

FARM QUESTIONS ANSWERED

Nitrate of Soda on Cotton—Fertilizer for Peas.

Messrs. Editors: Please tell me when is the best time to put nitrate of soda to cotton. Some say the first of this month, while others say in July when it gets to blooming freely. I want to put about 75 or 100 pounds to the acre. Is it best to put it to both sides, or just one side, which would not be every other middle?

(2) I also would like to know how to mix acid phosphate and kainit for the pea crop. How much kainit would you use to the sack of phosphate? I am out of muriate of potash and want to substitute kainit.

A. E. CROOM.

Duplin Co., N. C.

(Answer by T. B. Parker.)

(1) If good seasons prevail and your cotton is making all the growth that should be expected of it, then wait until promise of drying weather before you apply the nitrate of soda. I would apply 100 pounds per acre this way: put 50 pounds in every other middle about the 20th of June, or about the time your cotton begins to bloom; then about three weeks later put the other 50 pounds in the other middles, cultivating it in both times. I would not apply soda later than, say, the 25th of July.

(2) Mix 100 pounds of kainit with 200 pounds of acid and apply 300 to 400 pounds of the mixture per acre for your pea crop. Also see two answers by Professor Massey on page 2 relating to fertilizer for cowpeas.

Peas After Oats—Sowing Pea Hay.

Messrs. Editors: I have a few oats sowed and want to follow with peas. Will it pay me to sow again this fall for winter grazing, or shall I plant it in cotton? I want to save the pea hay. Should I sow broadcast, or drill? I want hay and want to build up the land. I have three or four acres of bottom land that I want to cut for hay, mostly sage grass. At what stage shall I cut it? I have no experience with ay. How long should it lie on the ground?

W. A. GARDNER.

Editorial Answer: The peas following the present crop of oats will make the land much better for raising either corn or cotton next year. It would be better to plant oats this fall on other land and have peas follow the oats next summer, if the idea is to improve the soil on the whole farm by a system of rotation. Fall planted oats following a pea crop will give a large yield of grain at small cost. A pea crop furnishes the soil with the kind of plant food that greatly increases the yield of oat grain.

To make hay, cut cowpea vines when about half the pods are ripe. The hay is more easily cured than if the cutting were earlier. Allow the vines to remain in the swath until well wilted and the leaves are dry. Then rake the hay into windrows and let it remain till the smaller vines are dry. It may then be put into high narrow cocks till it passes through a sweat. When it has sweated enough, it may be stacked in a field shed or a large mow. If it is to be baled, it should remain in this large mass about six weeks first. In these columns there was recently a long article on the advantage of drilling peas, and that article may be referred to for information on sowing peas.

Since it is unknown what the hay crop on the bottom land consists of, it would not be safe to say just how

long the hay should lie on the ground. It should not lie on the ground longer, however, than may be necessary to dry it out enough to keep the hay from heating. Concerning the curing of the hay, it would be well to consult some neighbor who has had experience with a like mixture of hay plants.

Silo Questions Answered.

Messrs. Editors: A reader at Ayden, N. C., wishes dimension of a 100-ton stave silo? How many tons of ensilage may be grown per acre of land? And how many head of grown cattle will a hundred tons silage feed during the winter?

A silo about 16 feet in diameter and 24 feet high if filled very full will hold about 100 tons. To insure having the silo full when the silage has settled, used 4 feet poultry netting above the top of the tub; fill to the top of the netting, then tramp in around the edges each day as the silage settles. The silo will be about level full when well settled.

Good land will produce from 8 to 16 times of silage per acre, depending somewhat on variety of corn used and thickness of planting.

A hundred tons of silage will feed about 25 head of grown cattle what they will need for six months.

We expect to build a new silo the present summer out of 2x4 oak staves spiked together edgewise, as per method described in a previous issue.

A. L. FRENCH.

Remedy for an Injured Teat or Udder.

Messrs. Editors: Mr. W. Pat Northern, of Currituck Co., N. C., sends an inquiry in regard to the bloody milk given by one of his cows. From his description I would judge that this is due, in all probability, to an injury of the teat or udder. The small lumps in the teat would point to an injury of it. Should this be the case, it would be advisable to place a sterile milk tube in the teat until the bloody discharges cease. In any case, frequent milking of the affected teat is necessary, and where this is done, the bloody discharges ordinarily cease in the course of a few days. The milk should be discarded until it again assumes its normal appearance.

