

"CIVILIZATION BEGINS AND ENDS WITH THE PLOW"

THINGS TO PLAN TO THROUGHOUT COMING YEAR

The Farmers' Day at the test farm at Swannanoa on May 17, 1928.

- Poultry loading depot with facilities for grading eggs.
- An annual poultry show.
- Monthly livestock sales.
- Farmers' own line of delivery trucks.
- Purebred sires and seeds.
- Guernsey cattle association.
- A semi-annual seed exchange day.
- A Harvest Carnival one-day of the bread and butter show.

Just About the Farm

We had a chicken sale this week. There was things happened there that has not happened for over a year. Local poultry dealers came to the car door and tried to buy chickens after they had been brought to the sale. Now, its only right and proper for a man to spend his own money where and how he wants to. Its only right and proper for a farmer to sell his stuff where and to whom he wants to. But—and this is a sure enough condition—it is not right and fair for me to arrange with the carlot buyers to go to the expense of coming here and not get the chickens that it is intended that they should just because some one is willing to pay a little more than and there. If they have such a great and Magnanimous disposition why do they not pay the car prices at the time? And here is another thing that I want every one to get in their minds and think over seriously. If this practice is carried on and continued I will not go to the trouble of getting carlot buyers. In other words, in so far as I am concerned, the co-operative sales of poultry will stop. If it is thought that the above is said as a bluff, it is easily called.

These sales are your sales and yours

the market will stand on your poultry. And it is, to say the least, unethical to break faith with the carlot buyers after they have come here to take the poultry in exchange for cash at the car door.

It was said at the poultry sale this week by one or two that, due notice was not sent out advertising the sale. Just by way of information, I would like to say that the sale was advertised for two weeks in The Franklin Press, on one of these times the prices were given. There was also five hundred post cards sent out giving the date of the sale and the prices. Notices were also sent to the Extension Service bulletin boards at the post offices in the county. It was also posted on the Extension Service bulletin board at the court house. Each rural mail carrier was sent a card so that they would be able to answer any questions that may have been asked them. So what will some have? A special delivery on a silver platter?

Quite a few have told us that they are selling every fowl that they have and are getting all pure breeds. That is the proper spirit. But it is well to sound this warning—breed alone does not make for success. It takes housing and feed and sanitation and constant care so as to be able to detect any thing amiss before it has had time to go far.

Speaking of houses. Did you ever notice that the birds and insects do not build their nests till the weather gets warm? If this is nature's way how can we expect our hens to do double duty i. e. keep up their body temperature and lay eggs at the same time. Here is where nature has to be assisted by having warm, well ventilated houses and a balanced ration.

It is reported from England that there is a new breed of chickens that has been imported from Holland called the "Barneveldt" that is far superior to any that has yet been developed both as to meat qualities and as to egg production. We are trying to get a few started here. The best is none too good for Macon.

HOGS

Hogs are bringing thirteen cents on foot now. Just how long they will stay up is, of course problematical, but is a safe move to feed out as fast as we can and get them on the market. Just as soon as there is a car ready we will give all who want it an opportunity to ship.

Practically all of the "down in the back" is caused from starvation. That is hard to believe, but it is a fact all the same. The truth is that the hog is being fed a ration that is short in calcium, phosphorous, iodine, salt or some other of the essential chemical elements.

KEEP YOUR FARM AND IT WILL KEEP YOU AND YOURS

The most practical mineral mixture, as has been so often said, is ten pounds of acid phosphate (the same that is used under corn), ten pounds of wood ashes, and two pounds of salt. Place this in a trough and keep it in a dry place where the hogs may get it any time that they want it.

Tankage fed with the corn makes the corn go farther and makes the meat come cheaper—hence makes hog raising more profitable.

Mr. Hays, the hog expert from the college, will be here for a week in a short time. If there is anyone that wants him for anything, a word left at the farm agent's office will bring him. Mr. Hays knows his hogs and has been worth hundreds of thousands of dollars to the farmers in the eastern part of the state where they make great calls on his time and knowledge.

A premium of two cents a pound is being offered on hogs that are guaranteed to kill hard. This supply means hogs that have been fed a balanced ration and are backed up by the seller's affidavit. It pays.

