

"CIVILIZATION BEGINS AND ENDS WITH THE PLOW"

KEEP YOUR FARM AND IT WILL KEEP YOU AND YOURS

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

In going over the country last week in the interest of poultry, I was surprised to find that the chicken industry is way down. I reckon it has been the necessity of raising tax money made a good many sell too low. In fact, a number of the wives told me that the men folks would take the heaviest birds when it came time to catch chickens for the sale.

Having heavy birds to go on the sale is all well and good. But where is the sense in selling off the hen that lays the golden egg?

Just in case anyone should care for information, if something is not done in the way of getting in behind the poultry flocks on our Macon county farms, I mean the folks who own chickens getting in behind their own flocks in the proper manner, there will very quickly come a time when instead of there being the already too small number of hens on the farms of this county, actually 16 last year, there will be about two.

Again just in case there are some one or two here and there that care for the information, there are just

age later in this country. A good strain of pure bred chickens. This can best be accomplished by getting two hundred baby chicks early next spring, I said early not after the market for fryers has gone down. Second: there are very few properly constructed houses in the county. The way that this may be remedied is to build a ten by twelve brooder house and have it ready for the baby chicks in the spring. Then by next fall have a mite and louse proof commercial laying house built that will hold a hundred hens.

The third way, and its as necessary as anyone of the others, is to feed properly. Home grown feed comes one dollar and a half less per 100 lbs than the other, and tests at the test farm have shown it to be just the same feeding value.

Water is worth just exactly one dollar and sixty cents per pound when fed to chickens that are laying. Figure it out for yourself. Two thirds of the egg is water. Take eggs at thirty cents per dozen and at twenty four ounces to the dozen which is the standard. Water weighs ten pounds to the gallon.

Have you got the same sowed for the chickens to get green feed from this winter? Its my guess that very few have done so. "Poor Farmer, Verily."

Plans for the best kind of poultry houses are in the county agent's office. Better get yours in time so that you will have it when an opportunity offers for getting out the lumber.

The Spanish Government has asked the N. C. poultry department to get them 300 matched hens. They are not to be had. There is a request for 5000 mated birds to go to South America. They are not to be had in N. C. Some day we will turn off our backs and wake up. These orders would bring over \$20,000.00 if they could be filled.

Repetition: Quality stuff in quantities always sells.

HOGS

We have to truck our hogs to Asheville. Cannot get loading in transit service on the T. F. railroad. Well, it will pay us better. When the Ga. highway is finished we will have two outlets by truck. Guess we will be putting on regular truck service in the not very far distant future.

Feed out what hogs you can as soon as you can while the price is right. Get the hogs up to two hundred pounds. These are the kind of hogs that the trade pays the most for.

If your hogs are lighter than this feed them. If they are heavier, eat them at home. We want to eat

only number ones on the market and demand the top delivered to the plant. We will get it if the hog feeders stay right with us on the question. But it is a mighty hopeless task going at the thing alone and for the other fellow in the bargain.

BUR CLOVER AND AUSTRALIAN PEAS

These seed have come. Anyone wanting to try them may have a few of the seed. It will pay to give them a trial. It is a good bet that the winter peas will grow here. The clover is not so sure. But try and see.

DAIRYING

There has been several inquiries for a load of dairy cows and heifers this last week. It would be a good thing to get off the surplus that cannot be sold in this county. What have you?

Have you got that green feed sown for the old cow this winter? Better look to it right away. Its the hard working farmer that gets ahead these times.

Every field a green field this winter is the super farmer's watch word. The Hick-well, he aint got no watch word no how.

Pulling Fodder

Repetition (from last year): It will cost you twice as much in time and from five to thirteen bushels of corn per acre to pull your fodder. Go ahead though. Grandpa did it so it must be the best method.

Macon county the land of super farmers that think—maybe. LYLES HARRIS, County Agent.

