

THE PROGRESSIVE FARMER

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Home-Grown Hay as a Guide Post to "\$500 More a Year."



[Courtesy Weekly Live Stock Report.]

MAKING a crop of hay is very different from making a crop of corn or cotton. If one has a permanent meadow, all he has to do is to cut the grass and put it away. If he depends on annual crops for his hay, he sows them and then goes about his other work until mowing time. It is not an all-summer job to grow a hay crop; and that is one of the reasons why the farmers of the Northwest grow so much hay. They have learned that with comparatively little labor—and most of that done by horses—they can grow a crop of hay worth more on an average than any other staple crop, and that they can then send it down South and sell it to the men who have been busy all summer following a mule or wielding a hoe to make a crop of cotton or corn—killing Southern grass all summer and buying Western grass all winter.

And thus we Southern farmers go on year after year, scratching around with our little plows to make a crop of low-priced cotton and buy the hay the Western farmers raise with little labor, paying them a profit, the railroads a profit, and the two or three dealers who handle the hay a profit. It is almost incredible when we reflect that we can—and do—raise more hay to the acre than they do, and that this hay is worth more per ton with us than with them.

That is an inspiring statement made by Secretary Wilson on page 3: That six or seven years of good farming would make the average Southern land worth \$100 an acre. These are the words of a man who is a good farmer from the best farming section of the country and whose opinion is based on his long experience and his vast knowledge of farming and farming possibilities.

Secretary Wilson's hopeful prophecy is a fitting complement to those startling figures on page 2. With a crop at hand which will produce much more per acre than do the crops we are now raising, which can be produced at less cost and with less labor, which will enable us to keep more and better stock and thus make our work easier, which will at the same time increase the fertility of our lands and thus add to our permanent wealth as well as to our present income—with such a means at hand to help us on toward the goal our distinguished Secretary of Agriculture sees waiting for us, will it not be negligence of the most shameful sort if we continue to neglect it?

Try hay as a money crop this year. It beats cotton, and you don't have to attend meetings half the year to discuss acreage and prices and storage and futures in order to get your profit. It is there waiting for you all the time.

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This Week's Features.

SPEAKING of hay-making, you must read that account of what one Southern man, Dr. Ramseur, has done raising hay. There is the proof, and even if you cannot exactly duplicate his success, there is no reason to doubt that you, too, can make money growing hay. Remember the old lines: "No grass, no cattle; no cattle, no manure; no manure, no grass." To maintain soil fertility we must keep the chain unbroken, we must raise the feed, feed the stock and return the manure to the soil. Read, too, Professor Massey's "Farm Work for April." It is full of helpful suggestions as to what you should do just now. As to whether cowpeas or soy beans would be better to plant under your conditions, you will find valuable suggestions in the article on page 4. What a Southern dairy can do is admirably shown by Mr. Shuford's report of his last year's

yields. Cows that make 371 pounds of butter each in one year—over a pound per day—and this under unfavorable circumstances, are certainly cows worth having. The kind of cows we must have if we are to make dairying pay as it should and might. The average Southern farm is poorly supplied with milk and butter, and yet we can raise the best cattle feeds in the world—cowpeas, soy beans, corn—and we have thousands of tons of cottonseed meal to send abroad or to use as fertilizer. Some time there may be too many cattle in the South; but that time is yet far distant—to-day the great need is still for more stock and better stock.

Don't neglect the spring cleaning up—you will find something about it on page 5; and don't neglect the garden—you will find a variety of timely topics treated on page 17.

In our Home Circle, too, you will find, besides the beautiful Easter selections, some very practical hints on flower growing and a warning which you would do well to heed against doping yourself or your family with any "spring" patent medicines.