Too many hogs are attended in the pen. We turned down some of this kind at the last sale and will turn down more if they come up at the sales in the future. In selling live hogs, like in everything else, its quality stuff that brings the most profitable price.

When Macon county farmers—and they are doing it—get a reputation for only the best, they will not have to sell. Buyers will come and buy and pay a profitable price.

CATTLE AND PASTURES

When are we going to have the eighty per cent of Macon county that is fit only for pasture, fenced in and laid down to permanent grasses and stocked up with cattle, sheep and in fact all kinds of livestock and let them do their own harvesting and work for us while we are asleep or at play, or at some other work.

chines to take the drudgery out of farming. They have merely adapted themselves to their conditions. Here we may use livestock for the same purpose—when we have adapted ourselves to our conditions.

There is no time like the late summer and early fall to lay out fence lines and get the draining done that is necessary to sweeten up the sour places. And there is no where on the farm that this will pay as well as in the pasture.

It matters not whether you are a beef man, a sheep man or a dairy man, the order of profitable farm practice is to keep livestock.

Livestock gives year round employment, and keeps up soil fertility. And as the profit or loss in farming comes always back to the soil, it pays to look well to soil fertility. But how many really study this question? If you cannot or won't, better get into some other kind of work before you get any older for to wait means less and less opportunities for advancement for a comfortable old age.

SHEEP

Did you ever figure on the easy money in a few sheep on every farm in this county? When sheep are mentioned its always the dogs that are mentioned. Well, they are a nuisance, but there are ways and means of handling this situation. Think out the one best suited to your situation.

The co-operative sheep selling pools in Tennessee are realizing four cents a pound more on their sheep than are the farmers in the western part of this state that do not sell co-operatively. What's to be done about it?

LYLES HARRIS, County Farm Agent.

FARM HAPPENINGS IN MACON COUNTY

I have just returned from a visit in South Carolina. The more I see of the farming conditions in other sections the more I realize that the farmers of this section are blessed more than they realize. There was hardly a chicken to be seen on the farms anywhere that I went. Cows were very few and far between, and the floods had played havoc with so large an amount of the little crops that the conditions in some sections are pitiful.

In Macon we have had plenty of rain and at times maybe a little too much, but on the whole we have been very free of floods and hard washing rains. Our crops are looking the best that can be found anywhere.

All that is required is the will to do and the bogy of hard times will disappear like a magic wand had been waved over the land. Things will

The farm pages of The Press are edited by the county agent in collaboration with the editor.

not get done themselves. They will have to be done by human hands. They always have and they always will.

Our tomatoes have suffered from the excessive moisture. This is not a source of discouragement to the business farmer for he knows that everything cannot "hit" every year.

There are several farmers asking about planting beets and turnips for the cannery. Crosby is the variety of beet that is best for canning. The long beet is to be avoided.

There will be a lot of stuff planted for the spring season of canning from present indications. These early canners, like garden peas, beets, spring salad and a little later cucumbers, are all sure sources of income. After reading figures of some of the folks that have kept an accurate account of the cost of production, there will not be many people to say that they can not grow stuff at cannery prices. To do so will be to place themselves in the Hick Farmer class by their own statement. And who wants to do that?

I was surprised to learn that there are about fifty radios on the farms of Macon county and that there are fully that many more people that intend installing radio at an early date.

There is a radio in the farm agent's office that is at the service of any citizen of the county. They may come in and listen in on it or they may look it over and learn how to work one. Just any time from nine in the morning to five in the evening.

Have you taken that vacation this summer? If not better take one. It is often an eye opener to get off and see things from a distance. Try it and see. Then it helps in a presidential year especially.

Speaking of vacations. How about coming down to Memphis with us in October? There are several ladies going this time as well and it will be a great party. Mr. Jim Corbin is going to furnish the music. I am taking the radio so we can keep in touch with the happenings every evening. Think it over. You know, of the occasion of the trip to Memphis.

There is a farm picture every Saturday night at the Idle Hour Theatre at no extra cost.

Don't forget Bert Slagle's Dairy Picnic on August 30th. LYLES HARRIS, Farm Agent.

