

# THE PROGRESSIVE FARMER.

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## WHAT YOU WILL FIND IN THIS WEEK'S PAPER.

Best Kind of Hen-House, H. B. Geer.....	14
Boll Weevil to Force Diversified Agriculture..	8
Children's Lunch Basket, Aunt Mary.....	6
Cotton Crop Reports From Every State.....	2
Cotton Prices and Cotton Profits.....	8
Cream Separators Pay, H. M. Baines.....	10
Don't Fatten Hogs or Corn Alone.....	11
How to Press Trousers, Mrs. P. C. Reade....	7
Plant Corn Thicker, W. F. Massey.....	9
Plant Fruit Trees at Once, W. F. Massey....	15
Preparing for Winter on Stock Farm, A. L. French.....	10
Reply to Mr. Alford, W. L. Harrell.....	5
Rural Letter Carriers.....	13
Share Rents for All Crops, Knarf Drow.....	3
South Carolina Farmers Meet.....	5
Ten Cents for Cotton, S. H. Hobbs.....	12
Value of Cottonseed, W. F. Massey.....	9
Veterinary Questions Answered, Dr. J. C. Roberts.....	11
What Do Your Stumps Cost You?.....	8
Work for November, W. F. Massey.....	9

## Random Comments on This Week's Features.

It seems to us that this week's paper is about up to the standard. Our cotton crop reports, of course, constitute a notable feature, but there are other articles of no less practical value.

The article suggesting share rents for all crops is especially timely and ought to be seriously considered by all landlords and tenants before making 1909 contracts. There is no doubt but that our present renting system is largely responsible both for the one-crop system and for the waste of our lands—two of the greatest evils of Southern agriculture. Our correspondent strikes the keynote when he declares that "a land-owner who is to receive a share of what the land produces will always look more carefully after the working of it," and this fact alone is almost enough to demonstrate the superiority of the share system.

If your water supply is not what it ought to be, an article on page 7 may get you to thinking of something better. The time and labor that has been needlessly spent in the Southern States on account of water supplies badly planned, or not planned at all, would dig the Panama Canal—and the burden of it in large and shameful measure has fallen on our country women. On page 7 there is also some good counsel about gardening, which should be read in connection with Mr. Durban's article last week.

Mr. French is right in urging more light in the stables, but the best thing in his letter this week is his advice about clearing up and draining the wet spots on your land this winter. In most cases these places are full of humus and richness—soil wealth washed down from many other acres—and it would be cheaper to spend \$50 an acre getting one of these lands into shape for cultivation rather than till a worn-out hillside for nothing. Talk this over with your boys.

And now that hog fattening time is here, don't overlook those notable Alabama Station

## THE TEN COMMANDMENTS OF AGRICULTURE

By Dr. Seaman A. Knapp, in Charge of Co-operative Demonstration Work, U. S. Department of Agriculture.

I.

Prepare a deep and thoroughly pulverized seed bed, well drained; break in the fall to the depth of 8, 10 or 12 inches, according to the soil, with implements that will not bring the subsoil to the surface; (the foregoing depths should be reached gradually.)

II.

Use seed of the best variety, intelligently selected and carefully stored.

III.

In cultivated crops, give the rows and the plants in the rows a space suited to the plant, the soil and the climate.

IV.

Use intensive tillage during the growing period of the crops.

V.

Secure a high content of humus in the soil by the use of legumes, barnyard manure, farm refuse, and commercial fertilizers.

VI.

