

# THE PROGRESSIVE FARMER.

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## Better Care of the Manure as a Guide Post to "\$500 More a Year Farming."

**S**OME THINGS WE SAY over and over until some of our friends may be tired of hearing them; but in every case where we do this we are sure that conditions justify the repetition.

No reader who thinks will find fault with us, we are sure, for once more calling attention to the great need—yes, the absolute necessity—of making more stable manure and taking better care of what we make. Indeed the same appeal to the business sense of Southern farmers goes up, with much greater force than we are able to express it, from the thousands and thousands of worn and washed, gully-scarred and humus-starved acres that mar this fair Southland of ours. In the new day of better farming that is coming we, the farmers of the South, are going to get rid of these unprofitable and unsightly acres—are going to convert them into fair fields that will reward the man who tills them with a rich return for his care and labor. To do this, there is but one way: We must put back into these soils the humus we have burned and washed out of them by repeated summer cultivations and continued winter exposure. We can do this by growing the legumes on them; but to do it most profitably, we must feed these legumes to live stock and return the manure to the fields. As was stated last week, we can not, under ordinary circumstances, afford to apply directly to the soil any crop that can be fed to stock; and this means that we must have more live stock of all kinds to convert the crops we raise into meat and power and milk, and leave, at the same time, most of the fertilizing elements in these crops on the farm where they can help to grow other crops.

We need more stock, then, and we need to make more manure; but we also need almost equally as much to take better care of the manure we are now making.

Are we of the South so rich that we can afford in three States to waste \$29,000,000 worth of plant food each year?

We do not believe we are; but if we were, it would be none the less criminal for us to do it. A needless waste is always criminal; and

to many Southern farmers the proper care of the manure made on the farm would mean the difference between poor crops and good ones, between "hard times" and prosperity. This is no exaggeration, but a plain statement of simple facts.

And it isn't so hard to take care of the manure and prevent much of the waste that now goes on. Just a few simple rules need to be followed:

1. Have the floors of the stables made so that the liquid manure cannot escape. A concrete floor will answer, or a very close board floor, or one made of clay packed down hard and tight.

2. Use plenty of bedding—pine straw, leaves, cut-up corn stalks, dust, refuse hay or straw—so as to absorb the liquids. With a tight earth floor and plenty of bedding the common loss of one-third to one-half the value of the manure may be reduced to very little; and any farmer can have these two things.

3. Haul the manure out every day if possible and spread it on the land. If not able to do this, let it pack in the stables, using plenty of bedding and keeping it moist—not wet—and firmly packed.

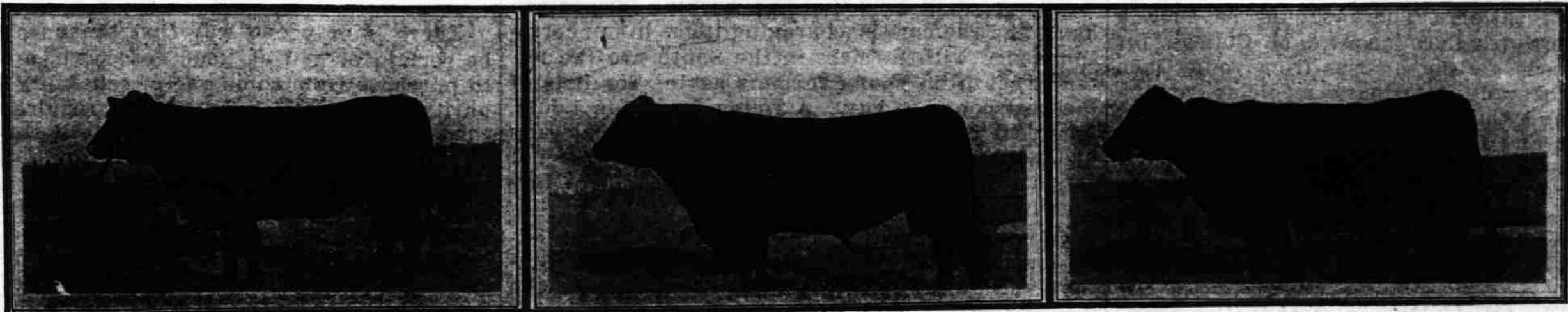
4. Do not let it get dry and "fire-fang."

5. Do not throw it out in the weather. If it must be piled out at all, make wide, flat heaps and keep them moist.

6. Never mix lime or ashes with the manure. Acid phosphate or floats makes an excellent absorbent, however, and supplies the element in which the manure is most lacking—phosphoric acid.

7. When manure is taken to the fields, do not throw it in little heaps and leave it for the ammonia to escape. Get it spread on or mixed with the soil as soon as possible.

8. Do not waste time and money with recipes for making "fertilizers" or composts out of the manure. For some truck crops it may pay to compost manure with sods or earth; but on the average farm the best thing is to get it on the land with no more handling than is absolutely necessary.



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