

# THE CAROLINA UNION FARMER

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One Dollar a Year

## FALL FARM IMPROVEMENT

One of the very best things that a farmer can do any season of the year is to make substantial farm improvements commensurate with his means. It may be possible to do only a little at a time, yet this little will count in time if it is continued year after year. So many delay improvements till "better times," or when a large amount of the work can be done at once. Frequently something comes in the way before the big plans are carried out, with the result that progressive improvements are sadly lacking. The way to do is to improve a little at a time, just as means and opportunity come for the work, then by and by the farm as a whole will begin to take on an air of thrift, prosperity, convenience and beauty.

The way things look in general about the home and farm buildings, as well as fences and fence rows, is a pretty good index to the character of the farmer as such. A man may be rich in money and other financial collateral, yet poor in the real things which bring the greatest happiness and pride to the entire farm family. The husband may have money in the bank and notes out at interest amounting to the thousands, yet the wife may be spending a good share of her time driving pigs, calves, and poultry from the front yard for want of a better fence about the home grounds.

Town and city life now is so attractive that a large share of farm boys and girls leave the farm as soon as possible to seek this more attractive life. The farmer laments the condition, and wonders why it is so. A little horse sense thinking would clarify the situation. Nine-tenths of all boys and girls as they approach manhood and womanhood have a high sense of pride and beauty. This is perfectly natural, and it is the salvation of the race for it to be so. The "young folks" like clean, attractive and beautiful things. They will not walk in mud and work in dirt when they have discovered that somewhere else conditions are better. Perhaps the greatest of all reasons why boys and girls leave the farm for city life is the lack of home conveniences and comforts. These they can find in the city. If the farm boys and girls could entertain their boy or girl friends and visitors in their own rooms with modern light, heat, furniture, books, and music instead of being compelled on winter evenings to crowd around a single stove in the sitting room with the "old folks," they would be more contented with farm life. The farmer who wishes to keep his boys and girls

at home till they are grown up men and women can do no better than install in the farm home a modern heating and lighting plant, bath, and private comfortable rooms. The children will not be inclined to leave the parental roof if under this roof they find all that the outside world furnishes.

The fall of the year is an ideal season for farm improvements. The roads at this time are good for hauling the material and the weather is favorable for the work. Income from the crops has been realized for funds, field work is practically over, the days are invigorating, and nothing stands in the way for completion of improvements begun.

This season, with the cold winter approaching, is a good time to build or repair the dwelling or buildings for housing the domestic animals during the cold months. Farm life is pleasant through the summer months with almost any kind of dwelling, but it may become very gloomy and unpleasant in the winter with a poorly heated and lighted dwelling, and no substantial walks from the dwelling to the barns and outbuildings. It may be the house needs foundation to keep out the cold from below, or a new roof to keep out the rain and cold from above, or a new room or two for more beds and privacy. Paint not only helps the looks of a house, but it seals the cracks against the cold winds and moisture and preserves the wood against decay. Cool, bright autumn weather is the very best time to paint. The farmer who takes up a paint brush once a year to shine up his buildings has sterling quality in his makeup, and his name on a note or other commercial paper is worth while. The farm paint brush in use is a sure sign of business confidence, a quality which no well meaning man can afford to ignore. Paint, and the world will know and admire you and your farm, throw the brush away and people will pass your place without comment.

Money and time spent in farm improvements are good investments; they will come back with compound interest. Good dwellings mean greater efficiency for the members of the farm family, and good buildings for the animals mean less feed and greater profits. It is a pleasure to feed and work in a dry, warm and well lighted barn in winter, but drudgery otherwise. One of the largest leaks on the farm is through inadequate shelter for feeds and animals. Now is the best time to build and repair those shelters for the coming winter.

It is a part of good business management to make substantial and lasting improvements when any such work is to be done. Use material that will not rot and become useless within a few years. Build for keeps while you are building. For walks, foundations, floors, mangers, troughs, and even side walks, concrete is the most efficient and durable material that can be used at the present time, and it is very cheap compared with the long service it will give. Make some permanent improvements this fall to let people know that you are a live farmer.—Mo. Journal of Agriculture.

### Vance County.

At a regular meeting of Vance County Farmers' Union, at Henderson, on Saturday, October 8th, 1911, the following preamble and resolutions was unanimously adopted, to-wit:

Whereas, we view with alarm and dissatisfaction the present downward tendency of the price of cotton and tobacco, and,

Whereas, we do not believe this condition is due to the overproduction of either of these crops, but that the cause lies in speculation entirely and the manipulation of prices by those who have no cotton or tobacco to sell, but are gambling in futures and thereby misrepresenting actual conditions.

Therefore, be it resolved, that we will as far as we can honorably do so, hold our produce, believing that the demand for spot goods will justify us in this action.

We further request all non-Union farmers to join us in this effort to secure at least a living profit on the products of our toil.

### NOTICE OF STATE MEETING.

Notice is hereby given that at the meeting of the State Executive Committee held in Greensboro October 5th, 1911, it was decided that the annual meeting of the North Carolina Farmers' Union should be held in the town of Wilson, N. C., on the 13, 14 and 15 of December 1911, and that the first session will be held at 10 o'clock, a. m., on the 13th.

All county organizations are urged to send full delegations.

H. Q. ALEXANDER, President.  
I. P. COGGINS, Chairman.