TRY SOME SPINACH FOR WINTER GREENS

Raleigh, N. C.—While spinach is not in accord with some folks' ideas about what is good to eat, it is an excellent green for winter and spring

"The crop may be planted at intervals during September and October to harvest during the late fall or it may be sown in February for spring harvest," says Robert Schmidt, vegetable specialist at State College. "The fall crop is often left in the field over winter and harvested in side application of nitrate of soda will February or March. The leaves may be injured by heavy frosts but a side application of nitrate of soda will bring out new leaves. The best variety for fall planting is the Virginia Savoy which is blight resistant. The best variety for spring planting is the Long Standing Bloomsdale Savoy."

In any case, states Mr. Schmidt, the crop likes a rich, well drained, sandy loam soil. It does best on one that is slightly alkaline, hence lime should be applied a few days before planting. Well rotted stable manure always gives good results. The best commercial fertilizer is one analyzing 8 per cent phosphoric acid 9 per cent nitrogen and 3 per cent potash, applied at the rate of from 1600 to 2,000 pounds per acre. The applications are best made at three or four different times during the growing season.

Mr. Schmidt states that spinach is either planted in beds or sown broadcast. The practice followed by the best growers in North Carolina is to plant in raised beds, four rows wide with each row from 10 to 12 inches apart. Put the seed in about one-half inch deep and when the plants have formed four full leaves, thin to four or six inches apart. About 20 pounds of seed are required to plant an acre in this way.

Spinach is harvested by cutting the top root just below the lower leaves. All discolored leaves are removed and the crop marketed in bushel baskets or ventilated barrels. An acre should produce from 300 to 400 barrels of good spinach.

OUR NATION'S AGRICULTURE

(Dean W. C. Coffey, Minnesota College of Agriculture)

The American people are the best fed in the world, in fact, as a nation we are so well fed and clothed that it is easy for us to lapse into a coma of indifference relative to the security of our food and clothing supply.

We, as a whole, manifest almost no concern as to the future producing power of the land. We do not seem to realize that we have been drawing heavily on our plant food reserve in late years, due to the insufficient income of the farmer and his consequent failing to return the fertility he has taken from the land. It is well to remember that those who live on the land are in charge of a national asset, the soil, and that the object of the nation should be to provide conditions which will encourage the land loving to abide on the land in such a state of economic independence as will insure the conservation of its producing power.

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

American agriculture is characterized by the large output per man the extensive use of horse and motor power, and of machinery. As a consequence a smaller percentage of the population is engaged in farming than in most countries. In Europe, farmers constitute half the population and they do not grow half of the people; in the United States one-fourth of the population produce enough to feed itself and the other three-fourths; in addition it produces clothing for a large part of the world.

American agriculture is also characterized by the wide separation of the points of production and consumption. In Europe the farmer is much closer, as a rule, to the consumer than is the American farmer. Hence the problem of distribution, or marketing is much more serious with the American farmer, both as to cost and satisfactory delivery. He must necessarily be concerned with the cost and efficiency of transportation systems.

American agriculture has felt the impact of industrialism which has made more rapid progress in this country than anywhere else. Our agriculture has been profoundly affected by the devices for speed, quick communication, and mass production employed by industrial agencies. And there is a doctrine arising which proclaims that the problem of production in agriculture is the same as in industry; that the same methods should apply to both; that the opportunity for prosperity in farming lies in applying skillful management to large scale production; that in this way production costs can be materially reduced, and, as a result, greater profits realized.

We should place stronger emphasis on the value of research as industry is doing. The amount of money invested in research in industry very greatly overshadows the amount

invested in research in agriculture. No large industry today thinks of changing its practice without engaging in research as an aid in determining its course of action.

As a national asset of this nation, the land is paramount. It is impossible to spend too much thought, research, and well intentioned discussion in learning how to handle it wisely. The thought, research and discussion must involve all of the problems surrounding the land and the people who live on it. We should not forget that no nation has yet succeeded over a long period in feeding and clothing all of its people adequately.

ONE COW VS DOZEN

Why milk twelve poor cows when one good cow will do the work of the twelve.

