

Our Farm Department

Devoted to the Interest of Those Who Till the Soil

CONDUCTED BY J. M. BEATY

AMONG THE FARMERS.

Last week we visited the farm of Mr. Thomas S. Ragsdale on the Smithfield and Wilson's Mills road, one and a half miles from here. Mr. Ragsdale is well known to the people of Johnston county having been connected with the Banner Warehouse here for some time as one of the proprietors and since then a leading buyer of tobacco on this market. He bought this farm nearly two years ago. It had been rented for several years and was in poor condition. This is his second crop on the place and shows the greatest improvement. All is being done that thorough cultivation can do.

His cotton rows are four feet apart and it has good distance in the rows. Six hundred pounds of high grade guano is used before planting and one hundred pounds of cerealite as a second application. He uses lot and stable manure also for cotton. He made nearly a bale per acre last year on land not improved.

His corn rows are five feet apart and on upland he plants it three feet in the rows. He uses about four hundred pounds of guano per acre in two applications. He has four acres of very fine bottom land corn. Oats were sown there last year and followed by peas. Part of this corn was manured with stable manure. It was planted June 4th. Five hundred pounds of guano was used per acre before planting and two hundred pounds the last plowing. This corn is only eighteen inches in the rows.

He has nine acres of tobacco four feet rows with the tobacco three feet in the rows. Part of this was set on old land with eleven hundred pounds of guano per acre and some of it is on new ground with twelve hundred pounds per acre.

He breaks all his land with two horse plows. The land is terraced and has been injured but little by the heavy rains. Peas, sweet potatoes and chufas are raised for the hogs. Although his farm is in the stock law territory he is planning to put a wire fence around his cleared land so the hogs can go over the fields. Peas are sown broadcast in the corn, after oats and in the chufa patch. He follows the old way of clearing land. Grubs it all over and breaks it two or three times before planting. In that way he gets a large crop from it the first year. The rule is to use no cheap guano. It must analyze not less than 8-3-3. The farm is worked under the foreman system with hired labor. Mr. R. L. Taylor is foreman and fills the place well. Mr. Ragsdale is one of our best farmers and makes money every year on his farm.

Next we visited Mr. Horace M. Barbour, of Cleveland township. Less than fifteen years ago he was given a piece of land from the eastern side of his father's farm. Later he bought some land adjoining it from two of his sisters. There were no buildings on the place and the soil was badly washed and worn down until but little of anything was raised. Part of the land had been abandoned and was growing up in pines. On the best of the land

the first year he used two hundred pounds of guano and made only three hundred pounds of seed cotton per acre. Each year for several years he increased the quantity of guano and by using home raised manure and rotating his crops he has brought it up to a high state of cultivation. It is now one of the best farms in the county and every part of it shows the best management.

Last year Mr. Barbour had at one place ten acres of cotton which made fifteen bales. His cotton rows are three and one half to four feet according to the strength of the land. The lot and stable manure is drilled under cotton as far as it will go and besides, four to five hundred pounds of guano per acre is used. One hundred pounds of nitrate of soda is applied about the first of July. He says he thinks that in some places the soda nearly doubles the yield.

His corn rows are five feet apart with the corn two and one half to three feet in the rows. It is manured before planting with cotton seed and the second plowing guano is applied. His corn is all excellent but he has six acres of the upland prolific which is very fine. This is the kind Mr. J. Walter Myatt plants.

Mr. Barbour says that twenty acres to the horse or mule is plenty of crop. He believes in frequent plowings and but little hoe work. Two horse plows are used to break the land. He called our attention to two steel beam Chattanooga one horse plows which he prizes highly. If the ground is hard they can be used as two horse plows. He uses terraces and dikes on the hilly land and the rows are run in such a way as to prevent washing. Peas are sown broadcast in the corn and after oats. He has been using high grade guano analyzing 8-3-3 but says he expects to buy the materials and mix his guano hereafter. His farm is now in fine condition to make money and he is making it. It is a real pleasure to walk over an improved farm that is well managed like his.

Farmer's Institute.

A Farmer's Institute will be held in the court house at Smithfield Friday, August 11, 1905. The object of a farmer's institute is to bring together the farmers in order that they may discuss the subjects relating to their business, such as the best methods of using fertilizers on various crops, the preparation and cultivation of the soil, stock-raising and stock-feeding, diseases of stock, grain and grass-growing, trucking, improvement of worn soils, value of cotton seed and cotton-seed meal, etc. In addition to local speakers, Tait Butler, State Veterinarian; C. K. McQuarrie, a successful farmer and institute worker of Florida, and C. D. Harris, State Inspector of Feed-stuffs, will be present and discuss questions of interest. An interesting program has been arranged.

All farmers and those interested in farming are invited and urged to come and ask questions and join in the discussions. Morning session will open at 10 o'clock sharp, and afternoon session at 1:30.

S. L. PATTERSON,
Commissioner of Agriculture.

Rutabagas and Other Turnips.

