

# THE PROGRESSIVE FARMER

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A FARM AND HOME WEEKLY FOR THE CAROLINAS, VIRGINIA, TENNESSEE, AND GEORGIA.

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## Cheaper Pork as a Guide Post to "\$500 More a Year"

**P**IGS and alfalfa—here is a combination that means prosperity, especially when the pigs are such as these—animals of the highest breeding and the finest type of excellence. The picture, it seems to us, should quicken a spirit of emulation in the heart of every Southern farmer.

We may not all be able to grow alfalfa or to have hogs of such splendid quality as are these; but every farmer in the South can grow cowpeas and soy beans and peanuts and sweet potatoes and Bermuda grass and a whole long list of other cheap and serviceable forage plants, and every man who calls himself a farmer should be ashamed to depend on the grocery store for his bacon and ham and lard. Think of it for a minute, please: millions of pounds of pig products shipped into the South every year from the great packing houses. Products on which the farmer has made a profit, and after him the railroad and the commission man and the packer and the railroad again and the wholesale man and the retail man—all these at least, often others—and for which we pay with cotton sold in the midst of an almost annual fever-fit of complaint and wild talk about low prices. Seriously, farmer friends, why do we do it?

It is not because we cannot raise the hogs. No other section can produce pork more cheaply. It is not because we do not need the hogs on our farms, for we allow annually to go to waste many thousands of dollars' worth of products which they would use and pay us a profit on. It is not for either of these reasons.

Nor do we believe it is because of the poor quality of our swine. A good pure bred pig can be bought for \$10 to \$20, and one good sire will soon improve the hogs of a community almost beyond recognition.

There seem to us two great reasons for our extravagant neglect of the useful and money-making hog. (1) We are not prepared to properly care for hogs, and (2) we do not know how to do it.

We must have fenced fields and a supply of pure water and suitable shelters for our hogs, if we are to make them pay us. We can have the water in most cases with very little trouble or expense; the shelters can be provided at a very small cost; the fences are a bigger problem, but still it does not cost so much to fence in a hog lot or two for a beginning, and the hogs themselves will furnish the funds for future extensions of the plant—that is, if they are properly cared for; and right here is where our great trouble lies. We have had the idea that the hog is an animal to turn out in the pine woods, or the swamps, or the broomsedge and blackberry fields to hustle for himself, or the equally fallacious notion that we can put him in a filthy pen, allow him to be covered with lice, feed him on dishwater and high-priced corn and make pork at a profit. Neither of these plans will work.

The money-making hog is not a wild animal—he should be a pet. He is not a creature to be raised in filth—given a chance he will keep himself scrupulously clean. He is not intended as food for lice, but for human beings. He likes a limited range, plenty of clean water, rich pastures where he can eat all he wants and then lie in the shade, and a variety of both muscle-forming and fat-producing foods so that he will be tempted to eat still more and lay on flesh of the best quality. He is to be bred from an ancestry that has shown its ability to produce much meat at a low cost, he is to be cared for from his birth, kept fat and growing every day, treated with kindness and consideration, made comfortable always and tempted to eat and eat, but to eat only of wholesome and nutritious foods.

Treated this way, the hog will be in the South, as he is elsewhere, the farm money-maker and "the farm mortgage lifter," and will become, as is said elsewhere in this issue, "the best money crop the Southern farmer can have."

Let's give him a chance this year to help us make that \$500 more.



[Courtesy Biltmore Farms.]

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### Next Week.

**N**EXT WEEK we are going to publish again a list of the Farmers' Bulletins which are likely to be of interest and value to our readers. Many farmers do not know just what a fine library of agricultural information they can have for the asking, and others forget to send for the bulletins until they are in actual need of the information in them, and then when the bulletins come possibly the time has passed when they could have been of most value. We shall have a separate list of them about household topics for the special benefit of Mrs. Farmer.

Our "\$500 More a Year" article will tell how to start the crops right—certainly a matter of vital importance. Prof. C. L. Newman has written a stirring paper, "First of All, Save the Land,"

which we hope to get in as well as a valuable account of the tools Mr. C. C. Moore has found most useful in his farming operations. The talks on the anatomy of the horse's leg and foot will be resumed, and Mr. French will have something more to say about profitable swine raising. Seasonable talks, too, on garden, poultry, and household subjects.

We don't like to tell our readers that we don't know where they can get what they want; but we have an inquiry for shell lime which we cannot answer. Another subscriber in eastern North Carolina wants to know who breeds Tamworth hogs. A third asks for Oake's Prolific corn. If you have any of these to sell—or anything else, in fact, that farmers need—it will pay you to advertise in **The Progressive Farmer**.