

# 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

According to a statement in Extension Farm News, T. R. Hodges, of Washington, N. C. procured 115 bu. of corn on one acre of land. Here are the details as to how it was done. 1st He had selected seed corn from the field for seven years. 2nd It is a white, two eared variety, Hodge Prolific. 3rd Alfalfa has been grown on the land five years. 4th Clover and oats were grown for hay on this land 5th Last year irish potatoes and soy beans were grown on this land. 6th Land was plowed and harrowed last fall. 7th 300 lbs. 8-3-3 put under corn, 400 bbls. 16 per cent acid phosphate was used as side dressing, and 400 lbs kanit and 300 lbs. nitrate of soda. The land was surveyed and the corn gathered and measured by three disinterested men. If Washington could do that way; why can't it be done in Polk county?

I don't want the farmers of Polk county to get the wrong impression about what I am trying to help them do. Some appear to think I am advocating a system of agriculture that will leave cotton entirely out. I am not, for cotton is one of the greatest, if not the greatest and most useful of all the cash crops of the south; but here is where the trouble lies the cotton crop has been grown too much to the exclusion of everything else. What we need in Polk county is a well planned all around cropping system, consisting of the grain, vegetables, and fruit crops for feed and food. Then we want to grow legumes, clovers, vetch, alfalfa, cow peas, soy beans, velvet beans etc, to keep up farm fertility and feed for livestock. Then we want to grow the grasses for hay and permanent sod crops for pastures for livestock. Then we want to grow cotton as a surplus cash crop. I do not advocate quitting cotton all together; but I do advocate growing less cotton and more livestock. Neither do I advocate a radical or abrupt change. I insist on a slow gradual change from a worn out decayed system of all cultivated crops, to a system of rotation of legume, grass and cultivated grain and cotton crop, that will preserve the farm fertility and give the farmer better returns for less labor. Neither do I insist on farmers bulging into the livestock business without first preparing for it, and the way to prepare for growing livestock is to first prepare to take better care of what you have. There are very few farms in Polk county that can decently take care of a single milk cow. Now what I am insiting upon, is for every farmer never to rest a day nor night until he prepares some good pastures for milk cows first. Then enlarge so that you can raise a calf which will enlarge the herd, just add a little more every year to your pasture, clean up some good rich land and sow to grass while fresh and see what it will do for you. Then clean up some old fields and cover the galled off land and gullies with brush and litter and scatter a little grass seed under it and after a year or two, see what an improvement of the land and of your pasture. No, we don't ask anyone to tear up their farming plans; but we

do ask and insist on farmers to study their business as other business men study theirs and improve their methods as other business men improve theirs. Just a few years ago a prize of \$10,000 was offered by a French man to any aviator who would make a flight around the top of the Eiffel tower. Now men are flying 100 miles per hour, many thousand feet in the air. Every conceivable industry and business is making rapid progress, and so is agriculture in all parts of the world. If so, then why not in Polk county. Let us begin with what we have, make better pastures and crops and then by introducing pure bred sires of whatever breeds of livestock suits best, in a short time, marvelous improvements will come.

### County Agent Work For 1921

We regret to learn of a disposition in a few counties to try to get along in 1921 without a county agent, or with a less efficient county agent.

Such a policy is like dropping the pilot just as the ship enters the most dangerous seas. It is like shutting up the lighthouse just as the storm comes on.

The farmers of the south will need the help of the county agent more in 1921 than ever before.

In the first place, they need his help about production. How much the cotton crop average will be cut is problematical, but it is certainly going to be cut. Farmers are going to grow a diversity of crops, and they are going to need guidance in new fields of effort. They are also going to grow more livestock, and here especially they will need the help of a thoroughly equipped agent.

No less urgently—in fact, even more urgently farmers will need the help of the county agent in problems of marketing. Big and promising plans for reformed cotton marketing (as well as tobacco marketing and peanut marketing in sections growing those crops) already under way. The county agent is the man who must do more than anyone else in bringing success to these plans for scientific and profitable marketing. Then, too, in growing corn, hay, hogs, and cattle, farmers will find their diversification program of small profit unless plans for cooperative shipping and selling are worked out. They naturally look to the county agent for leadership in these matters.

For all these reasons the best investment your county can make is to pay enough to get a superly qualified man to lead your farming forces is county agent in 1921.

Don't be content with a cheap man. Get a man whose training is such that farmers know he can give them real help in all the intricate problems of soils, fertilizers, crops, livestock, livestock diseases, a man who has enough ability not only (1) to help farmers diversify wisely; but also (2) to help them market cotton and other "money crops" more wisely; and (3) who will help farmers in cooperative shipping and selling of the corn, hay, hogs, and cattle they are going to raise.

We shall indeed need county agents and the year than ever

before. From The Progressive Farmer.

