

# THE PROGRESSIVE FARMER.

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A Farm and Home Weekly for the Carolinas, Virginia, Tennessee and Georgia.

Vol. XXII. No. 32.

RALEIGH, N. C., SEPTEMBER 19, 1907.

Weekly: \$1 a Year.

**THIS WEEK'S PAPER — SOME RANDOM COMMENT.**

Does it pay to raise corn? Read Mr. French's article on page 10. He there gives a page from his ledger showing the profit and loss account against 24 acres of corn. What does it cost to grow a bushel of corn? For an answer to this question figure a little from Mr. French's data on the basis of 40 bushels to the acre. Then turn to Mr. Tindal's extraordinary record of 182 bushels an acre given in last week's paper and figure again. Take the total cost of growing the corn crop in each case, divide it by the number of bushels of shelled corn, and see what it cost these men to raise a bushel of corn. It will be information to learn just what the cost of growing a bushel of corn was in each case, and it will no doubt surprise many to find the cost of corn at the rate of 40 bushels per acre and 182 bushels per acre so near together.

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Are you going to make your profits in farming 500 per cent greater? That article of Dr. Knapp's, printed week before last in The Progressive Farmer has awakened echoes in more States than one. Only last night we had a letter about it from a reader in Texas, one of that State's big thinkers and workers, acknowledging its remarkable force. It is, we really believe, near akin to an epoch making document, and on page 9 we have printed an editorial article to impress the importance of beginning to make this 500 per cent and have pointed out one way in which to begin right now.

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September is flying fast, but we have grouped on pages 2 and 3 some golden suggestions about your September farming. You can save from 2 to 8 bushels an acre of your oats by preventing smut. The smut may be easily prevented—why not prevent it? You want 15 cents for your cotton—why not get it? There's a great advantage in a grain drill—why not use it? Is fall plowing good for next year's crop?—don't guess about it, test it. What you want to know about the fall sowing of oats, clover, and vetches—this you will find in compact form on pages 2 and 3.

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And once again—the laborious waste of pulling fodder. Have you concluded to change to a better way? Read Dr. Massey's letter on page 9. In the old way there's a waste of labor and a waste of feed; in the better way there is a saving of labor and a saving of feed—which do you prefer?

**Select Your Cotton Seed at Second Picking.**

The cotton growers of the South have lost millions by planting scrub seed—seed selected with haphazard recklessness at the common cotton gin: mixed seed of good stalks, bumblebee cotton from galled hillsides, starved and misshapen cotton from fields practically turned out to grass by negro tenants, all this degenerate, unproductive seed mixed with seed of the better sort, and the farmer's planting seed taken from this disgusting mixture only to breed poverty for him by poor yields of poor cotton. If the seed used on your farm are carefully selected, and carefully bred up through a period of 15 or 20 years, undoubtedly you can increase your yields 20 or 30 per cent without one extra lick of work. A very simple plan of seed selection is suggested herewith by Dr. H. J. Webber, of the United States Department of Agriculture, and the only amendment we would suggest is that the farmer go through his field and select his seed plants for himself, instead of leaving it even to his best laborers. Dr. Webber's plan of seed selection is as follows:



**"Take careful pickers that remain on the farm plantation continuously from year to year and train them to recognize the best plants, that is, those most productive, earliest in ripening, and having the largest, best formed, and most numerous bolls. Each year before the second picking, have these select pickers go over the field and pick the cotton from the best plants only. These pickers should be paid by the day and not for the amount picked. Preserve such seed cotton separately, gin it separately on a carefully cleaned gin to avoid mixing, and use the seed to plant the general crop the next year. If sufficient seed is not secured at the second picking, the same pickers can be sent over the field again before the next picking."**

**WHAT YOU WILL FIND IN THIS WEEK'S PAPER.**

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**When to Sow for Early Cabbage.**  
Messrs. Editors: Will you be so kind as to tell me through The Progressive Farmer when to sow cabbage seed for cabbage for the early market and oblige.  
**HENRY RAUSCHER.**  
Hamblen Co., Tenn.

This inquiry was answered by Prof. Massey in our issue of September 5th in these words:  
"The best time for sowing seed for the early cabbage crop is in September. I have always found that it is best to make two sowings, one

about the middle of the month and another the last week in the month. The reason for this is that the early sown ones may, in a favorable and late fall, get too large and be more inclined to run to seed in the spring."

We did not know it at the time, but we have since learned that the article concerning the Tindal corn crop, re-published in our issue of September 5th, was originally published in the American Agriculturist, to which publication credit should have been given.

**GOVERNMENT CROP REPORTS.**

**Cotton August 25th Averaged 72.7—Falling Off of 200,000 Bales in Ginners' Report—Corn Below Ten-Year Average.**

The crop reporting board of the Department of Agriculture finds from the reports of the correspondents and agents of the bureau that the average condition of cotton August 25 was 72.7, as compared with 75.0 on July 25, 1907, 77.3 on August 25, 1906, 72.1 on August 25, 1905, and a ten-year average of 74.5.

The following table shows the condition on August 25 of this year, and of the preceding year, with the respective ten-year averages:

	Aug. 25 1907.	Aug. 25 1906.	10-Yr. Avge.
Virginia .....	77	71	82
North Carolina, ..	78	71	79
South Carolina, ..	83	71	76
Georgia .....	81	72	76
Florida .....	80	70	78
Alabama .....	73	76	74
Mississippi .....	72	82	78
Louisian .....	69	76	76
Texas .....	67	78	69
Arkansas .....	65	84	75
Tennessee .....	78	88	82
Missouri .....	75	94	82
Oklahoma .....	72	88	81
Indian Ter. ....	70	80	79
United States..	72.7	77.3	74.5

**Heavy Decline in Cotton Ginned.**

Washington, D. C., Sept. 9.—The Census Bureau to-day issued its first bulletin on the cotton report for the season as shown by returns from the ginners, showing a total of 191,416 bales up to September 1, as compared with 407,551 bales up to the same period last year. In this statement round bales are counted as half bales. The great falling off is attributed to the lateness of the crop.

The report shows that there were only 4,067 gineries in operation September 1, this year, as compared with 6,628 in 1906. The product by States for the present year follows:

Alabama	7,734,	Arkansas	85,
Florida	54,	Georgia	1,207,
Indian Territory	3,	Louisiana	112,
Mississippi	1,128,	North Carolina	43,
Oklahoma	5,	South Carolina	3,040,
Texas	145,101.	Last year Texas had ginned 328,586 bales before September 1.	

**Corn and Other Crops.**

Condition of corn on September 1 was 80.2 as compared with 82.8 last month; 90.2 on September 1, 1906, and a ten-year average of 81.

The average condition of tobacco on September 1, was 82.5 against 82.8 one month ago, 86.2 on September 1, 1906, and a five-year average 82.8.

The average condition of potatoes on September 1, was 80.2 against 88.5 one month ago, 85.3 on September 1, 1906, and a ten-year average of 79.4.