

THE CAROLINA FARMER

A WEEKLY

FOR THE FARM &

FIRESIDE

FARMERS, WRITE FOR YOUR PAPER.

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NO. 4

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Twelve lines solid Nonparell type constitute a square. Four squares estimated as a quarter-column, eight squares as a half-column, and sixteen squares as a whole column.

The FARMER has a large and growing circulation among the best class of farmers and planters of the South, especially in the two Carolinas.

The Postage on the Farmer is only five cents per quarter, payable at the office where the paper is received.

Post Office Money Orders may be obtained in all the cities, and in many of the large towns. We consider them perfectly safe, and the best means of remitting fifty dollars or less.

Registered Letters, under the new system, which went into effect June 1st, are a very safe means of sending small sums of money where P. O. Money Orders cannot be easily obtained. Observe, the Registry fee, as well as postage, must be paid in stamps at the office where the letter is mailed, or it will be liable to be sent to the Dead Letter Office. Buy and affix the stamps both for postage and registry, put in the money and seal the letter in the presence of the post-master and take his receipt for it. Letters sent in this way to us are at our risk.

Agricultural.

The Use of Oxen.

It cannot be too strongly urged upon those who are about embarking in agricultural pursuits, as a means of securing a livelihood, (and who may be free from many of the prejudices entertained against oxen,) to make the experiment at least, and give the thing a fair trial, before they encumber themselves with a stock of farm horses; in doing which it will easily be seen they hazard nothing; for should any wish to abandon the plan after a sufficient trial, one summer's grass will enable them to obtain, in cash, an advance on the first cost of their cattle, if young and thrifty, and such are always to be had. In answer to the argument against oxen, we hold the same views urged by Madison. "The objections generally made to the ox are 1st. that he is less tractable than the horse; 2nd. that he does not bear heat as well; 3d. that he does not answer for the single plow used in our cornfields; 4th. that he is slower in his movements; 5th. that he is less fit for carrying the produce of the farm to market. The first objection is certainly founded in error. Of all animals the ox is the most docile. In all countries where the ox is the ordinary draught animal, his docility is proverbial.

His intractability, where it exists, has arisen from an occasional use of him only, with long and irregular intervals; during which, the habit of discipline being broken, a new one is to be formed. The second objection has a little foundation. The constitution of the ox accommodates itself as readily as that of the horse to different climates. Not only in ancient Greece and Italy, but throughout Asia, as presented to us in ancient history, the ox and the plough are associated. In the warm parts of India and China, the ox, not the horse, is in the draught service. In every part of India the ox always appears, even in the train of her armies. The third objection is also not a solid one. The ox can by a proper harness, be used singly, as well as the horse, between the rows of corn; and equally so used for other purposes. Experience may be safely appealed to on this point. In the fourth place it is alleged that he is slower in his movements. This is true, but in a less degree than is often taken for granted. Oxen that are well chosen for their form, are not often worked after the age of about eight years, (the age at which they are best fitted for beef,) are not worked too many together, and are suitably matched, may be kept at nearly as quick a step as that of the horse, might I not say quicker than that of many of the horses we see at work, who, on account of their age, or the leanness occasioned by the costliness of the food they require, lose the advantage where they once might have had it? The last objection has most weight. The ox is not as well adapted as the horse to the road service, especially for long trips. In common roads, which are often soft, and sometimes suddenly become so, the form of his foot and the shortness of his leg are disadvantages; and on roads frozen or turpiked, the roughness of the surface in the former case, and its hardness in both cases, are inconvenient to his cloven foot. But where the distance to market is not great, where the varying state of the roads and of the weather can be consulted, and where the road service is less in proportion to the farm service, the objection is almost deprived of its weight. Were it admitted, as perhaps it should, that an ox will consume more hay or long provender than a horse, it must also be conceded that the horse refuses much that will well sustain the ox—and the objection can at any rate only apply in all its force where the owner is near enough to market to send his hay for sale. Now as the grain crop is more condensed in proportion to value, and admits of much easier transportation to market, the horse being the consumer according to calculation, of ninety bushels more of grain, is in that view and in that proportion the more expensive animal of the two. Another view which must not be overlooked is, that the ox makes much more and better manure than the horse. He is, in fact, a much better machine for grinding down, by his ruminating process, into manure, all the provender which cannot be taken for sale from the farm. It is in few cases economical, often not, even with hogs, to consume the grain upon the farm; and of all things that eat it, not excepting poultry and pigeons, the horse is the most expensive, as he gives it back in no way but by his labor, and therefore is the last animal that should be kept when it can be avoided.—*American Stock Journal.*

Hints About Stables.

