

# THE PROGRESSIVE FARMER

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

Advice About the Orchard, W. F. Massey . . .	15
Deep Plowing, Level Cultivation, S. P. Oliver	3
Dyeing Dresses and Making Soap, Aunt Mary	6
Foundation Arguments of Deep Plowing . . .	2
Four Bales of Cotton Where Two Grew Before, W. L. Umberger . . . . .	2
Grow Something Beside Cotton, W. F. Massey .	9
Hold On, Mr. Scrub Stock Farmer . . . . .	11
How Sand Hills Were Made Rich, W. F. Massey . . . . .	9
How to Plant a Tree, W. N. Hutt . . . . .	15
How to Get Eggs in Winter, D. Crighton . . .	14
Look at My Five-Inch Corn Land, G. C. Lewis	3
Making a Beautiful Yard . . . . .	7
Make More Farming Months in Year, A. L. French . . . . .	11
More Cotton Crop Reports . . . . .	4
Poultry at Charlotte and Salisbury Fairs, J. S. Jeffrey . . . . .	14
South Carolina Live Stock . . . . .	12
Some Facts About the Soil, G. H. Alford . . .	3
Some Profitable Crops for Hogs . . . . .	10
What Farmers Want to Know, W. F. Massey	5
Why Do Not Farmers Advertise, W. R. Dodson . . . . .	3
With Our Rural Letter Carriers . . . . .	13

## Some Random Comment on This Week's Features.

### I.—About Deeper Plowing.

Perhaps the most useful thing in this week's Progressive Farmer is the summary of Dr. Knapp's ideas on deep plowing as given on page two. There is nothing essentially new in the article, but it is a most effective summing up of the big facts about this important subject. The gist of Dr. Knapp's argument is given in the statement that since roots can find plant food only in soil that has been broken, therefore, three inches of breaking means three inches of plant food, six inches of breaking means six inches of plant food, and eight inches of breaking means eight inches of plant food. An important fact to be kept always in mind, however, is that you must deepen your seed bed gradually—plowing only an inch or two deeper each year.

### II.—A One-Horse Farmer's Good Example.

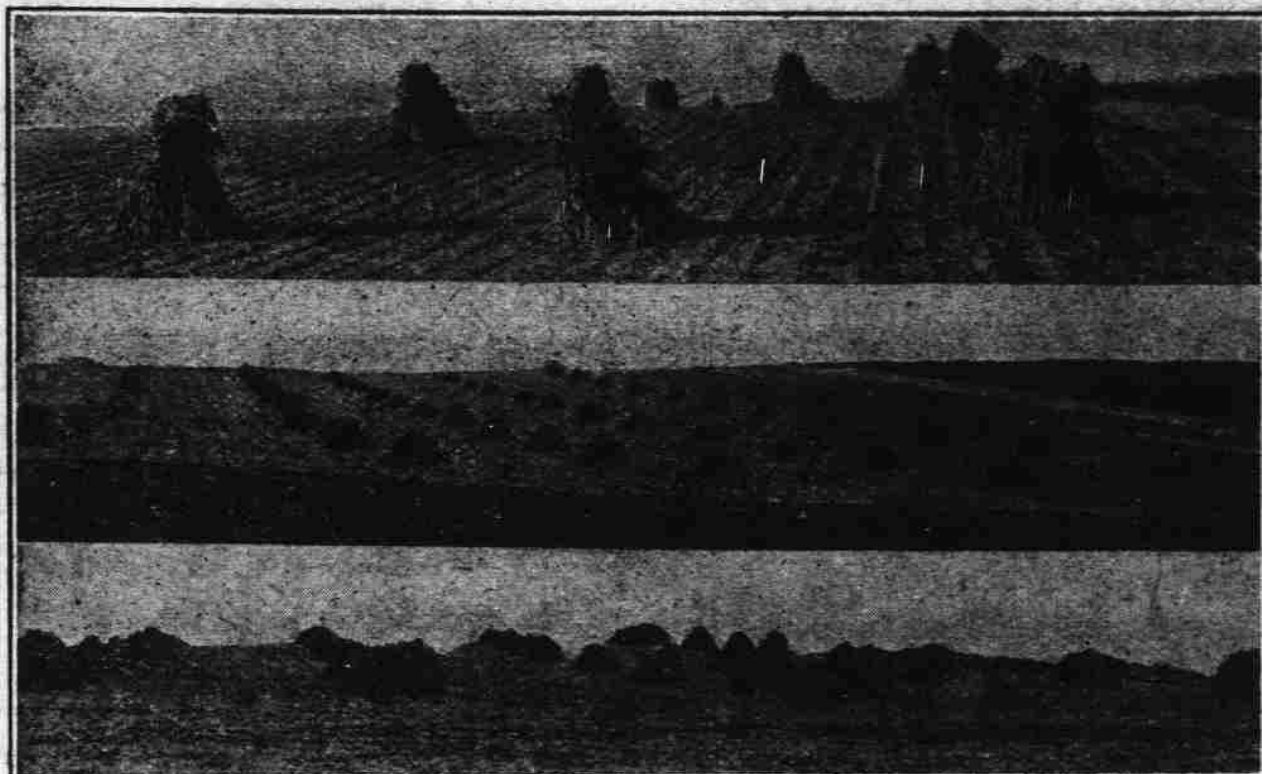
Then there is Mr. Umberger's story as to what deep plowing has done for him: making four bales of cotton on land that had grown only two bales before. But there is another part of Mr. Umberger's story even more interesting than this: it is the paragraph in which he tells us that although he is only a one-horse farmer, he always manages to get another horse or mule so as to plow double. This is the sort of spirit that will keep him from being a one-horse farmer very long, and we commend his example to all other one-horse farmers who are reading our paper. "I had just as soon try to plow with a spoon, as to break land with a single plow," he says.