### Program For Polk County Farmers For 1921

- 1st. Soil improvement and conservation.
  - a By sod crops and permanent pastures.
  - b By making and applying barn yard mauure.
  - c By wise use of lime, phosphate and complete fertilizers.
  - d By use of legume crops.
  - e Use of winter cover crops.
- 2nd. A wise and safe crop rotation.
- 3rd A better garden on every farm.
- 4th Improvement of farm poultry.
  - a Pure bred on every farm.
  - b Better housing.
  - c Better feeding and care generally.
- 5th Community organization.
  - a For general betterment.
  - b For fair work.
  - c For fair work.
- 6th The better keeping of the family cow and her pure bred.

My dear farmers; if you will carefully study and work out on every farm the foregoing program, it will be a long time before you will be pinched hard financially as you are just now. Suppose you lay this paper aside and read and study this program and put it into practice, and many farmers can add to it as conditions may differ on different farms, but by all means adopt a regular farm program and go by it. We are living in a glorious age. Last year was a glorious year. Farmers glorified their calling by giving to a starving world an abundant harvest. What if cotton, corn, wheat, etc. are low in price? We have the consolation that we have done our duty, fed the world in a time of need and distress. And let us look with pride to the future with joyful hope that the incoming year will be one of the brightest and best for the farmer and all the world.

### Important to Polk County Farmers

Remember that as a general thing from February 15, to March 15, is the best time of year to sow grass and clover seed for pastures and for hay, of course sooner or later will do, and some times will do better; but the rule is the time mentioned above. So it is time to think it over and let no farmer however small or large fail this season to prepare and sow some grass and clover seed for pasture for the family cow. Then every year sow just a little more for the family cow's calf and in a few years you will be in the livestock business to that extent you should be. Try it for three or four years and see how it will turn out and how easy it is to do so. The best thing you can do is to write for a seed catalogue and price list from some reliable seed house. Where you are in doubt about what you should sow on particular land drop me a postal card and I will call and advise with you at first opportunity. Many farmers just now are calling on me for my time; but if otherwise let me know I can make calls on my way through the country. Call for me I am your servant while in the county and want to serve all to the best of my ability and in the best way possible.

### Atmospheric Action.

The atmosphere of the earth acts very much in the same way as does the glass of a greenhouse—it allows the rays of the sun to pass through, but imprisons the heat. Thus it is cooler on the top of a mountain than at the sea level, because, though the mountain top is nearer the sun, the atmosphere is much less dense.

### Mill Spring Route 1

It seemed like winter last week but this week is more like summer.

Arthur Thompson and wife, spent last Sunday with the latter's parents L. A. Edwards and wife.

Mary Willie Whiteside, of near Chimney Rock, spent the weekend with Maggie Edwards.

Ralph Edward and wife, visited the latter's uncle, John Flynn, last Sunday who is quite sick.

We are sorry to say that John Clyde and Knot Womack are missing school on account of pneumonia. We hope that they will soon be back at school again.

Miss Mattie Mae Williams was the guest of Maggie Sue and Gilreath Edwards last Saturday.

R. L. D. Gilbert has moved his family near Rutherfordton. Talmage Allen was a welcome caller on Uree last Sunday.

The Misses Eagle, of Fair View, visited their sister, Mrs. Floyd Dyer, one day last week.

A. A. Edwards and wife, visited the former's father J. Edwards last Saturday.

Several girls and boys went hiking on the Chimney Rock road last Sunday. They all report a nice time, even if it was muddy.

Little Pantha Edwards was the afternoon playmate of Sallie and Hattie Sue Whiteside last Sunday.

### HIGH SCHOOL IN WHITE OAK TOWNSHIP

It is said that fortune knocks at every man's door some time in life. It seems to be also true as to community, township, county, state and nation. The main trouble is rejecting the opportunity offered. It is a lamented fact and is often spoken of that Polk Co., would have had better railway facilities had it not been for the rejection of same by some of the old settlers. Now the county and state school officials are offering to spend a large sum of money in the establishment and maintainance of an upto-date high school somewhere in the center of White Oak township. They are waiting to see an outstretched hand from the people. If the people through unbelief, prejudiceness, selfishness and non-progressiveness refuse this opportunity the door may be closed and the offer given to the people elsewhere. Our children would grow up in ignorance and haint us for being the direct cause of their misfortune. Now the red blooded citizenship of this banner township will not stand for a thing like that, they have too much ambition and high aspiration for the betterment of their children.

We have confidence in our state and national administration and we are looking forward to some good school and road legislation.

Lets inquire of our county school officials what they would have us do and do it now.

A Citizen.

Wonderful Vatican Library. The Vatican library is the most sumptuously housed of all libraries, and contains some of the rarest manuscripts in existence. The printed books include over 2,500 volumes issued in the Fifteenth century, many of them vellum copies. The library is said to contain over 220,000 volumes and 30,000 manuscripts.

New Fishing Methods. A Lamont man who is charged with having taken a fish from a private fish pond declares the fish were so tame that one of them was eating out of his hand, and he simply closed his fingers on it and carried it away. Our own method has always been to whistle to the creatures from across the fence, and walk away, innocent-like, while they trot down the road after us.—Detroit News.

Mill Spring Route 2

The teachers of Red Mountain and Sunny View schools attended the singing at Big Level last Sunday.

Rev. Tiner preached at Big Level Saturday. There was no preaching on Sunday.

