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THE cost of producing pork and dairy products is greatly reduced by good permanent pastures and a rotation of grazing crops. In fact, it is unwise to attempt to grow livestock of any kind without first providing good permanent pastures and a rotation of grazing crops, and especially leguminous crops.

BOLL weevils are appearing on the young cotton, living on the terminal buds until the squares appear, then puncturing these and depositing eggs in them. Where weevils are at all numerous, we believe it will pay to pick and destroy them. A pair of weevils now may increase to millions by August. It will also be well to gather and destroy the punctured squares.

DRY cowpeas are very rich in protein and will take the place of meat to a great extent in human rations. In fact a pound of dry cowpeas contains as much digestible protein as a pound of the best beefsteak. Now is the time to plant the white and black-eye varieties, which are the most desirable for table use. Plant in rows on a level and cultivate on a level. Thresh the seed soon after harvesting and put them in barrels or boxes. The hulls may be fed to livestock.

THE County Board of Education of Madison County, Ala., has decided to have all the schools under its control open about July 15, and then close for a month or six weeks during the height of the cotton-picking season. During normal times we would doubt the wisdom of such a plan, but the present times are abnormal. Where the labor shortage threatens to become acute this fall, and this will probably be nearly everywhere in our territory, this plan may well be considered by county boards of education.

THERE is no man or set of men seeking office in North Carolina this year whose election means half so much to the state as the passage of the proposed constitutional amendment for a six months' school term. The adoption of this amendment will do more than anything else that can happen this year to raise North Carolina in the eyes of other sections, as well as in the estimation of its own people. We again urge every Progressive Farmer reader to try to put his precinct on the "White List" with regard to this great step in state progress—this "White List" consisting of those precincts in which not a single vote is cast against the measure. If any man is not willing to vote for the amendment, urge him not to vote at all.

STATE Food Administrator Henry A. Page, of North Carolina, presents a good slogan for the war when he says:

"We must not only substitute but we must economize. We must eat less, wear less, spend less money for non-essentials, conserve not only foodstuffs and clothing but labor as well. Every hour of man-power should be made to produce as nearly as possible 100 per cent efficiency toward the winning of the war."

Another thing to be remembered is that this doctrine is going to be needed not only during the war but after the war is over. So many men will have been killed and crippled that there will long be a shortage of labor. So much property will have been destroyed and so many billions spent in prosecuting the war that the world will be poorer than it has been for a long time previously. We must indeed therefore discipline ourselves in economy, thrift and efficiency not only for the war period but after the war. And if we in the South will

keep this up until it becomes a sort of "second nature" with us, we will have the greatest section of America.

More Money for Community Fairs

AT A meeting of the State Board of Agriculture last week, it was voted to make \$5,000, instead of \$3,000 as formerly decided on, available for premiums in community and county fairs in North Carolina this year.

As the amount for county fairs is limited, this means a great increase in the amount available for community fairs. In effect, it means that every North Carolina community wishing to hold a fair this fall can get \$25 for premium money from the State Department of Agriculture, provided the farmers and business men of the section will themselves raise \$25 or more. Everybody interested should write S. G. Rubinow, Chairman Fair Committee, State Department of Agriculture, for full information, asking at the same time for free copies of his three new bulletins just issued, "The Organization and Management of Fairs," "Fairs and Their Educational Value," and "Composite Premium List and Judges' Score Cards for Fairs."

What It Costs to Grow Cotton: Some Figures on the 1918 Crop

THE cost of growing cotton of course must vary greatly in different localities, with different farmers in the same locality, and in different seasons. In the drouth-stricken portions of Texas last year, for instance, no doubt many a farmer's cotton cost him fully 50 cents a pound to grow, while in more favored sections the cost was much less.

Here we propose to take the state of Alabama, where probably average conditions prevail, in so far as factors affecting the cost of cotton growing are concerned, and analyze the probable cost of the 1918 crop.

The average per acre yield for the state in 1917 was, according to the Bureau of Crop Estimates of the United States Department of Agriculture, about 125 pounds of lint. It is generally agreed that last year the season was more favorable than the average, the comparatively small yield being due to the boll weevil rather than unfavorable weather. The weevil now, however, is in every important cotton-growing state except North Carolina, and wherever this pest is present it is a most serious factor to be reckoned with in growing cotton.