Analyses of more than 100,000 yearly individual records from cows on test in dairy herd improvement associations, indicate that, on the average, cows that produced 100 pounds butterfat a year returned \$14 each over feed cost, cows that produced 200 pounds butterfat a year returned \$54 each over feed cost, cows that produced 300 pounds butterfat a year returned \$96 each over feed cost, cows that produced 400 pounds butterfat a year returned \$138 each over feed cost, cows that produced 500 pounds butterfat a year returned \$178 each over feed cost.

In other words one 500 pound producer will return \$10 more over feed cost than will the entire twelve 100 pound producers. This does not take into account, either, the added labor of milking and caring for the larger herd, or the much greater expense of providing stable room for a herd instead of a single animal.

The figures from returns are based on farm prices from all parts of the country, including whole-milk districts.

CORNSTALK TESTS INDICATE FERTILIZER NEEDS OF PLANTS

When a field of corn appears to be in unthrifty condition the farmer would like to know why. If the corn does not get the proper plant food from the soil the farmer would like to know what is lacking. Tests have been devised by which farmers can gain considerable information as to such conditions.

"The plant foods which are deficient most frequently in fields in the Corn Belt are nitrogen, potassium, or phosphorus salts," says George N. Hoffer, of the United States Department of Agriculture. "Corn plants growing under soil conditions of nitrogen starvation display a yellowish green to yellow color of the leaves and stalks. By splitting open a corn-stalk and applying to the tissues a few drops of a solution of diphenylamine in concentrated sulphuric acid the presence of reserve nitrates in these tissues is indicated by the appearance of a blue color. The absence of the desirable reserve nitrates in

these tissues is indicated by the appearance of a blue color. The absence of the desirable reserve nitrates is indicated by no color change. No change in color and the yellowish leaves indicates nitrogen starvation and the need for a further supply for corn health and good yields.

If the potassium supply is inadequate, the leaves are likely to fire at the edges, plants die prematurely, and the ears tend to be chaffy and starchy. To test this, split a stalk and apply a few drops of 10 per cent solution of potassium thiocyanate to the joint tissue and then add a few drops of dilute (1 to 2) hydro-chloric acid. If the joint is discolored it shows an accumulation of iron in the plant, and this is an indication of potassium starvation.

If corn plants are stunted and do not show symptoms of either nitrogen or potassium starvation, then a lack of phosphorus is probable. There is no simple chemical test for this condition. Phosphorus deficiencies are most likely in soils strongly acid in reaction. If the soil is acid, it increases the probability of the diagnosis of lack of phosphorus.

"The stalk tests," says Doctor Hoffer, "serve well to indicate the limiting plant foods for best growth and productivity of the corn plants. The stalk tests are qualitative only in character, but when used as a guide for the interpretation of the direction in which increased fertility should be established they are extremely valuable and practical."

What would happen to us if this were started here? Gosh! I hate to think of it.—LYLES HARRIS.

DAIRY COWS NEED SUCULENT FEED WHEN PASTURE IS POOR

During the late summer pastures in most sections are short because of dry weather and because they are grazed too closely. If there is any grass, it is not succulent and is unpalatable. Consequently, cows will not consume enough for high milk production.

Experienced dairymen know that if the production of their cows has de-

creased, it is because of the dry weather

and practically impossible to bring the production back to normal during that milking period. The summer silo, according to the United States Department of Agriculture, is probably the best means of supplementing short, dried-up pastures. For a herd of 12 to 20 cows, a silo from 10 to 12 feet in diameter is best suited for this purpose because the silage can then be fed out fast enough to prevent spoiling. If, however, all the silage is not fed during the summer it can be fed the following winter or the next summer. Silage will keep for several years. Dairymen frequently fill two silos, one for winter feeding and one for summer use.

Where it is not feasible to erect a silo for summer feed the short pasture may be supplemented by certain pasture crops instead of summer silage. In many sections sweet clover has proved very satisfactory for this purpose. It does well at this season and has the advantage of being a legume and consequently contains a large amount of protein. Alfalfa can also be pastured at this time and will assist materially in preventing the mid-summer drop in milk flow.