In the greater part of the United States the stabling of stock in winter is a necessity; and it would a decided improvement in some other sections, where it has never been applied. Great improvements have been made in the construction of stables within the last few years, especially in the manner of erecting feeding troughs. The high racks formerly erected over the heads of horses and cattle, from which they had to draw their food, scattering hay seeds and dust over their heads and into their eyes, have in a great measure been discarded. No one thinks of erecting them in newly built stables at this

day and where they still hold a place in old ones, troughs should be substituted. Besides the injurious effects above named, the animal is obliged to assume an unnatural position to reach its food, and after reaching it, must change its position to masticate and swallow it. We advise every one who still retains those racks in his stables to have them removed and substituted by troughs of modern plans which are very simple and well suited to the uses for which they are intended; and to do this now, before the feeding season commences. If the improvement is postponed until then there are nine chances to one that it will not be done and the poor animals will have to go through another winter in the old star-gazing, break-neck fashion to reach their food. The man who invented these overhead racks for feeding stock must have been a queer genius, and those who adhere to the system with such pertinacity a rather stiff-necked people.

Want of sufficient light is a great fault in a large majority of stables and is very injurious to stock in more ways than one. To be shut up in comparative darkness day after day is very hard on the eyes. If a horse be led out of one of those stables into the open light, he is unable for a time to distinguish objects properly and is liable to stumble and become alarmed until the eyes adjust themselves to their new position. The same difficulty occurs in entering the dark stable from the outside.

Darkness is injurious to the animal's health, which is easily proved by vegetables growing in dark places. Light is one of the great agencies that imparts health and vigor to both the animal and vegetable systems and being so very cheap ought to be liberally supplied. All stable windows should be glazed in movable sash and of such size as to admit a full flow of light. The division of light and darkness as measured by day and night should be the governing rule in both animal and vegetable economy.

Free ventilation of pure atmospheric air should be a prominent feature in every stable. Without this the best state of animal health cannot be maintained. There are so many plans of accomplishing this, that each farmer may choose the one that best suits his views. The great question is, will he do it?—*American Stock Journal.*

High Culture.

Mr. Geo. W. Gift, of Memphis, Tenn., in *Agricultural Report* for 1867, presents the outlines of an excellent system of high culture:

"The exclusive system of cotton planting must give way to a mixed system of farming. Each and every farm must be made more than self-sustaining as regards provision crops, looking to cotton for the profits. The area of cultivation must be reduced; a thorough rotation of crops practiced, stock raised, and manures carefully saved, housed and composted. Deep, thorough, and careful tillage must succeed the present shallow and slovenly culture. When these conditions are fulfilled we shall become independent as regards our food crops, and the production of cotton will rapidly increase from year to year.

"To treat land so as to obtain the greatest possible crops would require a very considerable outlay of capital, which our people have not. But I insist that our lands may be brought up to the paying level by judicious rotation of crops, and by saving and utilizing the vast quantities of manures which now go utterly to waste.

"The rotation I would recommend is that of five fields: First, all the manure for cotton, the land to be thoroughly subsoiled and properly tilled; second, corn after cotton, manured in the hill with ashes and such cotton seeds as are not fed to stock; third, wheat after corn, to be seeded with red clover or mixed grasses, and allowed to wait its turn in the five years' shift. Returning, the clover sod to

be broken in the fall, and the land thoroughly sub-soiled in the Spring, manured and prepared for cotton, and so on as before. Under this system we may expect the great-st yield of all crops, and with the easiest cultivation. Crab grass, the cotton farmer's greatest enemy, perishes where the land is not cultivated continuously. Following grain and the grasses we find this pest exterminated. Cotton exhausting land but little, and the culture being 'clean,' we have every right to expect after it a bountiful corn crop, and thereafter good wheat and grass. I would not have more than twenty-five acres under this system to each reliable hand employed. From every acre we get food for stock. Cotton seeds, as oil cake or cooked, are of great value as food for cattle, reckoned in England, when decorticated, as corn and fodder, straw, bran and hay. Hence, under judicious management, with stock enough to consume the products of the place, the amount of manure for cotton land would not fall short of thirty tons per acre per annum; enough to bring the crop up equal to that of Mr. Dickson's four-acre lot; or, we will say, ten bales of cotton to the hand; not an unusual production on the rich bottom lands of the Mississippi and Yazoo prior to the war. The following estimate of receipts and expenses for twenty-five acres may serve to further illustrate the system:

RECEIPTS.	
10 bales Cotton, at \$100.....	\$1,000
300 bushels Corn, at 50 cents.....	150
125 bushels Wheat, at \$2.....	250
10 tons Hay, at \$20.....	200
Total receipts.....	\$1,600
EXPENDITURES.	
Wages and board of one hand.....	\$250
Help at haying, cotton picking and harvest.....	60
Feed of team, two mules, per annum.....	125
Seeds, etc.....	40
Wear and tear and repairs.....	25
Total expenditures.....	\$500
Net profits.....	\$1,100

"According to this system we are sure of a living and some money. As we are going now we are pushed to get the former and have none of the latter. Before closing, I may say that this system is based upon the theory of reliable and intelligent labor, and ample protection for crops and stock."

