

MACON COUNTY AGRICULTURE

THINGS IN GENERAL

A large part of the gains of the summer just passed, as well as whether or not livestock has a fair start on next summer's work will depend on the care and feed that they get this winter. It is not so important that they be kept in a fat, sleek condition as it is to see to it that they are kept in dry clean quarters where there are no drafts or leaks.

There is the question of internal and external parasites such as worms and lice and mites. We know that many a sensible appearing man has and is still sneering at this idea. If they had been at the state fair and had seen the many kinds of worms and crawling things that are found on and in our livestock they would have at least kept their ridiculing comments to themselves. They would have realized that what they do not know about such things would fill several books and that to say they did not believe in them would have shown to the wide world just how ignorant they really are.

It is true in a great many cases that our forefathers were not troubled with a great many of the parasitic troubles that beset us today. These same forefathers were not troubled with a great many things that we use in this day and time. And in the same breath let us hasten to say that they wasted enough thru ignorance and indifferent application to have left us all millionaires. It is an inexorable law of nature that where ever a condition develops that suitable place is made for a living organism of any kind that they inevitably develop. And the more they grow the more they will grow. In the old days when cattle and hogs ran out on free range they had a better opportunity to change the range, to select the plants and herbs that would act as a tonic for whatever things ailed them. In this day and time the same number of stock are kept in so small a space year in and year out it stands to reason that infestations will naturally be higher.

As we have not the free range for the stock to run out on nor no time to look after them if they did, it stands to reason that we must, to have any success with them, take care that sanitary conditions prevail.

This is done very easily when the owner makes provisions for it ahead of time. For hogs a roomy place where they can get plenty of exercise is the first essential. Its all very well for the old fogies to say that hogs do better and are raised cheaper in a pen. Tests have proven otherwise. A hog in a small pen may look as though he is putting on more flesh—and he may be of a kind. But when you cure the meat is just shrinks away. Then again it is full of disease. One of the most simple remedies for keeping hogs fit is equal parts of ordinary 16 per cent acid and wood ashes with a mixture of one half salt and one half iron sulphate added, one pound of this to every five pounds of the ashes and acid mixture. A dry place to sleep in is absolutely essential. Everyone or very nearly everyone knows this but they just do not take the trouble to do it.

As for the chickens. Its a lasting disgrace the way ninety nine per cent of the chickens in Macon have to spend the winter. They are half starved to begin with. Next they have no place to roost in most instances. Where there is a place it is so filthy that the man on whose place it is on stays away from it. In the next place there is not one hen in ten that ever gets worm or lice treatment. But when sale day comes they are sure looked to for bringing in the dollars. Why not get busy and fix the hens up for the winter in a way that they will be worth all possible to us and at the same time give ourselves that satisfactory feeling of having done a thing as it should be done.

And to go around over the county and see the things that are used for cow stalls makes one think is anything worthwhile. It gives one the creeps to think of the discomfort of the cow during the winter nights and days as well. Then from these same cows we expect to get milk for our own use and for our sick ones.

Just come right down and ask our selves this question, "Is the milk I am feeding my family clean and pure? Am I giving them the same chance that I would expect to get myself?" There may be a good many that are, but they are few and far between. In the first place very few cow stalls are dry. Still fewer are warm. Few are clean. Every cow in the land is improperly fed. Folks, it's the little things and the leaks that we have to watch. They are the ones that cost us so much.

Why the South Is Poor

We reprint the following not because that it applies directly to this section, but because it carries food for thought—for the thoughtful man, that is. Where the writer of the article below uses machinery as the thing that would aid the farmers toward a better income, we, in this section, can substitute fencing. There is not one thing that we could do that would mean more toward agricultural enlightenment than fencing.

The only reason why the flat country farmer uses machinery, is because he found in his wisdom that he could not make a living without doing so. It is just as essential for a farmer in this section to use fencing a it i for the flat country farmer to use machinery.

Dodge as well, there is no way of escape from the fact that the world accepts a man at his own valuation. And a man values himself just in the proportion that he uses his head on his job and makes a success of it. God himself helps only those that help themselves. We can all buy motor cars and tobacco and other such things simply because we want them bad enough. Its the same with a well appointed farm. We can all have it if we want it bad enough.

Why the South is Poor

One reason why southern farmers are poor is because they are practicing hoe-farming when farmers in other sections have adopted machine-farming. The South Atlantic states cultivate fourteen acres per worker and the North Central states 68.6 acres per worker. In the South Atlantic states the women and children work in the fields; in the corn belt the women stay in the house and the children go to school. The Northern farmer has a high standard of living and enjoys reasonable prosperity; the southern farmer has a low standard of living and is personally hard up. Both are cash-crop farmers but one is using a machine and the other a hoe. Cotton and tobacco demand more hand labor than corn and wheat, but it is not necessary that the South should depend so exclusively on cotton and tobacco.

