

A Real North Carolina State Fair

Mrs. Vanderbilt Fulfills Her Promise to the People: "It Shows North Carolina."—Eight Achievements
By CLARENCE POE

THE first thing that impressed us about the North Carolina State Fair last week was not really about the fair at all. It was about the people of North Carolina as a whole.

The 1922 North Carolina State Fair made us wonder how much unused, unexplored leadership there is in North Carolina—especially among our North Carolina women. North Carolina had this year the first real State Fair as ever had, so far as we can remember. Heretofore there has been too much truth in the contention that it was a rather local or sectional fair and not a real North Carolina State Fair.

This year it was a real State Fair, and the people of North Carolina have to thank Mrs. Edith Vanderbilt for this result. We had been electing men presidents a long time, and each new man elected president took the thing as a sort of deserved compliment to his greatness and popularity and let it go at that. But two years ago General Julian S. Carr conceived the idea of making Mrs. Vanderbilt president. So it was done, and most people imagined that Mrs. Vanderbilt would also accept the election as a deserved tribute to her merits and let the fair go along in the same old ruts.

But Mrs. Vanderbilt is not made that way. She decided that inasmuch as she had been elected president of a North Carolina State Fair, the folks must have a North Carolina State Fair, and not simply an enormous midway and a moderate-sized racetrack, with miscellaneous exhibits thrown in for good measure.

The 1922 State Fair was not only the best State Fair yet held, but we are inclined to say that it was the only real State Fair yet held. And this is the fact that brought up our question as to the undiscovered and unused leadership in North Carolina and especially among North Carolina women. It was just an accident that Mrs. Vanderbilt was put in this position. In the same way, it was almost an accident that Mrs. Jane S. McKimmon discovered her great capacities for leadership. Under slightly different circumstances she might have served out her life within the narrow limits of a certain social or church group without ever realizing her capacity for serving an entire state.

The following are some of the distinguishing features of the 1922 State Fair:

1. The agricultural and livestock exhibits were the best on record.
2. The community exhibits were unusually good.
3. The midway was cleaned up and the gambling shows, etc., of other days eliminated.
4. In the agricultural exhibits there was a greater diversity of products shown, indicating interest in a better rounded agriculture in North Carolina. More attention was given to legumes, pastures, fruit, and gardens. The importance of rotation, of terracing and liming land, and of spraying fruit were more emphasized than ever before.
5. More attention was given to the educational value of county, farm, and community exhibits. Last year, we believe, only 10 points in 100 were allowed for educational value; this year, 30. Names of varieties and breeds were given more plainly on labels than ever before—and there is room for considerable improvement at this point even yet. In every community, county, and state fair there should be rigid enforcement of the rule requiring each product to be plainly labeled and labeled so that it can be read at least 10 feet away.

6. Not only was there a notable exhibit of home demonstration work, but in the general farm exhibits, the part played by women was recognized more adequately than ever before. Several of the exhibits were made in the names of "Mr. and Mrs." So-and-so and one

excellent exhibit was in the name of "Carter Tisdale and Mother".

7. There was also increased recognition of the importance of marketing as a factor in farm prosperity. The exhibits of the Cotton Growers' Cooperative Association and the Tobacco Growers' Cooperative Association attracted unusual attention, and in a number of individual, community, and county farm exhibits, the importance of cooperative marketing was stressed. Certificates of membership in the cooperative associations were exhibited alongside the other best products of the farm. The special grades of tobacco recognized by the Tobacco Association as standard were eagerly studied. A hornet's nest in the Wake County exhibit bore this interesting legend: "Built by Organization: An Individual Could Not Have Done It."

8. The boys and girls from the agricultural and home economics classes of our North Carolina high schools continue to send increasing numbers and increasingly valuable exhibits to our State Fair. Many a man as he looked at their work and thought of the advantages they now have no doubt echoed the thought of County Agent J. R. Sams of Polk County: "I envy the boys and girls of today the great advantages they have. I am glad—glad beyond measure—they have these advantages; but I only wish we older men and women of North Carolina could have had such privileges when we were growing up."

Heavy rains early last week prevented many people from getting to the fair. We hope every Progressive Farmer reader in North Carolina who did not attend this year will try to attend next year, for we are confident that the fair, having once been put on this broad and progressive basis, will be kept on this high plane henceforth. Nor should those who attend the State Fair hereafter come to Raleigh with the expectation of rushing through the exhibits in a few hours with only a hurried glimpse at each department. The Fair as conducted this year was a great educational institution and any North Carolina farmer or farmer's wife would be benefited by giving two full days to a careful study of such a wonderful group of exhibits.

We congratulate President Vanderbilt, Manager Walborn, Secretary Pogue, and Treasurer Denson on their achievement.

Great Improvement in North Carolina Livestock Exhibits

THE North Carolina State Fair management certainly made great strides forward in improving its livestock exhibits this year. It not only surpassed last year but surpassed any other show that has ever been put on in the state.