Many combinations of legumes, such as peas, vetches, and soy beans, with grains, such as corn, wheat, oats, barley, and rye, can be grown and fed green. Successive plantings of these crops will often provide succulent feeds over an extended period. Sudan grass is also well suited for grazing purposes throughout the Central West.

In addition to good pasture high producing cows need to be fed grain to supply the required nutrients. Cows producing more than 20 pounds of milk daily should be given 1 pound of grain to each 4 to 6 pounds of milk produced. The grain feed may be a mixture of corn, oats, wheat bran, or barley, and should always be ground. For cows producing more than 35 pounds of milk daily the grain mixture should contain one high-protein concentrate, such as the oil meals.

REAR CHILDREN AND CHICKENS

The farmer's wife has always been his partner in business. In the good old days of the long ago, she spun the yarn, she knit the socks, she made the soap and she molded her own tallow candles. While she does none of these things today, she is still busy with the many duties which have to be performed in the farm home.

Your county agent rarely clips an article by a farm wife for use in this column; but he has just read one in the Southern Agriculturist, which he can not resist. It was written by Mrs. Will Ratcliffe, Greene county, Tenn. Here are two paragraphs:

Isn't it fine that there's a breed to suit everybody? And that women have a paying job right at home, where they can raise their children and chickens up together, happy and contented; where even the little folk

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.

may help in healthy work? And isn't it, indeed, good that we have learned how to raise them, children and chickens, scientifically? Where is the rickety child of years ago? Where are the loads of hens that a wee back, we carried over to the big hole in the woodland, dead of cholera? Where has the white diarrhea menace gone? Into the limbo of old methods of feeding dough and setting eggs only on the new of the moon!

To begin with, our people insisted upon the county court supplying a farm agent and a home demonstration agent. We have both. For fourteen years an appropriation has been demanded to keep them. A few times, the court has taken an economical spell and tried to shirk this important appropriation, but each time, the women flocked in and when women take up thinks, you know, they go. The farm agent has been left off a time or two for a spell, just long enough to show the men what they were losing, but don't think it will ever occur again. This is one reason for our purebred fowls, as well as for lots of other paying things.

SALES CO-OP GREW STEADILY

usually has a firm foundation in its contact with the individual members. When a co-operative sales organization can grow out of the consolidation of several smaller co-operatives, its chances of being a permanent success are greatly increased.

Down in South Carolina, the Carolina Co-operatives Consolidated, which began shipping sweet potatoes in 1920, is this strong type of organization. These four paragraphs, taken from the Southern Agriculturist, will give the reader an idea of how this association grew out of a combination of smaller strong units:

After the different commodity organizations came together to sell their products under the same management, it was decided to reorganize under the title of Carolina Co-operatives Consolidated. This organization became a kind of clearing house of which the Carolinas Sweet Potato Association, South Carolina Peach Growers' Association, Carolinas Dewberry Association and Various County and Local Associations are members.

Each separate organization has its officers and boards of directors which meet and decide what they will give for service rendered.

Two members are furnished by each group to make a central board. A combined audit and report is made to this central board. This is the machinery used for selling these several products. It is done more efficiently and much more economically than if each one operated separately.

The peach growers allow only 7 per cent for operating expenses. The sweet potato grower's contract allows the organization a maximum of 10 per cent but 8.8 per cent is the largest charge that has been made. The dewberry growers allow 10 per cent but as this is a consignment proposition it is hard to get out on this allowance.

GO SLOW—BUT GO!

Cow testing associations fill a vital need. Good pastures are essential. This is a big business in itself and should be handled on a business-like basis. Go slow—don't owe. Make each cow a milk factory, operating on a profitable basis. Again—consult the county agent.

An interesting and instructive Banker-Farmer Short Course was staged at the State College, North Carolina, on August 2 and 3.

"Two of the outstanding features were talks made by two boys and girls who went to the National 4-H Encampment at Washington, and the program put on by the Young Tarheel Farmers," reports Secretary Paul P. Brown.

The Short Course was sponsored by the North Carolina Bankers Agricultural Committee, and is the second course of the kind held for the bankers in the state.