



Fairfield County farmers are planting velvet beans to a larger acreage.



Terraced land is profitable and cost of operation is less than expected.

Gospel of Better Farming

Little Stories of Big Import in South Carolina Progress

BY A. B. BRYAN

Gospel—That is, good news—of better farming progress in the Palmetto State is being proclaimed in practices in field and orchard, pasture and feed lot. This good news, written upon the land, so to speak, by progressive farmers under the guidance of agricultural leaders may be read through observation by the mass of other farmers. And is being so read, thanks be, to the advantage of all!

Some typical bits of this good news, illustrative of various phases of farming progress, are given here so that through this newspaper's columns the gospel of better farming may be more widely proclaimed.

For the Land's Sake—Some five or six years ago, I went with a group of about 40 Cherokee county farmers over into the lespedeza section of North Carolina and spent two days studying this crop. The next year all 40 of these men planted at least a small acreage in lespedeza. Other farmers watched the crop and liked it. Each year since that time the acreage has increased. Last year, 15 or 20 thousand pounds of seed were saved in this county, all of which has been sold to local farmers, and in addition, many farmers have gone over into North Carolina and Tennessee and bought seed. So I am safe in saying that a majority of all farms in the county have at least some lespedeza growing on them this season. — S. C. Stribling, County Agent.

Home-Grown Work Stock. — The Pickens county legislative delegation was asked by an interested group of farmers to purchase a jack and a stallion for the county, to be placed on the County Farm. A committee appointed by the delegation, including the county agent, to locate these animals, purchased a very fine jack and a young Percheron colt and the people are very much pleased with our selections. We feel that this is a forward step in livestock production in Pickens county, as we have some 80 or 100 mares that we expect to use for breeding purposes. — T. A. Bowen, County Agent.

Improving the Sweeties.—A great deal of interest has been shown by some Clarendon farmers in sweet potato seed improvement. After several growers accompanied me to Florence, to hear the discussion at a conference on the subject, I placed about 75 bushels of pure seed among 16 men. We also got two fire-heated hotbeds under way during the early Spring.—F. M. Rast, County Agent.

Big Money From Biddy.—Reports from a cooperative carlot poultry sale, made by Oconee county farmers in late March, shows that 403 patrons sold 8,714 pounds of poultry for \$3,309.78. This shipment brings the total tonnage of poultry marketed for the year to date to 62,756 pounds which has netted the 1,371 farmers a total of \$10,555.73.—G. H. Griffin, County Agent.

Velvet Beans Galore.—I have always urged Fairfield county farmers to plant velvet beans, but the indications now are that we will have a larger acreage this year than ever before. We have ordered cooperatively 545 bushels of velvet beans. In many instances, our farmers

will get a good farming practice payment on the acreage planted in velvet beans, as the vines will be left on the land. We have also ordered, cooperatively, crotalaria seed. At least 4,000 pounds of seed were planted where only 400 pounds were planted last year.—R. H. Lemmon, County Agent.

Saving Valuable Soil.—There are more requests from Laurens County farmers for terracing through the growing season than the tractors will be able to handle, to say nothing of the requests for this Fall. Every precaution is being used to see that the construction of the terrace meets the government's specification and this one point is sell-

ing the importance of terraces to the farmers more than any other thing we can bring to their attention. Those farms that were terraced last Fall have proven to the farmers during the excessive rain this past Winter that properly terraced land is profitable, and the cost of operation per acre is less than the farmers expected. — C. B. Cannon, County Agent.

Better Quality Cotton.—We had around 100 entries in the cotton contest and most of these people have secured seed from the breeders. These contests have aided in building up a better staple of cotton in Chesterfield county. M. L. Teal turned under five acres of Austrian winter peas that would average 24 inches high. This five-acre plot is in the cotton contest, with one-acre check plot adjoining. — J. C. Willis, Assistant County Agent.

For Better Pastures.—Eleven farmers will cooperate in TVA pasture demonstrations in Charleston county, with a total of 2,685 acres of pasture being fertilized with the triple superphosphate. Soil samples have been secured from this pasture land in order to determine whether or not lime is needed in addition to the superphosphate, in order to secure a maximum growth of the better permanent pasture legumes and grasses.—C. W. Carraway, County Agent.

Hogs Buy Corn.—J. Walter Johnson of the Aynor section of Horry county has just completed a feeding demonstration of 19 hogs, showing that hogs pay well for home-grown corn sold to them. The hogs made an average daily gain of 1.36 pounds over a period of 58 days. Mr. Johnson received \$1.64 per bushel for the corn fed for this demonstration. His hogs sold for \$10.75 per hundred, which was tops on the Richmond market that day. "The best market I have found for corn," says Mr. Johnson.—V. M. Johnson, County Agent.



Pigs on balanced rations help to make balanced farming.

Independence for Small Farmer

Turning from dependence on cotton, N. L. Lisenby, a Chesterfield, S. C., county small farmer, is finding independence in production of various grain and other crops and livestock in addition to cotton. Corn, oats, wheat, syrup, cabbage, hogs, cows, and poultry are grown on Mr. Lisenby's 65-acre farm—first for family and farm use and then to sell for cash to supplement the 12 acres of cotton growing under the agricultural adjustment contract. "To make a living first for my family and after that whatever can be grown for cash," said Mr. Lisenby when asked to give his idea for safe farming.

Grain crops and the legumes that go naturally with grains have a big place in Mr. Lisenby's practice, and these fit into his hog-cow-hen plan for consumption of home-grown feeds.

For Seed and Meat

Corn is grown for two special uses—to sell as seed and to feed to hogs for meat production. So with oats—about six acres, to sell as seed oats and to feed to work stock. Wheat, about five acres, for sale and for bread.

Soybeans, grown in corn and after grain, and also cowpeas after grain, not only provide grazing or hay for livestock but also help to enrich the land.

For the land's sake also Mr. Lisenby plants a rye-wheat-oats mixture in cotton fields to turn under. Also there is considerable stable manure to add fertility and humus to the soil for better yields of various crops.

In the way of livestock, Mr. Lisenby produces hogs from two purebred Duroc sows; a number of heifers and young calves from his family milk cows; and poultry and eggs from flocks of Rhode Island Reds and Barred Rocks enough for family needs and considerable to sell. Mr. Lisenby is unable to fill the demand for his strain of Duroc Jersey hogs.

Cabbage from a quarter-acre plot, fruit from a good home orchard, syrup from both sugar cane and sorghum—these are three further sources of cash as well as family food.

Family's Best Crop

Showing the value of these various products as sources of cash as well as family and farm substance, Mr. Lisenby's returns this year included: seed corn, \$75; seed wheat, \$40; seed oats, \$100; hogs, \$100; calves, \$20; cabbage, \$55; syrup, \$25; poultry, \$50.

Granted that these cash items are not large, the total of \$465 is a considerable addition to the cash from some 10 to 12 bales of cotton produced each year on 12 acres. What makes it more worthy of attention is that this cash is from sales of surplus products produced primarily in a self-sustaining or live-at-home program of farming.

Mr. Lisenby's big family is the crop of which he is proudest. It consists of seven boys and five girls, who have been trained in farm and home experiences as well as in formal schooling. Such a family is not only a "market" for much home-produced food but also a source of fine service in conducting the farm and family life.