The following we consider a fair estimate of the cost of growing cotton in Alabama at the rate of 125 pounds of lint per acre during the current year:

Rent of land	\$ 5.00
Fertilizers (160 pounds @ \$50 per ton).....	4.00
Breaking and re-breaking land.....	8.00
Putting out fertilizer.....	1.50
Seed	1.00
Harrowing and planting	2.00
Three hoeings @ \$3 each.....	9.00
Six cultivations @ \$2 each	12.00
Picking 400 pounds seed cotton @ \$1.50 per hundred	6.00
Hauling to gin, bagging and ties and ginning.....	2.00
Total cost	\$ 50.50
Total cost per bale of 500 pounds.....	202.00
Less ½ ton seed @ \$70 per ton.....	35.00
Net cost of producing 500 pounds lint.....	\$167.00
Net cost per pound of lint.....	.334

Let us now look at the items of expense, one by one:

Rent of land at \$5 per acre, we believe is conservative, and not above the average.

The item of 160 pounds of fertilizers is about the actual amount used under cotton in Alabama, and \$50 per ton is about what a 10-2-2 fertilizer has cost this year.

In the actual making of the crop, we are valuing horse labor at \$1 a day, a conservative figure, as anyone who has experienced the cost of horse and mule upkeep will agree. We doubt if many owners would care to feed and care for their horses and mules and rent them out at anything like this figure.

Human labor is always the biggest single factor in cotton production, and relatively human labor is right now the scarcest and highest-priced of all

the things that enter into cotton production. Ignorant, unskilled Negro labor is easily commanding \$3 per day at nearly every industrial plant in the South, and the farm labor supply has been depleted to an extent never before known. Now if cotton is to be raised in the future, it must certainly pay the grower as much as he can get elsewhere. If it does not, then the worker will inevitably drift to the industry that pays the higher wage.

For these reasons, we are placing the labor cost at \$3 per day. Any man who objects to this as being too high is simply asserting that the man who toils to make cotton has no right to as much pay for his day's work as the no more skilled man who works in mill or mine.

Prices for picking last year were \$1.50 per hundred in many sections, and we don't expect to see much cotton picked for less this fall. Indications now are that prices for ginning and wrapping will be around \$5 per bale, and this plus the cost of hauling and marketing will be around \$8 per bale.

On this basis, estimating seed at \$70 per ton, a price we are by no means guaranteed, we have a net cost per pound of lint of 33.4 cents. Of course where the yield is above 125 pounds per acre the cost will be less, but as the yield falls below this average the cost will be correspondingly higher.

"Cotton can be grown for much less than 33.4 cents a pound," the men who are interested in cheap cotton will say. It can; but the only way to do it, where conditions are like those in Alabama, is to deny to the grower anything but starvation wages; to deny his family comforts and conveniences that the families of even the most unskilled workers are getting in industrial plants.

It is time for the cotton farmer to assert himself; time for him to demand what is rightfully his. He wants no more, but he is going to be satisfied with no less.

The Loan Fund for Farm Boys and Girls

WE HOPE every reader of The Progressive Farmer will read of the plans for a loan fund to help North Carolina farm boys and girls as given on page 16.

The plan differs from that of many funds of this general character in that both principal and interest are helpful, the principal as a loan fund and the interest as prize money. This plan also offers an opportunity for the man who would like to give but fears he might later meet reverses which would cause him to need the money. Gifts are preferred of course; but if any man does not feel himself in a position to give, and yet would like to do something to help the farm boys and girls of the state, he can lend some amount without interest. Thus at 6 per cent interest, it will cost a man only \$60 a year to give the fund the use of \$1,000, or \$30 a year to give it the use of \$500.

A thousand men in North Carolina who know something of the need for encouraging our farm boys and girls ought to be willing to give \$100 to \$1,000 in Liberty Bonds or War Savings Stamps or cash to help this movement; and those who do not wish to give should be willing to lend as just indicated. And if a man cannot give largely, let him at least give something. It will reflect credit on North Carolina to have a large number of contributors.

Most of our larger farmers and business men have prospered notably these last two or three years. We hope many of them will take this opportunity to lend a helping hand to ambitious country boys and girls who need help. Full information will be sent to any person writing Governor Bickett, or sending the following blank to The Progressive Farmer:

Editor Progressive Farmer: Please send me full information about the plan for a Loan Fund for North Carolina farm boys and girls. I might consider making some contribution to it.

Name

Address