### III.—Put a Cover Crop on the Land.

And another big and unforgettable fact about this plowing question is the absolute necessity for having a cover crop on the land in winter. There is no other way to keep the land from washing away, nor any other way to catch and save the soil's fertility that would otherwise leach away. This question is also suggested by our 10th page article on some profitable crops for hogs, and it is to be hoped that many of our readers have

## What Feed Makes The Cheapest Beef?

Here are views of three acres, one of corn, one of soy beans, and one of cowpeas, that were grown side by side. The product of each acre was carefully saved in the most economical manner and fed to two steers in a scientifically conducted comparative feeding test.



The acre of corn fed two steers 54 days and made 203 pounds of beef.

The acre of cowpeas fed two steers 54 days and made 327 pounds of beef.

The acre of soy beans fed two steers 80 days and made 540 pounds of beef.

Full information as to the whole experiment, the results obtained, and the conclusions to be drawn from it, will be given next week in one of the most interesting and valuable articles we have published for some time.

If you want to grow beef cheaply and profitably—if you wish at the same time to improve your soil and fill your pocketbook, you can not afford to miss this feature.

[Courtesy of Tennessee Experiment Station.]

CORN, COWPEAS, AND SOY BEANS

One Acre of Corn Made 203 lbs. Beef; One Acre Cowpeas, 327 lbs.; One Acre Soy Beans, 540 lbs.

plowed their lands and planted them to some of the crops mentioned in this article.

### IV.—Now is the Time to Beautify Your Yard.

"More Beauty for Every Farm Home in 1908"—this, it will be remembered, was one of our mottoes last spring, nor or we yet ready to give it up. On page 7 we are printing a notable article, "Making a Beautiful Yard," and we hope that it will suggest to every reader the advisability of getting some trees, shrubs, bulbs, roses and flowers for increasing the beauty of the yard and the home grounds another season. Send for the catalogs of our advertisers and get their prices, and ask for any other information you wish.

### V.—A Bunch of Pointed, Bristling Questions.

There are some very important questions in this issue also. If you are not raising good stock, there are four or five notable inquiries especially for you on page 11; and we hope that a careful reading of them will make you sit down and write to some good breeder for a good boar, bull, or ram to head your herd and improve your stock. Mr. French gets at the root of the trouble with us here in the South when he declares that we must begin to make money twelve months in the year instead of six, and this can only be done by stock raising. The curse of the boll weevil may yet force us into the blessing of stock raising.

### VI.—Our Old Platform of Progress.

There are some other articles worth noting in this issue, but we have said enough. Our features this week are in line with our old platform of progress on which we are constantly working. We shall have accomplished enough for one issue, if it leads you—

- (1) To plow deeper gradually;
- (2) To use a cover crop on your fall plowed land;
- (3) To try to beautify your yard and grounds;
- (4) To order some improved stock and poultry; and—
- (5) To set out some more fruit trees (as suggested by Professor Massey on page 15).

## Coming Next Week.

Next week we expect to publish a telling letter from Mr. French, in which he recommends the growing of more corn and of mammoth or sapling clover, and emphasizes the necessity of cleaning up the fields so that crops of all kinds may be produced with the minimum of labor.

Professor Hutt's article on "How to Plant a Tree" will be concluded with plain directions for the most important part of the work.

Dr. J. C. Robert has prepared a valuable paper on re-current ophthalmia, which will appeal to all horse raisers who fear "moonblindness."

Hog-killing time is about here, and next week we expect to devote a half-page or more to methods of butchering and to ways of caring for the products after butchering. State Commissioner of Agriculture W. A. Graham contributes "Some Old-Time Southern Recipes" that just make your mouth water; and there will be others just as good.

Miss Edwards' delayed article on "The Country Girl's Pin Money" will appear on the Home Circle page, as will also Aunt Mary's directions for making Cottage Cheese, and a bright little letter from a successful poultry woman.

We are expecting a vitally interesting paper from Professor Massey telling of the tenant system that has made money for both land-owners and laborers in Maryland while building up the fertility of the soil.

And last but not least, Associate Editor Scherer is going to the New Orleans cotton meeting for the especial purpose of reporting it for us, and his letter will be a leading feature of our next issue.

## A Thought for the Week.

Where the law of the majority ceases to be acknowledged there government ends; the law of the strongest takes its place, and life and property are his who can take them.—Thomas Jefferson.