dying, while the roots and body seemed free from insects—and in a healthy condition. The land was rich and productive, bringing cotton from 3 to 5 feet high. Can you tell me what the trouble is?

E. S. WORMAN.

Chowan Co., N. C.

We cannot tell. Send a diseased stalk to the Department of Agriculture and experts will examine it and give an opinion. Possibly it is cotton wilt.

Crimson Clover and Oats.

Messrs. Editors: I have 8 acres of land (wheat stubble) turned the middle of August which I want to seed to oats. Would it be all right to sow crimson clover seed with oats to be followed with peas next summer?

JOHN A. ROWLAND.

Stanly Co., N. C.

Crimson clover with oats is an experiment worth trying. We have had no actual experience in sowing oats and crimson clover together, but have heard the plan recommended. If they succeed and the oats are cut at the proper time to make oat hay the product will be a richer hay than if it were all oats. Oats and vetch make a fine hay also; but in sowing either crimson clover or vetch the land needs to contain the necessary bacteria for those plants, or they will not succeed.

It will be worth your while to try both these plants with oats. Sow one bushel oats and 8 pounds crimson clover per acre. Sow the oats first and then the crimson clover, as the clover should not be covered deep.

For vetch and oats, sow 20 pounds vetch and one bushel of oats per acre. In this instance sow the vetch first as the vetch seed will stand deeper covering than the oats.

See last week's Progressive Farmer, the report of the Farmers' Convention, and other articles on oat culture which will be of value to you.

Saving Peanut Vines for Hay.

Messrs. Editors: Will you please advise me how or what way to save peanut tops for hay? My peanut vines are very heavy and would make lots of forage if I can save them without injuring my peas.

J. M. HALL.

Sampson Co., N. C.

We have known people to cut the tops of their peanuts when very

rank, with a mowing machine and get a good quantity of very fine hay, but that does not leave the vines in the finest condition to dig the peanuts. We have heard the advice given to mow them, leaving every fourth row uncut, so as to have sufficient vines to cover the nuts in stacking. Others save the vines when the nuts are picked, shaking all the dirt they can from them when hand-picked (when machine-picked the machine knocks the dirt off) and stack the vines for hay. While the hay is quite dusty from dirt, it does not injure the stock like dust from mould. Peanut vine hay is very rich and should not be thrown away as useless.

This One is Referred to Our Readers.

Messrs. Editors: I have a grove of an acre around my house that I want to grow some kind of forage or pasture crop on. There are trees over the ground and I want a grass that will grow in shade. If you know of anything that will grow profitably you will do me a favor by letting me know what it is and when and how to plant.

J. M. TOMBERLIN.

Mecklenburg Co., Va.

We are unable to advise Mr. Tomberlin as to which of his grasses will answer his purpose best. If any of our readers can advise him, we will be glad to hear from them.

Referred to Our Readers.

Messrs. Editors: I have received a great amount of helpful information from The Progressive Farmer, and this explains my coming to you for yet more.

1. What is the best way to terrace or dike hilly land, so I can run straight rows if I want to?

2. What is the best way to drain wet land on a cheap plan?

3. What is the best plan for constructing what some call blind ditches.

4. I have a poor, hilly, washed-away piece of land that I have got to live on and improve and make a support for myself, wife and small children. It has on it a big pile of sawdust and almost any kind of poor dirt, gravel, and rocks. How can I, a one-horse farmer, best manage to farm on this land?

I have attended poor land and only received half of what I made and then saved enough to make payments on my home. Advice on how to farm on a one-horse farm in the most successful manner would be a great help and blessing to most of the farmers in this country and more especially to the class of tenants who farm on shares and have an ambition to own their own homes.

C. S. C.

Harnett Co., N. C.

Note From Mississippi.

Messrs. Editors: Our F. E. C. Union of this county is showing the right spirit. Our large and commodious brick warehouse (100x120) is going rapidly up, and by October 1st we'll be ready to carry out and conform to the methods proposed by the Southern Cotton Association and that of the Farmers' Union.

The condition of the cotton crop somewhat improved by the recent rains, though no correct estimate as yet can be safely made. 'Tis a crop subject to so many disasters till housed and ginned that estimates are nothing but mere speculations.

J. L. COLLINS.

TO THE RURAL CARRIERS.

Secretary Ballard Sends a Message Urging Immediate Forwarding of Necessary Dues.

Messrs. Editors: At our last State Convention in July the report of the Secretary of the Association showed a deficiency of \$86.64. After due consideration, the Convention levied an assessment of 25 cents per member of the Association. I have notified all secretaries of county or district organization of said assessment, requesting them to proceed to collect at once. I wish to inform all members of the Association that it is very necessary that this assessment, though small, will, when turned in to the Secretary of the Association, place the Association on a sound financial basis.

I also wish to call attention to the fact that all dues and assessments, State or National, for 1907, should be turned into this office by the first of October, in time to report to the National Convention which meets in October, and we should be able to settle with the national secretary by that time. The sooner you send in your part, the easier it will be to square up our accounts.

J. M. BALLARD,

Sec'y N. C. R. L. C. A.

Newton, N. C.

President Peterson and Lecturer Cates Speak.

Messrs. Editors: It is estimated that at least 1,500 people heard Mr. H. M. Cates, the State Lecturer of the Alliance, at Beulah, in Johnston County, on the 29th of August. This place is in a great grove of oak and hickory trees where four roads center, leading hither through a fine farming county. The occasion was a big educational and agricultural rally for this section of the county. A choir of good singers on the platform rendered some touching sacred songs.

The State lecturer was introduced by Mr. Hales, and spoke for more than an hour. His speech was a strong address on agriculture and kindred subjects. There is but one Cates; he goes straight to the hearts and reason of his hearers, his argument, his wit, and his humor and anecdotes show him to be the right man in the right place.

After the big barbecue dinner the crowd gathered about the stand again, where the writer was introduced by Mr. Cates. My theme was the agricultural, educational, and industrial progress of the State, and, as the old lady said about the prayer-meeting in which she and Bro. C. did the talking, the people seemed to enjoy it, for an hour and ten minutes.

After a motion by Brother Cates to continue these annual gatherings at old Beulah, the meeting adjourned.

J. E. PETERSON,

President North Carolina Farmers' Alliance.

Goldsboro, N. C.

Send Stamp With Your Inquiry.

Messrs. Editors: Anticipating that quite a number of inquiries would come to me as a result of your publishing my letter on "roots and plants for medical use," I requested that the writers should enclose a stamp for reply. But this was not inserted in my article, and I am swamped with postal cards and letters, only two of which contained stamps. I have replied to some of these, but if others do not hear it will be because I must draw the line. This trouble arises from the omission of my postage request. Inquiries have come from Michigan and from all parts of North Carolina, and the tide will probably come still higher. I am convinced

that The Progressive Farmer "covers the field." F. J. ROOT.

90 Broadway, New York City.

[Mr. Root, upon a closer reading, will find his request for stamps printed as written in the article. His correspondents who overlooked it may be reminded by this item.—Editors.]

The peanut growers of Bertie County will meet to-day in Windsor. Speeches will be made by Messrs. Lankford, of Norfolk; Holland, of Franklin, and Stephenson, of Pendleton. It is court week. Every grower in anyway connected with the Union is urged to be present, as some interesting matters will come up.

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