

# THE PROGRESSIVE FARMER.

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## PURE BLOOD HOGS PAY BETTER THAN SCRUBS.

When you go to fill your smokehouse with meat you want an animal that shows you a big outside, a small inside, and plenty of distance between the two. And the hog that will pack this space full of the best meat in the shortest time at the biggest profit is the hog you should raise in droves for your smokehouse and market. The farm papers, the experiment stations, the actual pork raisers, agree that for such a purpose the pure blood hog will beat the scrub almost two to one. Take this extract, for instance, from a letter just received from a progressive farmer: "I selected a good pure blood and bought an extra good scrub, both males, both farrowed the same day in February. They were treated alike and fed alike, all they would eat, until twelve months and five days old, when their gross weights were: the scrub 285 pounds; the pure blood 505 pounds."

## SAVE BOTH HALVES OF YOUR CORN CROP.

Cut the Crop at the Right Time and Do Not Let the Weather Injure it Later—The Practice of "Pulling Fodder" Doesn't Pay.

When corn is grown for the grain it is best not to cut fodder till the kernels have become well dentured and hard and the husks have become partly or entirely dry.

The time of cutting is much more important than is generally supposed. From the time the corn reaches the condition described, there is ordinarily a period of approximately ten to fourteen days in which the stover has high feeding value and the production of grain per acre is not materially decreased by the cutting. I believe the matter of cutting at the proper time is so important, that some cut their corn at a wrong time and do not get paid for their trouble. When cut during the period mentioned above, stover has approximately the same value as timothy hay and is worth as much per ton, provided the stover is properly cared for after cutting. If the cutting is delayed till the grain is mature enough to husk and crib, or if the stover is left standing in small shocks in the field till spring, the feeding value is scarcely worth the expense of feeding it and returning the stalks to the land.

Some of our Southern friends easily make the error of trying to follow the advice given in bulletins or agricultural papers that are not suited to Southern conditions, getting into trouble and then saying that it does not pay to cut corn. Such literature as that usually says for dry clim-

ates each shock should contain from fourteen to eighteen hills of stalk. That is on the supposition that there will be two or three stalks in each hill, which is misleading since Southern farmers do not usually plant their corn that way. That same class of literature commonly says in localities having wet, rainy and warm autumns it is necessary to make shocks as small as eight or ten hills square. In such small shocks nearly all the stalks are exposed and cure quickly. The fodder should remain in such small shocks only long enough for it to become well cured. If allowed to remain in small shocks, rains will leach from the fodder the soluble and most palatable and nutritious food elements, making the stover dry, brittle, tasteless, of little feeding value. So, as soon as the stalks are cured, husk the corn and place the stover in large shocks, or the fodder (stalks with the ears on them) should be hauled under shelter where it will be kept dry. If the stalks and ears are fed together judiciously, it may not pay to husk out all the corn.

Every reader who has not had experience with feeding stover is advised to re-read those parts of this article that relate to the time of cutting and to keeping the fodder in good condition. Approximately one-half of the feeding value of the corn crop is in the husks, leaves and stalks—that is, outside of the ears. The problem is how to manage that half so that it is not lost. That half

is lost, I believe, ninety-nine times in a hundred on Southern farms, unless live stock are allowed to run in the corn fields. When stock are allowed to run in the fields, the stover is usually weathered so much before it is eaten, that the feeding value is very low. The common method of pulling the leaves from corn stalks is a widespread practice that loses money every time.

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