The following table, showing the average size of farms in the several geographic areas of the United States the number of workers per farm, and number of acres per worker, suggests one cause of the inequality in agricultural wealth.

| Area | ac. per farm | per wkrs. | wkrs. per farm | per farm wkr. |
|-------------|--------------|-----------|----------------|---------------|
| U. S. | 145 | 265 | 1.21 | 37.6 |
| N. Atlantic | 92 | 162 | .98 | 35.4 |
| N. Central | 166 | 1.79 | .63 | 68.6 |
| S. Atlantic | 80 | 3.59 | 2.11 | 14.0 |
| S. Central | 116 | 4.54 | 1.62 | 18.8 |
| West | 373 | 1.75 | 1.74 | 106.8 |

On farms of crop reporters, June 1, 1929.

UNCLE FED LIVES AT HOME

Mr. John Murray, Uncle Fed, as he likes to be called, lives fourteen miles from the county seat of Macon county and seven miles from a highway. He is seventy six years old and Mrs. Murray is seventy two.

Uncle Fed has a little mountain farm valued for taxation at \$12.50. On this farm he is living at home and boarding at the same place. His cash income, after paying all the expenses has been on the average for the last several years, \$400.00. When asked what he figured was the best formula for success he said.

"Well you should not ask an old man leading questions, but right off the bat I'd say steady work, and a whole heap of manure mixed with brains."

On this farm are thirty hives of bees, a well cared for apple orchard and he grows enough wheat for his own use and corn enough to feed his

The County Agent is responsible only for articles over his signature. For the rest blame the editor—Editor. For the rest blame the Editor.

poultry, hogs and cattle and work stock. Also forage. He has bought none of these for twenty years. In his woodshed is at this writing enough good dry wood for the winter. On his sitting-room table are seen his county paper, a daily paper, two or three farm papers and a magazine or two.

The home is painted, there is cool spring water in the house by the gravity system. The stables and out-buildings are small—just what is useful and no more. The barn yard is dry the year round because it has had rock hauled in and is well drained. All tools and implements are kept out of the weather. The yard around the house is sodded to blue grass and clover and has a fence around it. Here is kept the bee hives and Aunt Fed keeps her wee chicks here till they are large enough to run outside.

"Uncle Fed, we see a lot of farm bulletins lying around. Some in the kitchen and some in your spray material, some on the shelf where you keep your bee supplies and around in other places. How is that?"

"Well, you see, its no use trying to keep formulas directions and so on in a head like mine, so I just keep these bulletins around where they are handy and I use them in season so to speak."

"You seem to be pretty well fixed, Uncle Fed."

"I don't know so much about that. But I wouldn't call President Hoover my uncle if I had to live anywhere else. I am happy here and enjoy planning out my little plans and working to the plan."

And, bing, we had what we had been after. The answer to a whole heap of things. The man was happy at his job and enjoyed planning it out.

Thus, dear reader, you have the other side of the drab—and all too often true to life picture so often seen.

Fashions and methods of all things change. Principles remain the same. Achievement in every walk of life is bought with the price of study and effort. And farming is no exception to the rule. If every living thing on God' earth, would today as Uncle Fed Murray, love his work and put into it all the work and thought in his power, there would be no farm problems or no farm poverty either and it would be impossible to draw a picture such as many a politician is wont to paint.

There is no legislation on earth that can or will of itself, make our mountain farmers self sustaining, self respecting, and a credit to his community, his estate, and his nation except his own effort; for all legislation that has been or ever will be enacted by the farmers is based on the assumption that we are worthy of having the opportunity for a greater reward opened for us.

Weevils can be prevented from breeding in stored beans and peas by mixing dust or air-slaked lime with the seeds.

Pullets that are to lay well thruout the winter months should begin laying the middle of October or first of November.

One of the rules to follow in figuring the dairy cow's grain ration is to allow 1 pound of grain each day for every pound of butterfat she produces in a week.

It is often economical to chop, cut, or chaff poor-quality hay for horses, as it is eaten with less waste than the unprepared forage. Usually it doesn't pay to cut low-priced hay of good quality for feeding.

In Iowa, the big farm pays best, according to a study of farm records made in 1928 by 25 farmers in Webster county. The records show that 80-acre farms suffered an average loss of \$171 on management; the 160-acre

farms averaged \$558 management returns; the 240-acre farms averaged \$1,021; and the 320-acre farms were credited with \$1,848 management returns.

While corn silage is an excellent feed for the dairy cow, it is not a balanced one, and some legume hay should be given to supply protein and mineral matter. From 6 to 12 or more pounds of alfalfa, soybean, cowpea, or red, crimson, or alsike clover hay in addition to the silage, is a good ration. Hay from Canada field peas, sown with oats to prevent the peas from lodging, also makes excellent roughage.

Eighty-three game and bird reservations are now administered by the Department of Agriculture for the conservation of wild life. One of the largest of these is the Upper Mississippi River Wild Life and Fish Refuge. Another important one was authorized by Congress in 1928, at Bear River Bay, Great Salt Lake, Utah. Important breeding, feeding, and resting grounds for migratory game birds are also provided at Big Lake, Ark., Malheur and Upper Klamath, Oreg., and Tule Lake, Calif.

