

The South Carolina State Fair.

Increasing Interest shown in Live Stock--Why Good Premiums Should Be Offered for Field Crop Exhibits--Increasing Use of Labor-Saving Machinery.

THE STATE FAIR of South Carolina has come and gone. The attendance was all that could be desired, and judging from the former size of the live stock exhibit, the people of this State are awakening to the importance of this industry. But while there were some very fine specimens of live stock, there were too many of the other kind. The importance of taking care of stock was very strongly illustrated also. Some animals brought into the show ring showed as careful and as intelligent grooming as could possibly have been given. Others showed a woeful lack of such handling. No man can expect to neglect an animal for most of the year and then make a prize-winner of it with a few days' attention.

Our breeders must remember that there were three distinct factors that entered into the perfection of their breed, i. e. breeding, feeding and care. These three factors have produced an artificial strain. By "artificial" we mean a strain of animals that possess qualities it was never intended by nature should be theirs. If we wish to continue to increase these qualities, we must at least keep up all the conditions that made this possible. It requires sand and lime and brick to erect a brick wall and we had as well expect success with the omission of any of these as to leave out one of the conditions that made these fine breeds. If this lesson is carried home by some of the breeders who exhibited at this fair, then the fair will indeed have been a success.

Another department that was well worth studying was the agricultural implement display. To many a farmer of this State, the exhibit of labor-saving implements would be well worth the expense of attending the fair if he studied this exhibit and took the lesson home. There are two distinct ways of increasing the income upon the farm. One is by forcing up the price for which the products are sold. Much can be done along this line by judicious and intelligent marketing, but after all is said and done, the prime factor in this is supply and demand—one over which the producer can exercise only a limited control. The other way to increase profits is to cut down the cost of production. Much can be done along this line by the individual producer. In doing this labor-saving implements can play no small part. Too long have the farmers of the South neglected to use one of their greatest assets. When we depend upon brute strength for the production of our crops we put ourselves upon an equality with the beast of burden. When we do this we are handicapped at the very beginning.

This thought is prompted by the objection so often advanced against the use of improved tools on the farm—that the negro cannot use them. Few negroes alone can make

a success of improved implements, but when directed by white intelligence many of them can run these implements to the advantage of themselves and of the brain that directs them.

The field crop exhibit was as much behind as the others were ahead of former exhibits. The superintendent of this exhibit told the writer that the trouble was that his premiums had been cut down. This was, to say the least, most unfortunate. Many seem to have an idea that it takes very little trouble and expense to make a good field exhibit and consequently that premiums for this can be small. While, of course, it does not require as much of an outlay of cash as to exhibit a fine animal, yet it is a question in my mind if not quite as much outlay of time and thought is not necessary to make a good farm display. It takes considerable time and forethought to do this properly, and one should at least have a chance to win enough in premiums to partly compensate him therefor. Another point that is sometimes lost sight of, is that, except in rare instances, the field crop exhibitor reaps a very small reward from the advertising feature of his exhibit, while the breeders of stock consider this advertisement their chief asset.

There was one feature of this exhibit particularly noticeable. The exhibit of corn was fairly large as compared with other products, but far from good in the sense that there were many distinct varieties. It showed the necessity of the agitation now going on in this State by the organization of corn clubs. Our people must learn to grow pedigreed seed just as they are raising pedigreed stock. It is true that the ear that scores the highest is not the greatest desideratum. It is yield of corn we want. But if that ear has been properly bred, the crop from it is much more apt to give the big corn yield than is seed from a scrub ear. **D. N. BARROW.**

The Southern States are now harvest fields for paint dealers. The prosperity on the farms is causing farm houses to be painted as never before and the paint manufacturers are working the prosperous sections of the South as never before. A local dealer who buys for his house says he is getting shy of drummers, thinking every new one has a paint proposition. Out on the highways paint is everywhere in evidence. The farm homes are being painted, many of them for the first time, and this seems to be true of all Southern sections.—Concord (N. C.) Tribune.

One of the doctors has stated that if pellagra comes from corn at all, it is only Western corn that harbors the disease. There is no special objection to this doctrine.—Yorkville Enquirer.

PRELIMINARY ESTIMATE OF 1909 CROPS.

The Bureau of Statistics of the United States Department of Agriculture has made preliminary estimates of the production of most of the important crops of the United States, a summary of which, with comparisons is as follows:

Crop.	1909. Preliminary	1908.	5-Year Av'ge. 1903-1907.
Corn, bu.....	2,767,316,000	2,668,651,000	2,285,877,000
Wheat, bu.....	724,768,000	664,602,000	650,510,000
Oats, bu.....	983,618,000	807,156,000	870,251,000
Rye, bu.....	31,006,000	31,851,000	30,006,000
Potatoes, bu.....	367,473,000	278,985,000	289,400,000
Hay, tons.....	64,166,000	70,798,000	60,671,000
Tobacco lbs.....	895,185,000	718,061,000	698,004,000

Floats on Manure.

