

Polk County Has a Growing Season 3 to 6 Weeks Longer Than any other Mountain County in the State

# POLK COUNTY NEWS

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## OUR COUNTY AGENT'S DEPARTMENT

Some Timely Talks to Polk county Farmers, and others, on Timely Subjects, by County Agent, J. R. Sams.

### To The Farmers of Polk County

Please lend me your ears—It is needless for me to tell you we are passing through the reconstruction period following the world war. All men of my age and older, went through that period after the great civil war between the states. We keenly remember those times and we are so thankful that these days are so much better than those. The times now are not a tiny briar scratch when compared to the reconstruction times after the Civil war. This is not what is in my mind but I want to give the right impression to young people that the days of war wastefulness are over and the time has come that the world must make good for all the waste and destruction caused by the wicked war. Of course the farmer as always is the first man hit; but every class of people the world over must take his part of medicine. Even the loafer and tramp will meet their part of the reconstruction period. Now here is the easiest way through it for everybody, keep a level head, keep cool and in good spirits, meet everybody with a smile and a hearty good will and be glad in your heart that the abominable war is over and a thing of the past and that our boys are at home and all as well with us as what it is. Let this be our attitude toward life, and then look about and see what our individual duty toward the nation, the state, the county our neighbors and ourselves may be. It is needless for me to tell you that you made no money on cotton last year. If any of you did hold up your hand, no hands up. Now why did you make no money on your cotton? Simply because it is selling for less than it cost to produce it. Where the farmer produced everything necessary to feed his family and his horse, cattle, hogs and poultry on his farm, his fertilizer bill is not high and while he did not make money last year he is in good condition to go ahead and make a good crop this year. What we want if possible, is to find a way to farm that will to some extent get the farmer around such conditions as the country is now passing through, in a way that will give him a safer route than he is now traveling. The nearer the farmer depends on a single crop for the support of his family the greater will be his distress when that crop sells low on the market. The greater number of crops the farmer produces the more independent he will be when any particular crop should fail. There is no doubt now that cotton is low in price when compared to other things; even cotton goods made from the low priced cotton. Not only the present fact of no money in cotton but the boll weevil is unquestionably on his way and when he arrives, one fifth at least must be deducted from the price of cotton on account of what he will destroy. Can we then look forward hopefully to the cotton crop as a money crop and a bread winner for the future, laying our whole dependence on that crop? I think not. Is there a remedy? yes, and there never was and never will be a better time than right now to begin to make the necessary change, and this change is to more and better

livestock. Now don't everybody hold up hands in holy horror and cry out it can't be done for it can be done simply in this way, don't think now of another cow, pig or chicken on your farm just simply forget all about more cattle or better cattle, just begin to think what a poor out you are making of taking care of the cattle you already have. Get busy and prepare pastures for the cow and calf you already have and see how much better that cow will look and do for you and how much cheaper you can keep her on a good modern civilized pasture than that scrub pasture you had. Scrub pastures are much to blame for the scrub cows and hogs. So come now every farmer in Polk county all together for better pastures. No you can't have a better pasture until you get a good one. When I came to Polk county there was not a pasture in the county. Many farmers had a lot of waste land with barbed wire strung around it where they turned their cattle out to starve and get water which disgraced the name pasture by calling such place a pastures, but old Polk is getting away from such a standard of pastures. There are a few excellent pastures now in the county. More than one man in the county is now keeping his growing cattle on good pastures the entire year without feed, and growing them cheaply—What one farmer can do in Polk county every other farmer can do. Now is the best of all the seasons of the year to begin to grow a good pasture to maintain your livestock, don't say I am not able to buy the grass and clover seed. You are not able to not do so. Remember that clover seed one year ago was \$42 per bu. and now \$14, or three times less. Begin this spring if you don't sow but four square rods and increase your sowing every year until your farm is well supplied with permanent summer and winter pastures which is the cheapest feed ever given to livestock. As I said, don't think now about more and better cattle, hogs, fences etc. just think about pastures, grass and clovers. Think about them until you dream of them in your slumbers on your bed at night and dream of them during your wakeful hours until your dreams become a substantial reality and you see the fields about you clad in living green, and when you do this you will find the way to fence that mouth watering pasture to the poor old hide bound cow over in the oak branch pasture and you will also find the way to buy cooperatively or otherwise, pure bred bulls and then old Polk will be numbered with the intelligent and wealthy counties of the state and the south generally. "So mote it be."

Farmers may think that the use of fertilizers on the farm creates a farm habit that ruins the farm, as the drag habit will destroy the health of the user, but this is not true when the fertilizers are intelligently used in connection with drainage, lime, legumes and good cultivation. Land that will make 10 bu. of corn per acre will make 10 bu. of soy beans with less labor, will be worth more for stock feed and will leave nitrogen in the soils. Try some.