On days of low humidity and high winds fires are easily started and hard to stop. This is a season when many persons take advantage of the drouth and slack times to burn off the accumulation of weeds, rubbish and bugs. A large number of woods fires are caused by allowing such rubbish fires to get beyond control and spread into the woods. Choose a cloudy or rainy day to burn rubbish, and watch the fire closely.

Hogs are supposed to be so constituted that they can not economically digest dry hay or fodder, but alfalfa is an exception. Hogs will not eat alfalfa hay readily at first, but later becoming accustomed to it they relish a limited quantity, especially hay made from plants cut at an early stage. Alfalfa hay added to the grain ration reduces the cost of grains and is good for the hogs. Alfalfa is especially good for brood sows.

COUNTY CLUB IDEA IS SPREADING OVER NATION

(Continued from last week)

This applies particularly to taxes. Many tax levies are absolutely necessary. Where they are understood they receive the approval of the citizens. But the County Club may be expected to take the lead in any movement to reduce such levies where such is possible without hindering the progress of the county.

(C) To encourage respect for laws. This country is now passing thru an anxious period. Writers, publicists, educators and others are giving great attention to the Prohibition and other laws. Newspapers are contributing many columns to the law enforcement problem. Local officials are largely reflecting the supposed sentiment in their communities in their enforcement efforts. The time may come within the next few years when cool and steady thinking and leadership will be of vital importance in each community. Drawn as it is, from the best citizens in each section, the County Club will undoubtedly be a dominant factor in the solution of the law enforcement problem.

No greater service can be rendered by any County Club than to encourage and increase respect for our country's laws.

(d) To develop and maintain a broader acquaintance among citizens of the county with the attendant interchange of ideas.

In the past there have been few men who could see the needs of their county as a whole. The interest of the majority was centered on their individual desires and opportunities. Consequently many portions of the counties were neglected because they had no spokesman in authority.

Through the meetings of the County club each member will have an opportunity to express his views on all matters having to do with the improvement of his county. Every citizen will realize the value of such a club to himself and to his county.

(e) To develop and maintain an interest in the conversation of the natural resources of the county at large—the improvement of agricultural and industrial opportunities of the county and the preservation of the public

highways and other public property of the county.

The County Club will be an effective aid to the head of the county schools, the farm agent, the cooperative marketing organizations, the officials of the county government and all movements tending to improve the county. As it will be composed of leading farmers and business men it will be able to serve as no other organization can.

The next few years are important in that they will see the working out of the farm relief program as established by the Congress. How it will affect the county or the individual cannot now be said. Study and planning are necessary if each section is to get its proper share of the benefit of this relief program.

MEMBERSHIP OF THE COUNTY CLUB

The County Club is designed to appeal to the leading citizens of each section of the county. It is desired that its membership be confined to those whose standing among their neighbors is unquestioned and whose leadership in sponsoring movements for the benefit of the county cannot be questioned.

It is suggested that as nearly as possible each section of the county be represented on the basis of its population; that the membership be equally divided among farmers and business men; that business men be taken to include doctors, teachers, lawyers and other professional men, living in the county seat and in other county towns.

MEMBERSHIP COSTS

Effort has been made to maintain the cost of membership on a more economical basis than that of similar bodies now functioning in the cities and towns.

The Charter Membership fee is Ten Dollars, payable on acceptance. This low entrance fee is limited to the Charter Members and may be raised by the local County Club for members entering later. Such action is left to the discretion of each County Club.

The monthly dues will be twenty-five cents per month, payable in two annual installments. The purpose of this monthly due is to bring to each individual member such bulletins or other information as may be published from time to time by the National Association.

GOVERNMENT OF CLUB

The management of each County Club is entirely in the charge of its own members. It is not subject to any authority of any outside individual or organization. It will be affiliated with the NATIONAL COUNTY CLUB ASSOCIATION, with headquarters at Washington D. C., under whose direction this County Club is being formed, and will be entitled to judge for itself the value of any suggestions that may come from the national organization or from any other County Club in the State or Nation.

TEMPORARY ORGANIZATION

The work as Temporary Chairman of organizing each County Club is entrusted to one individual of known character and reputation in each county. He will be aided in the preliminary work by a representative of the National Association. As quickly as the membership acceptances have been returned to the Temporary Chairman in sufficient number in his judgment to make the success of the County Club a certainty, the Temporary Chairman will name a time and place for the first meeting.

At this first meeting a Certificate from the National County Clubs Association will be delivered. At this time, also, by-laws will be decided upon and officers and committees selected. It is suggested that the by-laws set meetings to be held once per month at convenient times and places and that the officers hold office not longer than for one year. It is important that you attend the first meeting in order to take part in the work of the club from the very beginning and receive instructions concerning the committee or committees on which you may be appointed to serve.

YOUR VERY PROMPT ACCEPTANCE OF THE INVITATION TO BECOME A MEMBER WILL MATERIALLY HELP MAKE WORTH WHILE THE FORMATION OF YOUR COUNTY CLUB AND HASTEN ITS DEVELOPMENT AS A FACTOR IN THE AFFAIRS OF YOUR COUNTY.