Would you advise using untreated phosphate rock or "floats" on stable manure? We get this manure in car lots from the city. What is the best way to handle this stable manure? **W. J. Q.**

(Answer by Prof. W. F. Massey.)

Untreated phosphate rock finely pulverized is a good article to mix with stable manure. Acid phosphate will have a better effect, as it will tend more to retain the ammonia. But at half the price of the acid phosphate I would use the floats at rate of 100 pounds to a ton of manure.

In getting manure from the city, I would sprinkle every layer of ten inches well with acid phosphate and would make the heaps broad and flat, and not over four feet high, driving over it and tramping it down as tight as possible. Then if the manure begins to heat, turn it and re-pile in the same broad, flat heaps and pack down.

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PUBLIC SALE OF OKLAHOMA SCHOOL LANDS.

Notice is hereby given that the Commissioners of the Land Office of the State of Oklahoma, under and by virtue of the authority vested in them by the laws of said state, will offer for sale and sell at public auction 57340.61 acres of Common School Indemnity Lands belonging to said state and situate in the County of Lincoln and all improvements thereon situate and which have been appraised. Said sale to begin on the 15th day of December, A. D., 1909, and to continue up to and including the 7th day of January, 1910, Sundays and legal holidays excluded.

Said sale will be held at the door of the Court House wherein the County Court of said county is held in the City of Chandler, Oklahoma.

Said 57340.61 acres of land are divided into 361 tracts and each tract with the improvements thereon, will be offered for sale and sold separately. No person shall be permitted to purchase more than one quarter-section of land and all sales of said land shall be made according to the provisions of Article 2, of Chapter 23 of the Session Laws of Oklahoma for the year 1909 and the rules and regulations adopted by the Commissioners of the Land Office of said state, and all bidders on said lands, and purchasers of said lands are to be governed and bound thereby.

The terms and conditions of the sale of said lands and improvements are as follows:

No bid can be made for the improvements upon any tract of land to be sold, but the improvements on any tract shall be purchased and paid for by the successful bidder for the land. On each tract of land for which some person has a valid lease, such person as the lessee thereof, has the preference right to purchase such tract at the highest bid received therefor, or in the event no bid is received for such tract, such lessee shall have the right to purchase the same at the appraised value thereof. Each tract of land shall be sold at public auction to the highest and best bidder and such bidder upon the acceptance of his bid, is required to pay to the Commissioners of the Land Office, or their authorized Agent, for the use and benefit of the lessee of said tract, the appraised value of the improvements thereon as shown by the official appraisal thereof, and in addition to the payment of the appraised value of the improvements, the successful bidder shall, upon the acceptance of his bid, be required to pay to the Commissioners of the Land Office, or their authorized agent an amount equal to 5 per cent of his bid upon the tract of land, but in no event shall said amount be less than \$50.00 and in no event will any bid for any tract of land be considered or accepted for less than the appraised value thereof, provided, however, in the event that the lessee of any tract offered for sale and upon which a bid has been offered and received, desires to and does then and there exercise his preference right to purchase said land at the highest bid, he shall have the lawful right so to do and if he so elects, the sale of such tract shall be made to him.

The remainder of the purchase price to-wit: 95 per cent shall be paid in forty equal annual payments with interest thereon, at the rate of 5 per cent per annum, provided, however, the purchaser of any tract is given the privilege at any interest payment after expiration of five years, to pay any or all deferred payments, both principal and interest.

Before any person other than the lessee thereof, shall be qualified to bid upon any tract of said land, he shall deposit with the Commissioners of the Land Office or their authorized agent, an amount equal to 10 per cent of the appraised value of the lessee's improvements as shown by the official appraisal thereof and when such deposit is made and the person depositing himself to bid upon a particular tract, and he is unsuccessful in his bid for said tract, such deposit if desired by the unsuccessful bidder will be retained and he will be qualified to bid on any tract offered for sale thereafter until he withdraws such deposit.

A full and complete description of each tract of said land can be had upon application to said Commissioners of the Land Office and upon request, a pamphlet containing a complete list of said lands by section, township and range, together with a brief description of each tract thereof with the improvements thereon and setting out the appraisement of the land and the improvements, together with a map of said county and an abstract of the laws authorizing the sale of said lands and the rules and regulations adopted by the Commissioners of the Land Office will be furnished free of cost to any person.

Address all communications to the Commissioners of the Land Office of the State of Oklahoma, or John N. Sheplar, Supt. of Sales, Guthrie, Oklahoma.

Witness our hands in the City of Guthrie, in said State, on this 11th day of November, 1909.

C. N. HASKELL, Governor.
BILL CROSS, Secretary of State
M. E. TRAPP, State Auditor.
E. D. CAMERON, Superintendent of Public Instruction.
J. P. CONNORS, President Board of Agriculture.
Composing Commissioners of Land Office of the State of Oklahoma.

Attest:
ED. O. CASSIDY, Secretary.

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