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[Courtesy M. V. Richards, So. Ry.]

Don't Destroy Your Harvest After it is Made.

That is a striking article we print on page 3, which warns our wheat-growing farmers against destroying their crop by harvesting it while green or when wet by constant rains. Money saved is money made; likewise a harvest saved is a harvest made. Don't cut your wheat green, wait until it is ripe; don't cut your wheat wet, wait until it dries. If you must violate these rules, then be sure to make small bundles and shock and cap them well. But read here and read again the **one safe way** as set forth in the article just mentioned: "Now there is just one safe way to handle wheat in this rainy country, and the farmers will adopt this plan in the course of a quarter of a century from this date, when (after they have squandered thousands of bushels of golden grain) they realize that there is a better and safer way, and that way is to **allow the grain to become thoroughly ripe, with every head turned down and perfectly dry**, even if you have to wait for two weeks after you think it should be cut; wait until it stops raining, no matter when that time comes, and then cut your wheat and put it in the barn from the machine without shocking it at all * * * or if convenient, thresh it right from the machine.

SUGGESTIONS FOR FARM WORK IN JUNE.

I.—COTTON CROP HINTS.

Keep Ahead of the Grass.—If you have used the weeder and the smoothing harrow in the early stage of the crop, you will find less difficulty in keeping out of the grass during the rains of May and June. Cotton gets "in the grass" from neglect in the early growth, and because growers are afraid to run across the rows with the weeder as soon as a crust forms. There is nothing like keeping the crust off and preventing the plants being chafed by the wind against a crust.

Start the Riding Cultivators.—As soon as chopped to a stand is the time to start the two-horse riding cultivator. And I was glad to hear that a manufacturer reports that more of these have been sold in the South this season than ever before. It shows that what we have been urging is taking root and that the Southern farmers are gradually getting away from the turning plow and the sweep as a means for cultivating cotton, and are finding out the economy of putting mules in place of a man.

I hear too that in many sections the negroes that have been thrown out of employment on the railroads are coming back to the farms and that labor promises to be more plentiful.

Frequently Now, But Not Too Deep.—Use the weeder and then the cultivator after every rain, but not too soon after the rain, for no cultivation should be done, especially on a heavy soil, while it is wet. Then, too, understand that cotton roots run far and wide over the middles just as corn does, and that after the plant gets to a good size the cultivation must be shallow, for the feeders of the roots are not alongside the plant, but away out near the tips of the advancing rootlets, and when you cut a root you are taking from it the power to get food from the soil.

Spread Coarse Manure in the Middles.—When rough manure is used on cotton it is far better to

spread it down the middles, or run a furrow there while the plants are small, and put the manure in that, and the roots will find it just at the right time, when the plants are blooming and making squares. It will do more good there than under the rows.

Keep an Eye on Bettering Your Land.—Then determine this year that you will not leave the cotton fields to lie bare all next winter, but will have crimson clover sown among it as the last working. Then if you scatter manure between the furrows as fast as made, you will have a far better chance for the clover. Then, too, if you grow a crop of peas and make them into hay and feed it and spread the manure next winter on the clover, you will have the best possible chance for a good

corn crop, for I take it for granted that all readers of *The Progressive Farmer* will follow a rotation and not put the same land in cotton again, no matter how good the crop this year. In all that you do keep in mind the future improvement of the land.

II.—WORKING WITH THE CORN.

Keep the Weeder Busy.—The weeder and the smoothing harrow were just as important in the early stage of the corn crop as in the cotton field. The way to kill weeds is not to let them get established, and the weeder can be used on the corn crop longer than on the cotton. There is no objection to a deep cultivation close to the corn when it is small, but all subsequent working should be shallow and rapid and care taken that no roots are cut.

Sow Dwarf Peas.—Do not sow rank running peas in the corn to tangle it and make it harder to cut, for I assume that you are going to cut the crop off at the ground while the fodder is good and the ears are well dented. Sow a dwarf bush variety and when the corn is cut you can disc in the vines thoroughly and put the surface in order for winter grain.

A Word About the Seed Patch.—Then I hope that you have planted a seed patch, and are going to watch it and take out the green tassels from all inferior plants and then select the very best for the next year's seed patch and use the rest for the general crop, thus advancing year by year towards an ideal prolific corn plant.

Much has been said by corn breeders about the need for promoting cross fertilization to increase the vigor and productiveness of the crop. The advice is to plant separate rows from a series of ears. Then detassel each alternate row so that the pollen from the other rows will cross the

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