

Judge Bennett on Winter Farming.

The Good Husbandman Should Have as Many Crops Growing in Winter as in Summer—Rye He Holds in Great Esteem as a Forage Crop.

Messrs Editors: Every all-round farmer should grow during winter as many crops as during summer.

Some of the crops demand to be put under the plow in their season; others are less exacting in this respect. Oats, now growing in public favor, cry aloud and spare not when their seeding time is to hand. Wheat temporizes.

Black Emmer defies the rigor of the weather and may be laid down when you please, though timed with oats. This forage plant has been fetched here from Manchuria since the war in the Far East. A horse, mule, cow, or any other animal prefers it to any forage.

Dwarf Essex rape is quickest to give grazing; forty days from planting is full time. It must be put on land which fits its natural selection,—such land as you would call moist and pliable, as differing from stiff, harsh soils.

Far and away from all forage plants, I would rank rye. Mine is now four inches high in some patches. They say the apple crop leads all fruit crops because apples keep so well; besides, their unbounded utility to man puts them forward. Then the trifling affair in Eden, which I have regarded as metaphorical, shows the intermediary betwixt man, and wife, and Creator. Rye is related to all other forage plants as apples to other fruits. Seed rye spoils from heat which would not injure wheat.

There is in the growing of crops a constant satisfaction or pleasure which religion alone affords.

I read all the old books on farming with consuming pleasure. Columella, Virgil's Georgics, General Armstrong's Agriculture, contributed to the Albany newspaper in 1838, 1839, and 1840; Arthur Young's Rides in France; Cobbett's Rural Rides in Great Britain.

R. T. B.

Anson Co., N. C.

Planting Peas for Hay.

Mr. H. M. Johnson Gives Results of His Experiments Showing That Heavy Seeding Afforded Best Yield.

Messrs. Editors: I herewith send you a statement of some of my observations in pea farming. In planting the crop I endeavored to seed at the rate of one peck per acre in three-foot rows; but in regulating the planter there was medium and very heavy seeding in some rows.

Some time back I read a piece on pea culture by Professor Soule, and he said that peas should be planted in two-foot rows with one and one-half bushels seed per acre. So I have cut and weighed nine foot spaces, with the subjoined results. The peas were cut and bundled, and cured in house until fairly dry.

No. 1.—About one-fourth bushel per acre planted. Pea hay in nine-foot space, seventeen ounces. Peas in hull, seven ounces. Equivalent to 1,700 pounds hay per acre.

No. 2.—Seed per acre, two and one-half pecks. Pea hay, twenty-five ounces. Peas in hull, ten ounces. Equivalent to pea hay per acre, 2,500 pounds.

No. 3.—Seed per acre, nine pecks. Pea hay, thirty-one ounces. Peas in hull, four ounces. Pea hay per acre, 3,100 pounds.

No. 4.—Better land. Seed per acre, two pecks. Pea hay, twenty-nine ounces. Peas in hull, ten ounces. Pea hay per acre, 2,900 pounds.

There had been reaped a crop of wheat from the land fairly heavily manured with a fertilizer containing acid phosphate, cotton-meal, and muriate potash, about 300 pounds per

acre, and top dressed with one hundred pounds nitrate soda per acre. Yield twelve bushels wheat per acre. The land was turned with a two-horse plow and guano put in with a Cole planter. The peas were cultivated with a weeder.

These experiments show the importance of fairly heavy seeding of peas when hay is wanted, and I think they should be drilled in order to cultivate so as to keep down weeds, etc., until the peas can get a good start. I wish to say to my farmer friends to sow oats and wheat and follow with peas and improve their land by rotation. I have neglected to say that peas were manured with about 150 pounds 16 per cent acid, forty pounds cotton meal, and forty pounds muriate potash per acre.

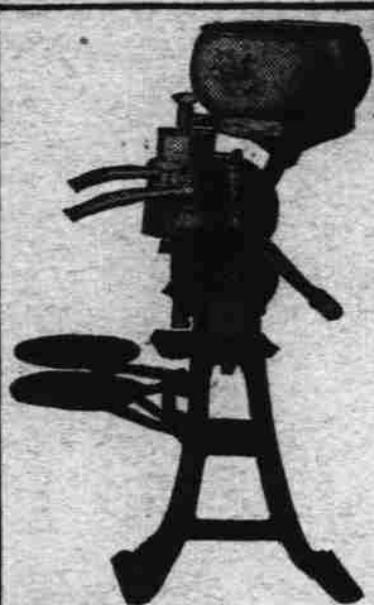
The variety of peas I planted was the Iron. The peas were matured and dry, yet there were a good many green vines and leaves, as this is a trait of the Iron pea.

I have found since I have been using some ammonia for peas that the crop is much better. When I get through picking my cotton I will write up my experience with cotton on a pea fallow on very sandy poor land.

H. M. JOHNSON.

Johnston Co., N. C.

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About Terracing, and Rotation for a Poor Farm.

Messrs. Editors: Mr. C. S. C. wished to know how to manage his terraces so that his rows could be run straight, and how to bring up his poor hilly farms.

1. Terracing and straight rows are practical if you have gentle slopes, and not rounding hills, provided the grade is not steep enough to cause washing between terraces. Begin about January 1st, and bed on the line of your terrace. Continue plowing until your bed is 15 feet wide; repeat the plowing at intervals of two weeks, leaving off two or three furrows on each outer edge, every time you plow. Continue to repeat until sufficiently high to hold the water of heaviest rains. When finished the crest of your terrace ought to be at least 6 to 10 feet wide.

2. Divide that poor hilly farm in three plots. Plant cotton, follow with corn. When you plant that corn the last time, sow at least one bushel peas per acre (one and a half bushels is better). After your corn has been harvested, and you can; plow in wheat, about one bushel per acre, or whatever kind of grain will pay you best. Follow the grain with at least two bushels of peas per acre. See what a fine place you have for your next year's cotton crop. Faithfully pursue this plan and your poor hilly farm will soon be come a rich one, yielding two bales cotton per acre, 30 bushels of wheat, and 40 to 50 bushels of corn.

J. W. HALL.

Wayne Co., N. C.

When to Gin Damp Cotton.

Messrs. Editors: Out of forty years of toil and labor, I have run a public gin for thirty years and gained some valuable information for ginner and farmer both. If water should get on cotton, pack it closely and tightly in bulk for two days in warm weather,

and for a longer time, in cool weather, until it goes through a chemical action. As soon as the bulk gets warm enough to be perceptible to the hand, then it will gin and lint better, the oil of the seed having become disseminated through the lint giving it a soft texture.

As to the different varieties of corn, the seven-ear variety will make, as near as I can determine by fair tests by weighing, over the one-year variety, between 16 and 20 per cent. But since the man to do the feeding costs so much and it falls to the lot of the boss to shuck the corn, why I find my preference in favor of the big ears.

REUBEN.

Mecklenburg Co., N. C.

Like a School Book to Him.

Messrs. Editors: If you will look back on your book you will see I have been a subscriber since 1889. What little I know I have learned from The Progressive Farmer.

T. N. PEARCE.

Beaufort Co., N. C.

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