J. M. Green is on the sick list at present with Dr. Stacy attending him.

The Sunny View school house was varnished inside last Saturday under the auspices of the teachers and committees of the school.

## FROM OUR FRIENDS IN THE COUNTRY

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

### Melvin Hill

We have been having some lovely fair weather for several days.

Prof. Kreider and wife (the Melvin Hill teachers) attended a teachers' meeting at Greens Creek last Friday afternoon.

Mrs. Branscom's health seems to be better at present.

Neddy Huntley of Spartanburg Spent last week with his brother Germane Huntley here and they improved their time hunting. Don't know what luck they had.

Mercury registered 74 degrees here last Saturday.

This town was shocked by the death of Mr. Charley Henderson, of Collinsville. Mr. Henderson was around among us but a short time ago selling the Rawleigh medicines, and looked so well that we remarked that he looked better than we had ever seen him, but alas; the next time we saw his face it was pale and cold in death. He was well thought of and had many friends here.

Mrs. Simp Johnson has had a very bad eye for some time.

Mr. Branscom and wife, visited Emeline Henderson at Collinsville, who is very sick Sunday evening.

Elder John Jackson, of Rutherfordton, took dinner with the Branscoms last Thursday.

Regular preaching service here every second Sunday at 11 a. m. Sunday school every Sunday at 2 p. m. Young men's meeting every Thursday night. Everybody welcome to these meetings.

Correspondents all come on, let everybody hear from every part of Polk. To our way of thinking that is the way to make a good newspaper.

Tryon Route 1

Some of us were sorry we were deprived of hearing the excellent sermon delivered at Bethlehem Sunday. Rev. W. W. Womack will give us a good old time sermon next Sunday at Bethlehem. Come and see.

Lindsey Owens is with his aged parents for a few days.

Ruff Waldrop of S. C. purchased the mother of the twin calves from J. D. Carpenter.

Mrs. Brown Nance, of Spartanburg, is spending a while with her son F. B. Nance.

Niss Sallie Carpenter was an afternoon caller of Mrs. Jessie Rice Sunday.

Hugh Edwards cut his foot with an ax last Saturday while cutting wood.

Roscoe Hall and wife, are rejoicing over the birth of a son, guess they will call him "Martin Welborn."

Success to the News.

Mill Spring Route 2

The teachers of Red Mountain and Sunny View schools attended the singing at Big Level last Sunday.

Rev. Tiner preached at Big Level Saturday. There was no preaching on Sunday.

J. M. Green is on the sick list at present with Dr. Stacy attending him.

The Sunny View school house was varnished inside last Saturday under the auspices of the teachers and committees of the school.

This seems to be orchard pruning season as everyone is at work in the orchard while the weather is mild and pleasant.

J. W. Pitts and W. B. Mills, are at work with E. J. Bagwell.

Friendship Items

We are glad to say we are having some fine weather now and the farmers are preparing for farming.

T. J. Metcalf, wife and father spent Sunday night at Mrs. Forest's. They report a nice time.

J. R. Sams was a caller at G. W. Foster's Saturday, he also spent some time with his nephew Ned Anderson.

John Anderson was on his farm last week for a few days.

Mrs. G. W. Foster spent a few days last week with her brother John Edwards in Tryon. She reports a nice time.

John Metcalf will soon complete his work and return to his home in Madison.

The B. Y. P. U. is going on nicely at Friendship. Everybody is invited to be with us on Sunday nights.

Columbus

The public is cordially invited to an entertainment "A county school" followed by a box supper to be given at Stearns High School, Saturday evening at 7:30

We were glad to have Miss Stearns, who is spending the winter in Tryon visit our school which is a memorial to her father.

A very interesting basket ball game was played on the Columbus ground last Saturday afternoon between the girls of Columbus and those of Landrum. The game was played fast and showed good training on both sides but Columbus lost with a score of 13 to 21.

The boys of Columbus challenge any basket ball team in the county for a game.

Misses Mae and Odessa Mills spent the week-end in Spartanburg visiting friends and relatives.

Our new principal, Prof. W. D. Loy, has organized a Christian Endeavor society which meets every Sunday evening at 7:30. The public is cordially invited.

The Teachers' Reading Circle of Columbus township met at Columbus Saturday afternoon at 2 o'clock. This circle will have its next meeting at Fox Mountain on Friday February 4th. The teachers will observe the work in this school before noon but the afternoon will be given to a round-table discussion. Every teacher in the township is requested to attend each meeting in order that credit for the Reading Circle Work may be secured.

Supt. E. W. S. Cobb is in Raleigh this week on business.

The Northwest Indians nearly always made their totem poles out of western red cedar, but this choice was chosen for the more to the fact that the wood is easy to work and extremely durable, rather than to its fragrance, says the American Forestry Magazine of Washington. It may be taken as a very good general rule that woods that are scented are resistant to decay and insect attack, and have good cabinet qualities.

Remarkable Biblical Verse.

The Book of Ezra, chapter 7, verse 21, contains all the letters of the English alphabet except "j," which was formerly written as "i."

State Library