Now is the time to plan for big crops of everything on little pieces of land. It costs more to cultivate a poor acre than a rich one. Try it and keep accounts. The seed catalogues are pouring in from all quarters, order one from your seedman and these long nights make a wise selection for your garden and buy at once so there will be no delay in gardening when the land and season gets right. The land will be right before you are ready, and gardening time for 1921 is almost done here. What about that hen house and are your hens still roosting in the bushes, hog pens and buggies? and are you feeding your hens meat scrap or milk? Hens won't lay unless they are treated right. Now if you want to see some real pretty red chickens call on Miss Flentye, at old Mimesa hotel near Lynn. She has her roosters separated from the hens, each roosting in a separate house and she treats them so well that we found one egg in the roosters pen the day I made her a visit. So you see good treatment pays. The more cattle, hogs and poultry there is in any country the more prosperous that country will be, provided this livestock is properly cared for because more crops must be made to feed this livestock and in turn the livestock will make more manure to enrich the soil. And thus we have it—richer soil to make better crops, to feed more and better livestock. You see it works around a circle, one thing building another round and round right on. Don't forget the apple trees, peach trees and grape vines about the farm. Apple trees may be pruned any time but don't butcher them by slashing them with an ax, use a good sharp saw or knife, cut out all dead limbs, don't cut any green thrifty limb until you can give a substitute reason for doing so. The peach tree should be pruned about the time the buds get read to burst in the spring—and pruning, cultivation and spraying is everything to the peach tree, after the worms are kept out of them. I mean the worms that bore in around the root or base of the tree. The grape vine should be pruned in February and as in the case of the peach, pruning, cultivation and spraying is everything. Now the first month of the new month of 1921 is half gone and what about our new year resolutions? Have we begun to leave off those old habits and ways of living that make us just half way men and women? or even way below half way folks? What about the fellow who might be one of Polk county's very best and most honorable citizens but on account of wrong notion in his head made blockade liquor and sneaked around in the night last year contrary to law and sold it to people just as thoughtless of good society as themselves? Have you thought how bad it is and have you resolved to quit it and become the man that God created you to be? If not now is a good time to do so, and get busy making a garden, making something to keep a good milk cow and a good flock of pure bred poultry to feed the family, and see how much better the world will think of you and treat you. Don't wait any longer, determine and begin now to be a man. Now let everyone forget all about any such thing as hard times and look to the future with smiles and good common

sense hard work, everyone helping his neighbor in every way he can and next year will be the best one we have ever had.

### TEN TOWN TESTS

Questions People Ask About Your Town Before Making It Their Town.

- 1. ATTRACTIVENESS**  
Shall I like the town—it's "atmosphere?" Does it have the beauty of shaded streets and other beautiful features? Is it a quiet, roomy, airy, well lighted town? Does it have attractive public buildings and homes? Is it well paved? Is it clean in every sense?
- 2. HEALTHFULNESS**  
Will my family and I have a reasonable chance to keep well in that town? How about its water supply? Its sanitary system? Its method of milk inspection? Its health department? Its hospital? Is it without any congested district?
- 3. EDUCATION**  
Can I educate my family and myself in that town? How about its public schools—present and future? Its institutions of higher education or of business training? Its libraries? Its lecture and concert, course? Its newspapers? Its postal facilities?
- 4. PEOPLE**  
Shall I like the people of the town? Are they "home folks" without false exclusiveness? Are they neighborly and friendly? Is the town free from factionalism? Does it have strong religious, fraternal and social organizations?
- 5. RECREATION**  
Can I have a good time in that town—I and my family? How about the theaters, museums, gymnasiums, parks etc.? Are there active agencies for providing good entertainments, athletic contests, etc.? Are inviting opportunities for pleasure drives afforded by well paved streets?
- 6. LIVING**  
Can we live reasonably and well in that town? Are the best of modern conveniences available for its residents, electricity, gas, telephones, etc.? Are the housing and shopping conditions favorable? Rents, taxes and prices fair? Hotels good? Home and truck gardens and dairy products plentiful?
- 7. ACCESSIBILITY**  
Can we go and come easily? Does the town have adequate railroad connections and train service? Street car lines? Interurban lines? Well marked automobiles routes and hard surface roads?
- 8. BUSINESS**  
Can I make good use of capital in that town? Are there banking facilities? Manufacturing interests? Up to date stores? Good shipping facilities? Favorable labor conditions? A prosperous farming territory? Active co-operation among business interests?
- 9. EMPLOYMENT**  
Can I get a job in that town at fair pay and with good prospects for the future? Can I count on co-operation from organizations making it their business to help introduce and establish new commercial interests and to welcome new citizens?
- 10. PROGRESSIVENESS**  
Shall I find that am in a live town having a progressive city government, active civic organizations, modern fire protection, and a pull together spirit in everything—a town with a future? "From Selling Your Town," by L. N. Mint, Department of Journalism, University of Kansas, Lawrence.