From the Southern Cultivator.

Fencing Stock Out or In

Editors Southern Cultivator:—The Livingston Agricultural Club has rendered the public a valuable service by its clear and able report on the question of "Abandoning the uses of fences, and the enactment of a stock law," which appeared in the September number of your journal. I regard the fences, that may be saved by proper legislation, without detriment to any interest, as equal to one half of a fair rent of some farms, taking them as a whole. In other words relieve Southern farmers of the present expense of fencing out intruding stock that have no moral right to consume, or damage in any way, the crops grown by any person on his own land; and you will double the value of all productive soil. It is obvious, that the higher the tax imposed to keep stock out of a wheat, corn or cotton field to make a crop, the less inducement there is to cultivate the same; consequently, there is less demand for labor than there would be if this tax were removed. The poor who now keep a few hogs and cattle at large, lose far more by the depreciation of their wages, whether they work by the month, or crop on shares, than they gain by this untimely free stock range. Stock raised in this way in well settled counties, costs the community at large full ten times more than it is worth to the owners. This remark is based on my own experience, this summer. I have kept a number of young hogs for a neighbor all summer in a good clover field we fenced, for nothing because it is far cheaper to me to fence them in one small field, than out of sev-

eral large corn fields. Indeed to fence many fields against small shad bellied swine, jumping sheep, and unruly cattle, taxes common land more than the use of it is worth. Hence many million acres lie out as a common waste that would be cultivated, to the incalculable advantage of all classes and interests, if this fence burthen were taken off. Then a poor farmer who is able barely to pay for fifty acres and a mule, could plow, plant, sow and gather in his crops, without the expense of working one panel of fence beyond what encloses any little stock he may choose to keep. Give this encouragement to buy land in the South; and defend honest agricultural industry from all invasion, by man or his beast, and you will soon change squatters and bad renters into independent landholders and conservative freemen.

It is a mistake to suppose a poor laboring man in the South can never lay up money enough to pay for a few acres—far more than the great Cincinnati had when he was called from his plow to save his country from the greatest peril. Fence taxes and all others, on land, are now so heavy in the aggregate, that poor men can hardly afford to own any. In New York state this onerous fence tax does not exist; laboring men receive a dollar a day as farm wages. Here I hire good men at fifty cents a day. There a farmer makes fifty tons of hay with less labor, than I can fence a meadow for such a crop. So long as the poor, unwittingly, compel farmers to throw so much labor in mauling fence rails, their wages must be low.

D. LEE.

How to Sit.

We find the following uncredited among the selected matter in an exchange: "All consumptive people, and all afflicted with spinal deformities, sit habitually crooked, in one or more curves of the body. There was a time in all these when the body had its natural crestness, when there was not the first departure on the road to death. The make of our chairs, especially that great barbarism the unwieldy and disease-engendering rocking chairs, favors these diseases, and undoubtedly, in some instances, leads to bodily habits from which originate the ailments just named, to say nothing of piles, fistula, and the like. The painful or sore feeling which many are troubled with incessantly for years at the extremity of the back-bone is the result of sitting in such a position that it rests upon the seat or the chair at a point several inches forward of the chair back.

"A very common position in sitting, especially among men, is with the shoulders against the chair back, with a space of several inches between the chair back and the lower portion of the spine, giving the body the shape of a half hoop; it is the instantaneous, instinctive, and almost universal position assumed by any consumptive on sitting down, unless counteracted by an effort of the will; hence parents should regard such a position in their children with apprehension, and should rectify it at once."

Value of Newspapers to Farmers.

Clark Bell, Esq., a few days since, gave to the farmers of Steuben county an address at their Agricultural Fair, which was full of matter of immediate and practical interest to his hearers. One passage of his address is worth copying here, and we give it, as follows:

No one can too highly estimate the value of a good newspaper in a family of children, and I am of the opinion that if one is taken constantly in a family that it will be impossible for the children to come up without being intelligent upon all the current questions of the day.

Every household should bring in the newspaper, then, as an absolute and indispensable necessity.

The farmer should, of