

THE PROGRESSIVE FARMER



EASTERN EDITION

A Farm and Home Weekly for

The Carolinas, Virginia, Georgia, and Florida.

FOUNDED 1886, AT RALEIGH, N. C.

Vol. XXXIII. No. 47.

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 23, 1918

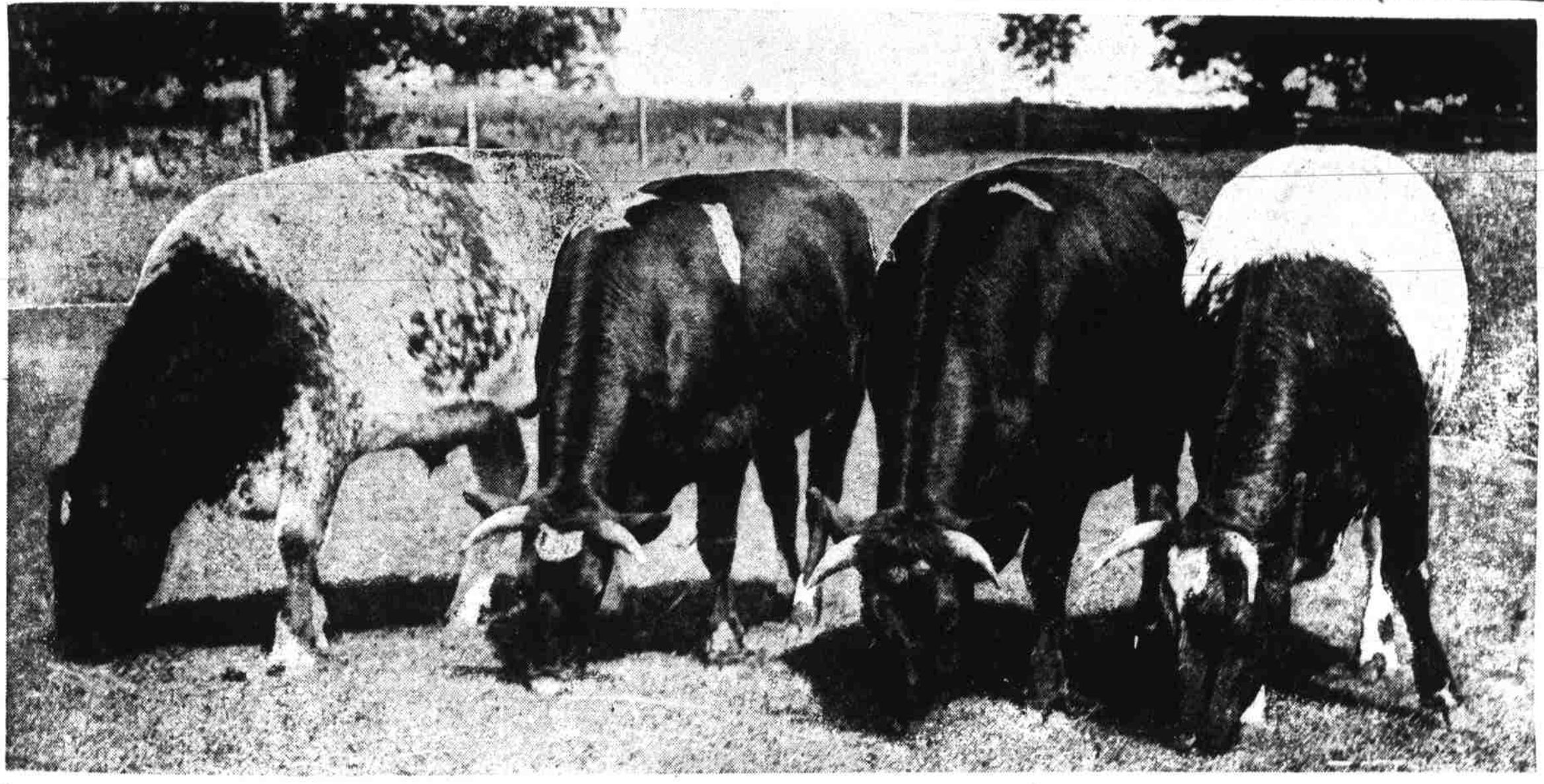
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A THANKSGIVING THOUGHT ON BEAUTY

THE Thanksgiving season, coming at a time when the world is so beautiful, brings to mind the "prayer of Moses, the man of God," in the wonderful 90th Psalm: "And let the beauty of the Lord be upon us." Here in the rural South unfortunately we are yet far

clearing out any ragged places that may divide the tract into piddling patches, and lay off the place into even, well-shaped, symmetrical fields.

Let us make the home beautiful outside by painting the building,



SOME CLASSY SHORTHORNS

behind most other sections in our appreciation of beauty—as is only too painfully revealed by our countless unpainted houses; ragged, patchy fields; the too scanty use of our glorious possibilities in shade trees, flowers, and lawns; and a common tendency to use inartistic pictures in the home instead of reproductions of the world's masterpieces of art and beauty.

Now is a good time to call to mind Mohammed's advice: "He that hath two cakes of bread, let him sell one of them for flowers of the narcissus; for bread is food for the body, but the narcissus is food for the soul;" and the later saying of our American sage, Ralph Waldo Emerson: "Never lose an opportunity of seeing anything that is beautiful: for beauty is God's handwriting—a wayside sacrament. Welcome it in every fair face, in every fair sky, in every fair flower, and thank God for it as a cup of blessing."

Now at this Thanksgiving season let us indeed resolve that the coming year shall bring into our homes and lives more of the element of beauty.

Let us make the farm itself beautiful by healing the gullies or waste places,

and setting about it not only stately shade trees but flowering shrubs—the redbud or Judas tree to blossom in early spring; the dogwood in later spring; the mimosa in early summer; and the crape myrtle through all the latter part of summer and early fall—besides bulbs and a glorious abundance of other flowers.

Then let us make the inside of the home beautiful by putting on the walls reproductions of famous pictures, and by utilizing in all appropriate forms the beauty not only of cultivated flowers but also of our too often forgotten wild flowers.

The poorest family, as well as the richest, may have all these things. The poorest family, too, as well as the richest, may have the more intangible forms of beauty we need to cultivate—the beauty of song and music and play, all of which need more attention among us; the ancient beauty of courtesy and chivalry and unselfishness in everyday speech and conduct; the beauty, too, of Thanksgiving not merely on one day in the year, but on all days, to Him who offers us all these things if we but have the will to seek them.

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