Now is the time to sow your turnip crop; and just between season when we are finishing the working of our corn and cotton and do not feel any present necessity for a fall crop of turnips, we are not likely to give this matter the attention it deserves. Every farmer should have a good turnip patch and the size to be determined by the size of his family and the number of heads of his stock. The root crop is not appreciated as a food for man and beast. If we were called upon to name the turnips in the order of their merit we would say: Rutabagas, Amber Globe, Red Top and Flat Dutch. All are good and we would always plant two or more varieties. The Rutabagas and Red Top make a splendid combination. The Red Top comes in early and will answer for fall use, while the Rutabagas are splendid keepers and will answer for winter. We should add, no farm is complete without a patch of Seven Top for winter and early spring salad; this is to be considered a crop to be as regularly planted as the "year to roll around." The preparation and cultivation of all the varieties are about the same, so we will confine our remarks to the Rutabagas. We would not know how to go about fixing for Rutabagas, without stable manure, so accustomed are we to use plenty of it. The old-time way to manure a turnip patch was to pen the cows upon it; but it becomes less and less convenient to follow this method, so we would broadcast the manure if we had enough, if not put it in the drill. They require heavy manuring, and from two to four hundred pounds of guano put in the drill and thoroughly mixed with the soil will be found to pay well. No crop demands more thorough preparation. The deeper you plow and the more thoroughly you pulverize the soil with a harrow the better. The rows should be laid off from thirty to thirty-six inches and they should be opened for the seed with the simple foot of the plow and the seed drilled in at the rate of one to one and one-half pounds per acre. Then covered with a roller or drag. If you are having good seasons a rake or light harrow will do to cover with, but if at all dry a pressing of the dirt around the seed is essential to securing a good stand. They should be worked well, plowed with a cultivator or scooter and scrape and chopped out to five or six inches apart, as soon as the third leaf is well developed. If you want to make large turnips you must attend to this thinning in time or they will grow up spindling and crooked shaped, so they will never grow into large and well-shaped specimens. It delights us to see much more pains taken in preparing and smoothing the soil, among our farmers. It is an excellent sign, and we trust all will try themselves in preparing their Rutabaga patch. Every time you fix a piece of land right it will be easier to prepare for the next crop.—Southern Cultivator.

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"Why did you quit your job?"
"There was a fellow in the office I couldn't get along with at all, and rather than have any trouble with him I got out."
"Who was he?"
"He was the—er—boss. Seems to me you're mighty inquisitive."
—Chicago Tribune.

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SCOTT'S EMULSION won't make a hump back straight, neither will it make a short leg long, but it feeds soft bone and heals diseased bone and is among the few genuine means of recovery in rickets and bone consumption.

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Education Column

For School Teachers, School Committees, Patrons and Friends of the Public Schools.
Conducted by Supt. Ira T. Turlington.

Our Summer Schools for Teachers and Educational Addresses.

The school near old Spilona post office was well attended last week and again this week there is a good attendance. Most of the teachers, about thirty five in number, are teachers in the preparation stage. Most of these in attendance have never taught and seem to be anxious to get out of the institute all they can. Several teachers who attended an institute or summer school last summer are attending this school. This is quite commendable in them. It shows an earnestness that ought to be appreciated.

Next Monday, August 7th, the school at Micro will begin and I wish I may see a good number of teachers there.

Friday of this week we shall have an educational address at the school house where we are now. I hope to see out a good crowd.

Saturday of this week there will be speaking at Carter's school house near Rains' Cross Roads.

It will wash and not rub off
This complexion all envy me,
It's no secret so I'll tell
Take thou Rocky Mountain
Tea. Selma Drug Co., A. H. Boyett, Druggist.

No Man Can Succeed in Business Who Uses Strong Drink.

Rockefeller at Prayer Meeting in Cleveland:

"Let me importune every one here to abstain from strong drink. No matter where we go, we see so much of the effects of liquor. Homes and families are ruined by this curse alone. Why will men fall victims to the poison? No man can succeed in business who uses strong drink, and no person has a place in better society who falls to its power.

"Men start out by taking a tippie. These hot days make summer drinks inviting to some, so they take a little. But that little too often proves a little too much, and men get down to ruination. It is that first little drop that paves the way.

"And right here I can say before my Maker that never in my life have I tasted a drop of drink. Even a little has been too much for me to bear, and I could not taste a drop now. A little is too much for any man."

There is no way to maintain the health and strength of mind and body except by nourishment. There is no way to nourish except through the stomach. The stomach must be kept healthy, pure and sweet or the strength will let down and disease will set up. No appetite, loss of strength, nervousness, headache, constipation, bad breath, sour risings, rifting, indigestion, dyspepsia and all stomach troubles that are curable are quickly cured by the use of Kodol Dyspepsia Cure Sold by Hood Bros., J. R. Ledbetter, Benson Drug Co.

It is hinted that the novelette in Lippincott's Magazine for August, entitled "Her First Elopement," comes from the pen of a well-known writer, who hides her identity under the pseudonym of "Clara Bartram." The story is a gay recital of one summer's happenings at Newport, and in view of certain episodes which bear the earmarks of intimate personality, easily recognized, it might cause embarrassment in high circles were the author revealed.

For sunburn, tetter and all skin and scalp disease. DeWitt's Witch Hazel Salve has no equal. It is a certain cure for blind, bleeding, itching and protruding piles. It will draw the fire out of a burn and heal without leaving a scar. Boils, old sores, carbuncles, etc., are quickly cured by the use of the genuine DeWitt's Witch Hazel Salve. Accept no substitute as they are often dangerous and uncertain. Sold by Hood Bros., J. R. Ledbetter, Benson Drug Co.

About the time a man does get a little money saved up some fool friend comes along and borrows it.

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