

Our Farm Department

Devoted to the Interest of Those Who Till the Soil

CONDUCTED BY J. M. BEATY

FARM QUESTIONS.

Have you hauled straw and leaves for your stables and lot? If not, this should be done at once. It is not best to depend entirely on the fertilizer factories. Every farmer should raise as much manure as possible. The way to do this is to start about it early. Some object to strawing the lot over until cold weather as in case of much rain it might make a nasty place. There is usually not much rain in the fall but if you do not want to straw all over the lot then it can be placed in front of the stables and around the edge of the lot where the rough feed is dropped for the cattle.

Have you cut the weeds around the yard and lot and fence and on the terraces? Now is a good time to do this. Cutting them will help appearances and keep the place from being so snakey besides destroying millions of seed which would give trouble later.

Have you been around your pasture to see about the fences? In spring and summer it often happens that some place of the fence gets weak by rails being blown off and in other ways. These places should be repaired so as to prevent the cattle from getting out and going to the fields to do damage. At this season of the year when grass usually begins to get a little scarce and tough cattle are apt to try to do more or less mischief. It is best not to let them start getting into the fields.

Have you shrubbed the bushes and briars in the pasture? By doing this you get more grass and it grows much better. Too many farmers are without pasture for their cattle because they fail to do this work. Shrubby pastures is a small job if done once a year or even once in two years. Almost any farmer who has any branch land or bottom land of any kind can have a good pasture by keeping it shrubbed. It is said that shrubbing done anywhere at this season of the year pays better than if done at any other time as the stumps do not sprout much until the following spring and then it is too late for some of them to ever sprout again.

Have you cut the briars and bushes and weeds from the ditch banks? This work is important. On the best managed farms you can not see where a ditch is in the field until you get very near it as the banks are kept clean all the time. Bushes and briars would never give trouble if they were cut from the ditches regularly.

It Pays to Inoculate for Crimson Clover.

Crimson clover, being a leguminous plant, must have inoculation to do well on most soils. Inoculation produces the germs that enable it to get the nitrogen it needs from the air. There are three ways of inoculating soil. One way is to continue clover on the same land for a series of years until it gets the soil well filled with the necessary germs. This is a tedious and rather slow and expensive way. Another way is to get the inoculation from a prepared culture. This must be carefully handled to be successful. Still another, and by far the cheapest and surest method, is by spreading soil from a well inoculated clover field over the surface of a newly sown clover patch and harrowing it in. If only a poor stand of clover is obtained the first season, or if part of it fails to do well, seed should be sown again the next year on the same soil. By these repeated sowings the clover gets better every year and soon has the desired inoculation.

Sour and Wet Soils.

Clover and other legumes do not succeed on lands that for any reason are sour or that are filled with water during a considerable portion of the year. Water excludes the air. Few plants will grow without air in the soil. Acidity may be overcome by applying from 500 to 1,000 pounds of lime per acre, or by the use of floats or ground shells. Acid soils usually have sorrel growing on them. An acid condition may also be determined by testing the soil with blue litmus paper. It is useless to plant clover on wet soil. Either a good form of surface drainage or under drainage should be practiced if clover is to be planted there.—C. R. Hudson, in Progressive Farmer.

Saving the Corn Crop.

There is no doubt that in the humid climate of the Southern coast section there is often much loss of fodder that is cut off and shocked, and I often am inclined to hesitate in advising farmers in that section to cut and shock their corn. Only last week I had a letter from a very intelligent farmer in Beaufort county, N. C., saying that he is puzzled, as he prefers to clear the ground at once, but that in three seasons out of five the corn and fodder have been damaged in the shocks.

I believe that it is true that the man who tops and strips his corn at the usual time loses enough corn to pay for the labor of saving the fodder, but so far as the actual labor is concerned, there is little to choose between the two methods. Hence, I can not always blame the farmers in the humid sections for adhering to the old practice.

Saving the Whole Corn Crop.

But as a general rule, I would always cut corn off at the ground and cure it in shocks, and would shred the stover so that more of it is eaten and the waste put in better shape for the manure pile, and no forks broken with long stalks in the manure and cuss words saved.

I would cut the corn, because I would want to follow it with a fall sown grain crop, and would try to have forage in plenty without depending on the fodder. But in most sections where the farmers still adhere to topping and stripping it is done because their main dependence for roughage is on this fodder.

The fact is, that farmers must use their own brains in this matter as in others. But where a farmer has any interest in cattle and every one should have some such interest, the best way to manage at least a large part of the corn crop is to put it in the silo. The stock get more of it there and in a more palatable shape than in any other.

How the Silo Helps.