## FROM OUR FRIENDS IN THE COUNTRY

Items of Interest Gathered From Various Sections of Polk County by Our Corps of Faithful Correspondents.

### Mountain View.

We have been having some cold weather for the past week. Mrs. Joe McGraw died at her home January 10. She leaves a husband and three children to mourn her loss. We sympathize with the bereaved ones. Her remains were laid to rest in the Mountain View cemetery January 10.

Dr. Stacy was in this section last Saturday.

Messrs. Bob Walker and Oscar McCrain, passed through this section Saturday.

Clarence Justice, of Rutherfordton, has his grist mill and shingle mill in operation on his place, known as the Hamilton place.

Success to the News.

### Mill Spring

Wonder how everybody is enjoying this real winter weather. Had Sunday school at both churches Sunday, regardless of the mud.

G. C. Barber, wife and little son, Reginald, left Saturday for their home in Newport News, Va., after spending several weeks with their home folks here and at Chimney Rock.

We are glad to note that J. R. Foster is able to be out again, after a very severe attack of headache.

E. B. Barber, student of the Westminister school Rutherfordton, N. C., is spending a few days with his father J. M. Barber. He leaves Monday for Charleston, to undergo treatment at the hospital.

Misses Carrie and Letha Barber were dinner guests of Miss Mabel Pack Saturday evening.

We are all glad to learn J. M. Lewis is staying on with us instead of leaving us as was his first anticipation.

Miss Letha Barber who is teaching at Lebanon spent the week-end with home folks.

Success to the News for a New Year.

### Melvin Hill

A very heavy sleet fell here on last Thursday which remained on the timber nearly all of the next day, breaking down the tree tops and limbs considerably.

Recently arrived at the home of Vance Gilbert and wife, a boy.

The Reed children have the mumps and are having to be kept home from school.

Mrs. Anna Green, of Aboline, made a visit to Melvin Hill at the home of Mrs. Simp Johnson. Mrs. Green is said to be one of the oldest women in this vicinity.

The Sunday school was poorly attended last Sunday on account of the mud which was caused by so much ice.

There is still some cotton in the fields around here, but the folks are using every day that will do in pulling off or picking. Also some corn not gathered.

Mrs. Kreider has four nice young Belgian hares the only ones that this town can boast of. But we still have plenty of the other kind running wild and sometimes with a dog and a boy in pursuit.

Success to the News.

Persian Men Must Not Laugh.  
In Persia a man who laughs is considered effeminate, but free license is given to feminine merriment.

### Fishtop

It has been so long since the readers have heard from here I hope you will get this item not because they are so interesting but that all may know it was not my fault that you have failed to get the news from here all about the fat hogs and the champion one (he weighed 27 1-2 lbs.) And the fun we have all had in different ways especially about two young men who had been out for a good time and were late getting in concluded to go the nearest way and wade the river. One of them thought he was a better fellow than the other (or any one else as that) persuaded him to carry him over as there was no use in but one getting wet. So when the carrier got to the proper place he dove and drowned his rider off about two miles from home, and a cold night too. This was Christmas fun enough to all who knew the parties.

We are having some nice old fashioned cold weather and though peach blooms have appeared we hope we will have fruit next season.

Lewis Levi, of Zerconia, visited relatives here Saturday and Sunday.

Robt. Price made his usual visit Sunday.

Harrison Arledge and Miss Dora Bishop were happily married Sunday at the bride's parent's home, Jasper, Bishop. He has a blooming wife and we wish them both a long and happy life.

E. J. Bradley and Ewert Levi were business callers at Jasper Bishop's and Louis Bradley's one day last week.

Correspondents don't get discouraged if your items are not published every time. Advertising often crowds it out and as that is where the publisher gets most of his pay we must not kick but do all we can to make the News a better paper and keep it so.

### Tryon Route 1

Have we all done our bit for the starving Chinese? Ten thousand dying daily. The Christian Herald says one dollar will save a life for a month. Let's save a life and begin the new year right.

News articles are scarce on the route just now except "Old Mr. winter" has us in his grasp, with plenty of mud and sleet.

Can you guess who it was that walked two miles to Sunday school last Sunday? Just think what good Sunday schools we would have if all were as much interested.

Fox Mountain school has now on roll 60 students and all are doing fairly good work.

Mrs. E. H. Edwards who has been quite sick for some time is now improving.

Mrs. Ida Hunt is still in the hospital at Asheville.

Murphy Mull is visiting relatives on the route.

Rev. J. W. Hackney surely was showing his good old time religion while plodding away in the sleet and mud to fill his appointment at New Hope.

Ancient Wines Perfumed.  
Greek and Roman wines were perfumed, generally by steeping the leaves of roses or violets in the liquor until it had acquired the odor of the flowers.