The showing of dairy cows was perhaps the most impressive feature and rightly indicates the turning of farmers not only to the family cow, but to the production of milk for sale locally as sour cream, or for the manufacture of cheese. It is also a credit to North Carolina that more than half of the dairy cattle shown were from the home state, while not a single foreign Jersey herd was exhibited. This does not mean that the state is hostile to outsiders—far from it; and it would not be creditable if the showing had been poor, but it will make all North Carolina farmers glad to learn that the state was able to put on its best Jersey show without outside assistance. There were 32 more head of Jersey cattle alone this year than of all dairy breeds combined last year.

A new feature was brought in by offering prizes of \$75, \$65, \$60, and \$50 for the best county herds of Jerseys, one-half the prize money being given by the State Fair and one-half by the North Carolina Jersey Breeders' Association. The herds consisted of seven

cows and each herd had to be made up of animals from four different breeders. This is a new and effective way of encouraging the smaller breeders to show their cattle and should be extended to other breeds of livestock. Catawba County entered two herds and won first and second prizes, Mecklenburg entered two herds and won third and fifth prizes, while Alamance entered one herd and captured fourth prize.

A very effective exhibit was put on by the Dairy Extension Service under the direction of Prof. J. A. Arey, showing the value of a purebred bull in increasing the production of a herd of dairy cattle. "Eminent 19th", now 16 years old, was shown with 6 of his daughters. This bull increased the butterfat production of these daughters 35 per cent above that of their dams. The slogan of this exhibit was "The Greater Percentage of Purebred Bulls the Greater Production Per Cow." The following valuable table was also given:

State	Purebred Dairy Bulls	Average milk Production per cow
North Carolina.....	21 per cent	2,666 pounds
Wisconsin.....	43 per cent	4,016 pounds
Oregon.....	48 per cent	4,205 pounds

This table shows very conclusively that milk production is greatly increased by bringing in better dairy sires, and every farmer who is depending on scrub sires should take the lesson to heart for his own profit.

The record made by Mr. B. B. Miller, Mt. Ulla, N. C., can hardly be beaten. He brought one Hereford bull to the fair, "Salisbury", and won three premiums carrying with them \$75 in money besides the free advertising. This bull was grand champion over all beef breed bulls, senior champion, and won first prize in his class. This bull, as well as his dam, was bred and developed on Mr. Miller's own farm. Truly therefore he is a North Carolina product. Offspring of this champion is not only heading Hereford herds in the South but in Iowa, Ohio, and South America as well. The bull is a double standard polled and would be hard to beat by any showing.

Considering the showing of beef cattle as a whole, it was 50 per cent larger and very much better in quality, according to Prof. R. S. Curtis of the North Carolina Extension Service, who was in charge of the beef cattle exhibits.

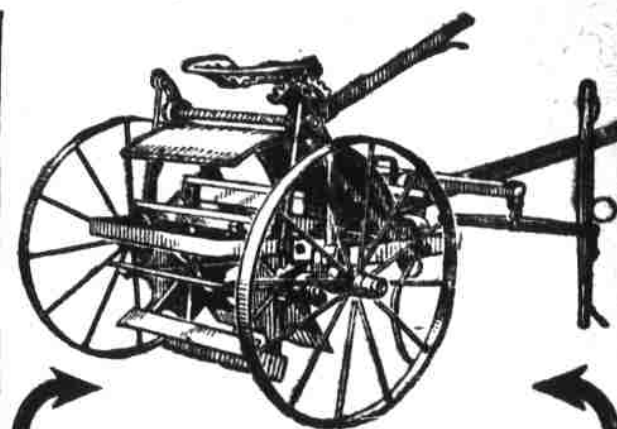
The showing of hogs was bigger and very much better according to Mr. W. W. Shay of the North Carolina Extension Service, who was in charge of the swine show. There was a 25 per cent increase in number and a 50 per cent increase in quality, according to his figures. Duroc-Jerseys led in the showing, there being nearly as many Durocs as of all other breeds combined. Hampshires came second, Poland-Chinas third, and Berkshires fourth.

One reason, perhaps, for the large Duroc showing was the extra \$600 in premiums given by the Duroc Association for young hogs shown in this breed. Notable in the hog show, too, was the 20 pig club pigs exhibited from Craven County.

The exhibits of poultry, sheep, horses and mules were also an improvement over former years. This is perhaps the first time in the history of the fair when an attempt was made to obtain a showing of mules and while the exhibit was not large, it was creditable. The sheep show was the best ever, being 50 per cent better than last year and 40 per cent better in quality, according to Mr. George Evans of the Extension Service, who was in charge of this part of the livestock exhibits.

Heating Sweet Potato Storage House

"WILL a kerosene heater be sufficient to cure sweet potatoes?" That depends on the size of the storage room or house. We have houses here which hold 20,000 bushels. It would take a big kerosene heater for such a house. If the house is so small that you can raise a heat of 85 degrees in it with the heater, it will be all right. A grower in Georgia built a sweet potato house of good size, piled the potatoes in the middle of the house, and set a kerosene heater in each of the four corners, and had plenty of heat. W. F. M.



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