

THE PROGRESSIVE FARMER

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Every Farm Should be a Factory Selling Finished Products.

Here is a beautiful picture made from the photograph of an actual scene on a Southern farmer's butter farm. We could call him a Southern dairyman; but we do not because he is something bigger—he is a farmer and uses the dairy in his farming. It is a means of converting his raw products into finished products, and bringing greater profits to his pockets, greater comforts to his home, and greater richness to his soil.

Nature provided this farm with hills, shade trees, and running water. There are

thousands of other farms all over the South just as lavishly endowed by nature with these same things. But they cannot furnish such a scene as the one shown here; Why? What is the difference? Simply this: This butter farm man has yoked his brains to his farm, the others have not. This thinking farmer applied his brains to what nature provided in the way of hills, trees, and running water, and presto! behold the shaded pastures, the Jersey herds upon the hills, the fields deep in corn and grasses for their sustenance, the formerly wasted water now running in perpetual service over the waterwheel, and the hills and fields growing richer all the time. And with all this going on, think what a larger life is lived by those on such a farm.

And why should the farm be a factory selling finished products?



SCENE ON THE BUTTER FARM OF MR. R. L. SHUFORD, NEWTON, N. C.

At the left hand (lower) end of the barn may be seen indistinctly the overshot waterwheel (mentioned on page 3) which furnishes power for the barn and dairy machinery.

Because (1) the profits are much greater on finished products than raw ones, and (2) the farm can fatten itself on its waste factory products. He who sells corn, cotton and hay continuously from his farm, is just as continuously depleting the soils that produce them. Lend the corn, cotton seed meal, and forage to flocks of beef or dairy cattle on your farm, and on such a loan they will pay you rich interest in milk and butter and juicy tenderloin, and then return the full principal again in the best of manure to the fields that furnished

the feed. And along with these cattle, hogs will go and make the profits yet larger.

Some Southern farmers, as this picture shows, have caught the meaning of the lesson stated by Prof. Massey this week, and so often before, that "the growing of forage and stock feeding in some form lie at the very foundation of all farm improvement." This means the utilization of all farm products as far as possible on the farm itself, selling only the finished products, and retaining for the farm's betterment the waste or by-products. As fast as our farmers learn this lesson, and yoke their brains to what nature has placed on their farms, just so fast will the strengthened soils bring forth abundant increase and the South become a land flowing with milk and money.

Farmers are Losing Tremendously Through Poor Seed.

Breed Out the Barren Tendency in Your Corn and Cotton and Increase Your Yields 20 to 50 Per Cent and Your Profits From 50 to 100 Per Cent.

Riding along the road in Mecklenburg County a few days ago among fine lands and fine cotton fields and corn fields, I was struck with the fact that notwithstanding all that has been said about the importance of good seed, the majority of our farmers are using very poorly bred seed.

In field after field of corn with growth enough to make forty to fifty bushels or more per acre, I could see numbers of barren stalks from the carriage. Now the example of Mr. Collier, whose work in corn-breeding in Maryland I have mentioned, shows that it is perfectly possible to eliminate this tendency to make barren plants. Why should farmers keep on losing from 10 to 25 per cent of their corn by planting poorly bred seed? When a man has a growth that would make fully fifty bushels per acre, why should he be content to lose five to ten bushels per acre through the ground being occupied by plants that make no ears? In Mr. Collier's field of seventy-five acres the officers of the Maryland Experiment Station were unable to find a barren plant, for he has by his care in breeding completely banished the tendency to barrenness in his crop. And in the fine corn fields of Mecklenburg there will be many thousands of bushels of corn lost this year because they have planted seed that has inherited the habit of producing barren plants.

In the cotton fields we passed I saw the same tendency. With a fine growth of cotton, I could

see all over many fields the tall, long-limbed plants shooting up above the others, and I could warrant that not one of those weedy plants would make half the crop of the bushy, short-jointed plants alongside of them. But the weedy plants were there to the extent of 25 per cent in some fields.

Passing one field, I noticed that the cotton was of a great deal better color than on any field I had seen; and not only this, but it was bushy and perfectly uniform, not a weedy plant to be seen. On reaching the place of our Institute not far away, I asked whose farm it was which had this fine cotton field, and described its location.

"Oh," said they, "he is a dairyman and raises manure and is a good farmer."

I knew he was a good farmer as soon as I saw his field. The cows and the manure accounted for the deep green color of that cotton; and he had evidently taken care to plant well-bred seed, while the fields around him had pale cotton and weedy plants.

And his neighbors do not seem to realize that the growing of forage and stock feeding in some form lie at the very foundation of all farm improvement, but are hoping to make cotton profitably with 200 pounds per acre of 2-8-2 fertilizer and poor seed, and the result is pale cotton and unproductive plants occupying land where

good ones should be. And it costs just as much to cultivate the weedy plants as the good ones. Poor seed is costing the farmer almost as much as poor land, and a man may improve his land as much as he pleases, but if he plants badly bred seed he will not make the crop he should.

W. F. MASSEY.

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