JOHN MICHELS,
Experiment Station, West Raleigh,
N. C.

Best Way to Dehorn Calves.

Messrs. Editors: A reader at Asheville, N. C., wants to know the proper age and most humane method of dehorning calves. The proper age is nine months before the calf is born and the most humane method is by the use of a polled bull. However, if this method cannot be followed in this case, take the calves when two weeks of age, moisten the spots where the little horns are to appear later, and rub the spots (about the size of a ten cent piece) with a stick of caustic potash that may be purchased at most any drug store. To make sure, repeat the treatment after about two weeks.

A. L. FRENCH.

I thank you for not stopping my paper. Find one dollar enclosed for renewal. I do not want to miss a single copy. Have been a regular reader for over twenty years, and have gained a lot of information from it.—S. P. Pool, Granville Co., N. C.

Don't give up the ship!—Capt. James Lawrence.

With Our Rural Letter Carriers.

DIRECTORY:

C. U. MONDAY, President, ASHEVILLE
SION H. ROGERS, Vice-Pres., MONROE
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Next State Convention meets in Wilmington, July 3d and 4th.

Address the Secretary at once for membership certificates and blank receipts.

Carriers Enjoyed a Barbecue.

Messrs. Editors: The Lenoir County Rural Letter Carriers' Association celebrated National Memorial Day by having a big barbecue and picnic in the old park grounds near Parrot's bridge. Nearly all the carriers and their families and the Kinston post-office force and city carriers were present. In the afternoon the rural carriers held their annual meeting. Two new members were enrolled. Officers were elected as follows: John T. Hill, President; L. A. Robinson, Vice-President; Mike Lee, Secretary-Treasurer; E. W. Robinson, D. W. Mallard, and E. G. Tyndall, Executive Committee. F. T. Harper was elected delegate to State meeting at Wilmington, N. C., July 3-4, 1908, and L. A. Robinson was elected alternate. The meeting adjourned to meet again in the town of La-Grange next Thanksgiving Day, 1908.

MIKE LEE,

Secretary-Treasurer.

Kinston, N. C.

Carriers From Four Counties Organize at Henderson, N. C.

Messrs. Editors: The carriers of Warren, Vance, Granville and part of Halifax held a meeting at Henderson Decoration Day for the purpose of organizing above counties as one association.

Mr. J. C. Kittrell, Superintendent of Public Schools of Vance delivered the address of welcome. After the address of welcome the association proceeded with its business, B. L. Hester acting as chairman, with T. R. Walker, Jr., and Herbert Lyon as secretaries.

Officers were elected as follows: D. N. Hunt, of Oxford, as President; O. H. Wickoff, of Manson, Vice-President; Herbert Lyon, of Lyon, Secretary-Treasurer.

It was decided that the name of the association should be the Rural Letter Carriers' Association of Warren, Vance, Granville, and part Halifax.

Herbert Lyon, of Lyon; D. N. Hunt, of Oxford, and T. R. Walker,

Jr., of Littleton, were elected delegates to the State Convention at Wilmington, July 3rd and 4th.

Peter Hester, of Henderson; J. P. Hunt, of Oxford, and O. H. Wyckoff, of Manson, were elected alternates to State Convention.

Floods in Texas and Oklahoma.

Messrs. Editors: Already Texas and Oklahoma were late with the cotton crop. Rains and cold weather had retarded planting in north Texas and Oklahoma, and cold had made necessary a great deal of replanting in south Texas as late as May 15th. Overflows had made much planting and replanting necessary up to a still later date. The last few days have witnessed the greatest general rainfall and the highest waters ever known in either of these States. At many places over six inches of rain fell in as many hours. Railroad bridges by dozens have been washed away, and travel is greatly crippled. The rich Brazos and Trinity bottoms are now (May 27) under water, and it will be June before they can be planted again. This means nearly certain failure in a boll weevil country. Crops are everywhere late, poor and grassy. Much planting has been done on land that was prepared early but has become foul so as to need preparing again. Considering everything, the prospect must be about as poor as it was this time last year. Texas made one of the poorest crops it ever had last year—not much more than half of the year before.

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