

**Plowhandle Talks**

**HOME-MIXED FERTILIZERS.**

**Mr. Caudle's Inquiry Brings Out Another Interesting Letter on the Subject.**

Messrs. Editors: Your last issue contains an inquiry from Mr. J. A. Caudle in regard to mixing fertilizers. I think that I can help him; at least I will give him my way of mixing.

It is impossible in mixing fertilizers at home to secure uniformity of weight or bulk, on account of the different sources from which we obtain the phosphoric acid, ammonia, and potash. For instance, it will require a larger amount of a low than of a high grade of acid phosphate, to furnish a given quantity of phosphoric acid. It will take about four times as much kainit as muriate of potash to furnish a certain amount of potash. And so, also, of the ammonia, according to the source from which it is derived. Though we cannot regulate the bulk, I think that we can get any desired quantity or proportion of phosphoric acid, ammonia, and potash.

Suppose we wish to mix a ton as Mr. Caudle wishes it—8-4-5. Eight per cent of 2,000 pounds is 160 pounds of phosphoric acid, to supply which we need exactly 1,000 pounds of acid phosphate, 16 per cent. Four per cent is 80 pounds of ammonia, which would require exactly 1,000 pounds of cottonseed meal analyzing 8 per cent. Five per cent is 100 pounds of potash which requires about 800 pounds of kainit. We have then 1,000 pounds acid phosphate, 1,000 pounds cottonseed meal, and 800 pounds kainit, making a total bulk of 2,800 pounds.

It is true that we have an excess of 800 pounds in weight, yet we have practically the amount of phosphoric acid, ammonia, and potash that we desired.

Now in applying this mixture we are simply to treat the 2,800 pounds as if it were a ton, or 2,000 pounds. A ton makes ten bags of 200 pounds each. Our mixture makes ten bags of 280 pounds each. Now just treat one of these bags as if it were a 200-pound bag. Where you would put a 200-pound regulation bag, put a 280-pound bag of this mixture. This I think practically gives Mr. Caudle what he wants.

I have been mixing my fertilizers for many year. I not only make a considerable saving, but I think it likely that I get a better article, as it does not pass through so many hands. Not many farmers can be prevailed upon to mix for themselves. They think that it is hard to understand, when in fact it can be easily learned by any man of ordinary intelligence, by just giving the matter a little thought. When you talk to people about mixing their fertilizers, they at once associate it with compost heaps, much work, and difficulty of drilling, when in fact, the bulk is not greater on the average than that of the ready mixed goods, and can be mixed before breakfast and worked through any good drill.

J. R. NEWTIN.  
Alamance Co., N. C.

**Referred to Our Readers.**

Messrs. Editors: How is it possible to prevent the white sediment that settles and adheres so tightly to the bottom of an evaporator while cooking sorghum? If not possible to prevent it, what is the best method of removing it?

THOS. L. HINSON.  
Union Co., N. C.

**Too Much Expected of Lands in Orchards.**

Messrs. Editors: It was on the subject of the orchard that I entered the Plow Handle Talks in the Progressive Farmer, hoping that someone might be helped thereby.

I almost wish that apple trees were not harder on land than locust and walnut trees are. If they were not we could get better returns from our lands that are in orchards than we can hope for as it is. I am afraid that we expect too much from the lands that are in orchards.

A man said to me a day or two ago, referring to a piece of fresh land of northwestern exposure: "I am going to plant apple trees on that boundary." To this I had no objection, but I did object when the same man said "I will get the best of that land before the apple trees are big enough to shade the land." Under such a state of cultivation as the above pruning is apt to be neglected, and if this and the worms together don't destroy the trees before they are big enough to shade the land, I shall be surprised. And if we get any fruit at all it is apt to be more like the wild crab apple than the Bellflower.

E. J. FAULKNER.  
McDowell Co., W. Va.

**Do Not Gin Frost-Killed Cotton at Once.**

Messrs. Editors: I see a writer in the Times-Democrat, of Charlotte, N. C., advising farmers to hold green cotton in the seed to ripen. That is all right. He also advises when it is killed by frost to have it ginned immediately. I beg to differ with him here; for when the frost kills the cotton, the water in the lint dries out immediately, and the lint is at its lightest stage. No, do not gin it, but store it away in the seed, and the oil will come out of the seed and add weight and vitality to the lint. There is one kind of cotton I cannot say anything for, that is what we call dog-tail, or the last picking, cotton that did not mature. The seed are rotten and have no oil in them. Neither lint nor seed is fit for anything but manure.

J. A. W.  
Mecklenburg Co., N. C.

**Franklin County Alliance.**

Messrs. Editors: The Franklin County Farmers' Alliance held its session with Pope's Chapel Sub-Alliance on October 10th. Pope's Chapel is situated in the Western part of the county, near the Granville line. The soil is susceptible of very high improvement and is ideal land for cotton, corn, wheat and oats. But we don't remember seeing a single oat or wheat field. We inquired to know how many read The Progressive Farmer and were surprised to find so few, but we got up a good-sized club to the paper.

We had fifty intelligent, clever farmers in the meeting and spent a very pleasant day. The next County Alliance will be held in Louisburg on the second Thursday in January, 1908.

W. H. STALLINGS,  
Secretary.

**Had to Get 'Em Away From Home.**

Messrs. Editors: I had to get these trial subscribers away from my own postoffice, as nearly all in our midst take it now.

Hay good and nearly all saved (October 14th); cotton opening rapidly; quite a short crop, but much better than last year.

DANIEL LANE.  
Craven Co., N. C.

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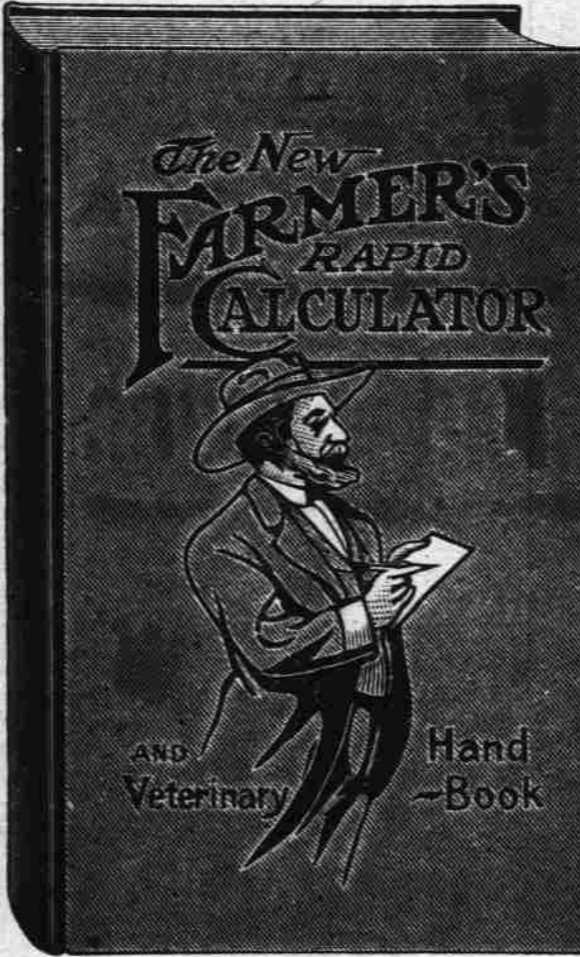
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