But the man who makes the greatest success will always have a silo and put all the corn he wants to feed into it and thus save more of it than in any other way. Read what Mr. J. W. Robinson says: "If I had to give up silage, I'd give up stock." That is just what I said long ago, when I was storing 600 tons a year. In fact, if I were to go back to stock raising, the first thing I would build would be a silo or two. I had three when last managing a stock farm. Every now and then some one writes in the papers advocating the raising of beets as a winter feed. I have done that, too, and found that the beets cost me three times as much to grow as the silage, and far more trouble to store and feed, while they are not a bit better than the silage as feed.—W. F. Massey.

Corn and Tobacco Crops.

The corn crop of the country is the largest ever planted, exceeding that of last year by over 7,000,000 acres, an increase of 7 per cent. The total acreage planted is 109,000,000. The condition on July 1st was 89 as against 82 last year and a ten-year average of 84. If this can be maintained to harvest the yield of the crop will be the enormous total of over 3,000,000,000 bushels, a larger yield of one crop than was ever grown by any country in the world. Virginia and all the Southern States participate in the increased area planted and the condition is high in all of them, being up to or in excess of the average of the country. Virginia has a crop of over 2,000,000 acres planted; North Carolina nearly 3,000,000 acres; South Carolina, 2,200,000 acres and Tennessee 3,400,000 acres. With favorable conditions up to harvest the South will have such a corn crop as she never before harvested and this means much for our prosperity. Notwithstanding the indications of such a large crop the price keeps high, showing that the reserves are nearly exhausted and that the new crop will come on a market wanting the grain.

The tobacco crop is planted on a much larger acreage this year than last, the increase being over 21 per cent. Virginia has 140,000 acres in the crop which is about the average. North Carolina has 216,000 acres planted which is an increase of 8 per cent over last year. South Carolina has increased her area 25 per cent, but has only 36,000 acres planted. Maryland has a less acreage than

last year. The great increase in the crop is in Kentucky, which has 420,000 acres planted, an increase of 75 per cent. over last year. We are afraid in the face of this increase those of our Virginia friends who planted Burley will find themselves against a hard proposition even if they make a good crop. The condition over the whole crop is above the average and the indications are for a large yield, but the quality in many sections is not likely to be of the best, too much rain having damaged the quality of the crop.—The Southern Planter.

Western and General Prosperity.

Chicago, Aug. 15.—The cheering information that the prosperity which can no longer be gainsaid or require reference in faint and cautious terms will soon develop into cheaper living along with increasing industrial revival, is furnished by the returns of several thousand trained correspondents for the crop and business report of the Commercial National Bank of Chicago.

A general summary of the financial, commercial and industrial conditions the country over shows that the movement back to the high tide of prosperity that ebbed in October, 1907, has developed so rapidly during the last three months, and now includes so many lines and has gained such momentum that, with fundamental conditions all favorable, a relapse is no longer to be feared. The situation is likened to the starting of an eight-horse team. Owing to the interdependence of modern society, the resuming machinery of industrialism has gained such momentum that even the lagging cogs must turn.

All of the signs that denote rising prosperity and all the conditions precedent are at hand, the review declares. The wreckage of the panic has been cleared away, the apprehension which it aroused have disappeared and the people are facing the future with an optimism and courage born of knowledge of the wonderful resources of this country. Shelves are bare of surplus goods and the country has grown up to its facilities and equipment. At this opportune time to inaugurate a new era of prosperity comes the best all-round crop ever produced in this country.

Crops to Cheapen Food.

The value of such a crop at this juncture is inestimable, the bank's review points out, for all lines of business will feel its stimulating influence, and all classes will share in its benefits. The farming class has enjoyed a remarkable period of prosperity, covering the last 11 years, and its buying power has been the great steadying factor in the industrial situation since the late depression began. But the prices of all farm products, which have reached in recent months the highest general level ever known, have been oppressive to the consumer and the source of much discontent. The food crops of 1909 are so generous in their proportions that a noticeable decline in the cost of living may be expected, while the farmer will make up in quantity what he loses in price, and continue to be as good a customer as heretofore. Wheat, on the harvest reports, has declined 15 cents a bushel, and, if the present prospects for corn are realized, meats will be cheaper. Large crops of oats, barley, flax and hay also mean more feed for live stock and lower prices for dairy products and other table foods.

At the same time the unprecedented volume of the crops will supply a heavy business for the railroads, warehousemen, millers, packers and middlemen, furnish additional employment for labor and stimulate the demand for equipment and supplies.—The Philadelphia Record.

Living Too Dog-gone Fast.