SCRUBS AND COSTLY LUXURY

Very rapidly the great dairy industry with its continuous check for the farmer, is moving into the Southland. The Southern states have the climate, so it is merely a matter of the farmer's readjusting his manner of handling his land, himself and his tenants, if he is a large land owner.

A recent issue of the Southern Agriculturist carried a thought-provoking editorial on this timely subject. It was a long editorial so your county agent has cut out the heart of it and pasted it below.

Any community can change its scrub stock into high-grade stock without much cost. It isn't necessary to send off and buy Jersey and Holstein cows. This could not be done by many communities. But at small cost high-grade bulls may be substituted for the scrub bull, and in this way the stock of the community may be transformed within a short time.

Scrub cows or scrub stock of any kind are a very costly luxury. No poor man can afford this luxury. Good cows are a paying investment now, and they are in reach of the poorest farmers. It is simply a matter of ability between the scrub liability and the graded cow asset.

Merchants, bankers, school teachers, preachers and other men of leadership in rural communities of the South should organize at once to eliminate every scrub cow, every scrub hog, every scrub horse, every scrub chicken, and every scrub farmer from their communities. The scrub has served his day and must go. He doesn't fit into modern conditions. He is now the emblem of poverty, ignorance, and failure, and is a reflection on any community in the South.

The chief responsibility for this needed transformation is on the leadership of the community, the banker, the merchant, the school teacher, the preacher the intelligent farmer. The rank and file in many cases don't know how to bring about the change. There is a great responsibility on the leadership of their committees today, and there should be great condemnation laid at the door of those who shirk this responsibility.

"EVERY DAY, IN A DAIRY WAY, WE ARE GETTING BUTTER AND BUTTER"

Thanks to the Billion Dollar Bandit, the Cotton Belt has at last become cow minded. Condenseries, cheese factories, creameries and skimming stations are springing up wherever the supply of milk warrants.

There is good money in cows, when properly handled, but dairying is not a get-rich-quick scheme. Nor should it be looked upon as an emergency program to be abandoned when the major crop outlook seems promising.

It is a mistake for the average farmer who has always specialized on one big crop such as cotton, to plunge into dairying on a large scale. But such a farmer makes no mistake in starting with a few good cows as a sideline and gradually increasing his herd as he learns to take care of it.

Farmers in Faulkner county, Arkansas, will sell around a quarter of a million dollars worth of milk this year, and they are raising as much cotton as they did before they started producing milk for market.

Oktibbeha county, Mississippi, farmers are also raising as much cotton and other crops as they did before dairying amounted to anything with them. And their income from milk is approximately a million and a half dollars a year.

In 1922 there were two creameries in Louisiana and the state produced only 85,000 pounds of butter. Today, there are fourteen creameries and the production of butter last year approximated 1,000,000 pounds, despite the fact that some of the best dairy sections were flooded last summer. Dairy progress has not been at the expense of other crops.

Alabama produced nearly 43 million dollars worth of milk last year. There are 24 creameries operating in that state. Dairying is practiced to some extent in every county in Alabama but most progress seems to have been made in that part of the state where folks used to think nothing but cotton was worth while.

In every Southern community where the dairy venter has come into her-

and profitable farming will be found. Five or six dairy cows, a hundred or so hens, and a brood sow on every Southern farm will come nearer solving the farm problem than all the legislation that Congress could enact from now until Gabriel toots his horn. Someone has referred to the eight M's that are essential to general prosperity in the South—More Meat, More Milk, More Manure, More Money. The eight M's are very much in evidence on farms where dairying is carried on.

MILK USED IN BREAD MAKING IMPROVES NUTRITIVE VALUE

In making white bread the use of whole or skim milk to supplement the proteins and minerals of wheat flour is strongly recommended by the United States department of agriculture. Since bread is a staple foodstuff, the use of milk in bread would insure a better nourished population.

Dry skim milk may be used in bread making with good results. In addition to supplementing the nutritive value it improves the general appearance of the bread loaf and enhances its ease of manufacture.

There are, however, certain differences in flours and in their reaction to skim milk in the dough which influence the ease of bread manufacture and necessitate special attention to certain stages of the process. In order to determine what these differences in flours are and how they affect the handling of bread made with dried milk, a study was made by the Bureau of Dairy Industry of the United States department of agriculture.