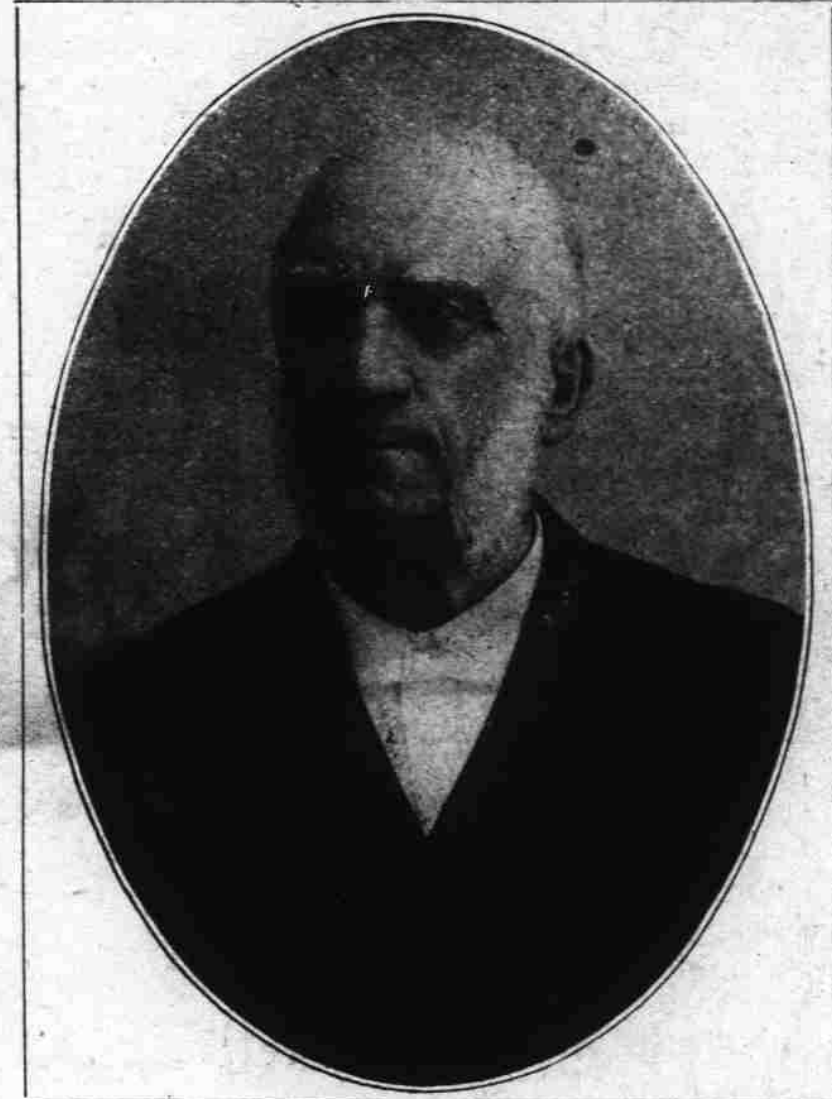
Carry out a systematic crop rotation with a winter cover crop on Southern farms.

VII.

Accomplish more work in a day by using more horse power and better implements.

VIII.

Increase the farm stock to the extent of



utilizing all the waste products and idle lands of the farm.

IX.

Produce all the food required for the men and animals on the farm.

X.

Keep an account of each farm product, in order to know from which the gain or loss arises.

(An article giving Dr. Knapp's ideas on deep plowing at greater length will be given in next week's Progressive Farmer)

tests reported on page 11. It was proved in these tests that the cost per pound of meat from different ways of feeding was as follows:

Corn alone .....	7.63c.
Two-thirds corn, one-third cottonseed meal.....	5.75c.
Nine-tenths corn, one-tenth tankage.....	5.18c.
Half corn and half peas.....	5.11c.

The only question is, Do you want to raise meat at five cents or seven cents?

At the breakfast table to-day we heard of sick chickens in the poultry yard, and the only way to avoid increasing trouble as cold weather comes on now, is to house the fowls in houses warm and at the same time properly ventilated. Mr. Geer tells this week of his friend whose Black Minorcas were dying off, and how the remedy was found in a properly constructed hen-house. You may need the same advice.

And lastly, about planting trees: Professor Massey's letter on page 15 on this subject is as full of good points as a pin-cushion. Read it—and then hurry up with new stock for your orchard. There is no time to be lost.

Is there a supply of fuel on hand, or is there danger of bad weather catching the household without fuel and little chance of getting it when it must be had?

## Coming Next Week.

Deep plowing and subsoiling—these questions will be handled in two articles in our next issue, one a review of a new bulletin just issued by the National Department of Agriculture, the other an interesting record of personal experience by Mr. W. C. Crook telling how he increased his crops by deep plowing.

"How I Make Pin Money on the Farm" is a letter by a wide-awake woman reader on a subject of exceeding interest to all country women. A valuable article on "How to Plan and Plant a Yard" will also appeal to all who wish beautiful homes.

"Get Some Live Stock and So Make Profits Twelve Months in the Year"—this is the title of Mr. French's next letter telling how Southern farmers may make as much money as Western farmers; and another short article jabs "Mr. Scrub Stock Farmer" with some points and prongs of such sharpness as to insure his waking up if he reads it.

Following up our review of the Alabama Station bulletin on how to make cheap pork, another article next week will outline a succession of crops that will make "Hog Feed for Twelve Months."

Uncle Jo will tell how to get the poultry houses ready for winter; and Mr. Jeffreys will write on the poultry exhibits at the Charlotte and Salisbury Fairs.

"How to Plant a Tree" is an instructive paper that will admirably supplement Professor Massey's orchard planting instructions this week.