It has been ascertained that the farmers of South Carolina have big bank accounts, a careful estimate showing about ten millions to their credit. No doubt about the same conditions exist in most live farming communities. The farmer gets fine prices; he is up with the sun, makes hay whether the sun shines or not, while the denizens of the towns, big and little, try to see how fast they can live and how much they can spend. We must keep up with the latest styles of dress, know how to play bridge whist and all other games give entertainments, receptions and the rest every week or two, while in the summer we must hike out to some fashionable watering place where new and expensive clothing must be used; dance all night and blow in what we have. Extravagance in living has much to do with the country, but it does not effect the countryman like the man in town. We are living too dog-gone fast and it is costing too much. You may squirm, but it is true.—Greensboro Record.

He that hath a trade hath an estate.—Franklin.

Married women as a rule live longer than their single sisters.

STATE FARMERS' CONVENTION.

A State Farmers' Convention Will Be Held at A. & M. College, West Raleigh, Commencing August 24th And Continuing to the 27th.

At the same time and place there will be held a Woman's Convention, where competent women will discuss their problems in home making, housekeeping prevention of diseases, cookery, etc.

In addition to men of our own State, we have invited speakers for the occasion from the Department of Agriculture at Washington, D. C., and from other states.

Come and have four days of real agricultural enjoyment.

President Hill of the A. & M. College offers board at 25c a meal and room rent free.

Each person should bring one sheet and one pillowcase.

Let the farmers of the State with their wives and daughters attend.

A fine program—practical questions discussed by practical farmers—has been arranged.

Come and help make the occasion a grand success.—A. L. French, Pres.

Suggestions to Those Coming to the Convention.

A reception committee, of which W. C. Etheridge is chairman, will meet all trains arriving at the Union station Monday evening, Tuesday and Wednesday. When you get off the train, look for men with badges: "Reception Committee," or for sign: "Headquarters, Reception Committee, State Farmers' Convention," and make yourself known. The committee will take care of you.

Those who prefer will be assisted in securing satisfactory accommodations in the city, while those who wish to room at the College will be escorted there and provided with rooms free and meals at cost.

Those who intend rooming at the College should notify Mr. E. B. Owen, West Raleigh, when they will arrive, but failure to do this need not prevent anyone from securing a room at the College on his arrival. Those expecting to room at the College should bring towels and pillows with them.

The accommodations for rooming at the College are not good, owing to the fact that the College has no furniture or bedding except that furnished students, but such as is there will be at the disposal of those who wish to avail themselves of it.

Railroad Rates.

A rate of one and one-half fare plus fifty cents has been granted for the Farmers' State Convention, provided there are as many as one hundred persons attending the meeting holding properly receipted certificates. The conditions are in the main, that a first-class ticket at full fare be purchased from the starting point, or the nearest point thereto at which a through ticket to the place of meeting can be obtained, taking from the ticket agent a receipt for the same on the regular certificate used for this purpose by the railroads; this certificate when properly signed by the Secretary of the Association and a representative of the railroads will constitute an order on the local ticket agent for a return ticket at one-half the regular rate to the holder. The rates will apply to all points in North Carolina and from Norfolk, Portsmouth, Suffolk, Boykins and Danville, Virginia, and are granted by the Atlantic Coast Line, Durham and Southern, Norfolk and Southern, Seaboard Air Line and Southern Railways. The tickets will be on sale August 20, 1909 and properly signed certificates will be honored for return journey on or before August 31, 1909.

Information, sample certificates and programs may be secured from the Secretary or E. B. Owen, Registrar of the College, West Raleigh, N. C., upon application.

T. B. PARKER, Sec.

The Man or the Land; Which Determines?

How much cotton can an acre of land produce? How much corn; how much small grain; how much hay; how much fruit, or how many vegetables should be counted as a maximum yield? Is the limit of production measured more by the land or by the capacity of the man having it in charge? A man makes fifty bushels of corn or a bale of cotton to the acre and congratulates himself on the record; another comes along and increases the yield of this same piece of land fifty to one hundred per cent. Has the maximum for an acre been attained? We do not think so, but on the other hand, there are few farmers who till one-half acre of soil in a manner that will produce the best and most profitable returns. As a rule the average farmer has a vague idea of the value of tillage and proper fertilization. Through the feeding of the plants a soil may be rich or poor, just as the farmer plans his rotation and cropping systems.—The Cotton Journal.

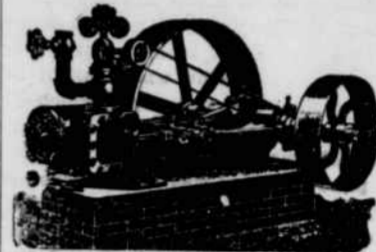
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