It was found that the hard spring wheat flours used in the experiments reacted more favorably to the use of dried skim milk than did winter wheat flours. The range of fermentation time in which doughs give good bread is increased by using skim milk. This adds to the ease of manufacture and is a very important property. The lactose of the milk imparts a desirable golden-brown color to the crust of the baked loaf. The texture and color of the crumb are also improved.

SNOW IS A REAL BLANKET FOR CLOVER FIELDS IN WINTER

Winter killing of alfalfa and clover presents examples that seem to be contradictory, Dr. A. J. Pieters, explained to a gathering of seedsmen recently. Doctor Pieters, who is one of the forage-crop specialists of the United States department of agriculture, in discussing the adaptation of alfalfa and clover to climatic extremes and in resistance to diseases, said imported seed was, as a rule, inferior to native seed, and that strains successful in one region in the United States were to be recommended only for other regions having approximately the same extremes of temperature. Temperature averages of small service as guides, he said. He also

THINGS TO PLAN FOR RIGHT NOW

- That cream check every two weeks.
- That cannery check every time you come to town.
- Fat hog sale in June.
- Bread and Butter Show next fall.
- Encourage the 4-H Clubbers.
- Big Farmers' day next fall.
- Local Curb Market.
- Breed sows so that the pigs will go on the market in March, April, August and September.

emphasized the important role which snowfall plays in the wintering of alfalfa and clover, particularly in the northern sections where winters are severe.

"We need to know the lowest temperatures," said Dr. Pieters. "Not only that, but we need to know whether these low temperatures will reach the plant. When plants are covered during winter under a heavy blanket of snow, the cold recorded by the Weather Bureau may never reach them. In the Northeast low temperatures are usually accompanied by heavy snowfalls, so that these low temperatures do not operate effectively on plants at the ground level. As an illustration, Italian clover at Chatham in the Northern Peninsula of Michigan has never winterkilled so much as it has near Lansing, Mich., or in Ohio, though the air temperatures at Chatham are much lower. The snowfall begins early and the plants are protected by several feet of snow during the entire period of severe weather."

LARCH CANKER IS MENACE TO WESTERN FIRS AND PINES

A newly imported tree disease lurking in a small area of eastern

to our most valuable forest tree, the Douglas fir, and also is a menace to western yellow pine, according to the United States department of agriculture.

Writing in the 1927 Yearbook of the department, Haven Metcalf, of the Bureau of Plant Industry, says the importation of the European larch canker may cost this continent hundreds of millions of dollars. The disease has long been known in Europe, its native home, and in the last hundred years has caused great damage to the larch there.

"If," says Dr. Metcalf, "the disease would continue to limit its attentions to the various kinds of larch, its appearance here would not be a matter of alarm. The eastern North American larch, tamarack or hackmatack, as it is best known in New England, is widely distributed, practically covering the north of the continent from New England to British Columbia and Alaska.

"But, as is often the case with an introduced disease, the larch canker is not behaving in Massachusetts quite as it does in Europe. It is not only attacking European and American larches, as would be expected, but is also attacking Douglas fir. What is even more unexpected, it has attacked planted trees of western yellow pine. Douglas fir is perhaps the most important single species of forest tree in North America, and western yellow pine is widely distributed and valuable. Any disease that could make serious inroads on either of these trees would quickly assume the proportions of a national calamity.

"The European larch canker is a bark disease of the same general type as the chestnut blight, which is strongly resembles. On European larches it girdles and quickly kills young trees, but is not inclined to girdle older ones completely. Instead it forms one or more permanent cankers on the trunk, spoiling the tree for timber and producing weak spots at which the tree readily breaks under stress of wind or snow. In Europe the disease is distinctly favored by moist or foggy climate, which is the prevailing climate of those parts of the Pacific coast where Douglas fir grows best.

"Up to October, 1927, the European larch canker has been found only in an area in eastern Massachusetts about 14 miles long by 4 miles wide. If it has not been introduced in any other place within attacking distance of the hackmatack, and is really restricted to this small area, it might still be possible to stamp it out, although both the practical and technical difficulties of such an undertaking would be serious. But whatever is done must be done soon, for if the disease once becomes established in the tamarack of northern New England and Canada it will spread unhindered to the Pacific coast."