

then drop and cover with an implement such as is used to cover cotton—being a board, 2 feet long, nailed in front of a square helve to go in the beam like the helve of a cutter, with the bottom edge of the plank not hollow, but perfectly straight. This immediately follows the dropper, and covers handsomely. A notch in the plank will cause it to cover deeper.

#### GATHERER.

For the Arator.

#### WHEAT AND OATS.

Mr. Editor: Some have a prejudice against oats, because they imagine the crop to be a great exhauster of the soil, don't think much of them, and believe wheat the more profitable. Some like the oat crop, and always sow oats, and follow with wheat on the oat stubble. They make good crops and say their lands are not exhausted by the practice.

The probability is, that most of the crops planted in the spring, are more exhausting than those which grow through the winter. The winter plant takes deeper root, draws more of its substance from the subsoil, sooner covers the land in the spring, and protects it more from the killing effects of a hot sun upon the naked ground. But no one, for this reason, would think of abandoning all spring crops! Why, then, give up oats? It is certainly excellent food; those who raise the crop, generally have fat horses and never have to buy corn; while those who reject it, are mighty apt to be hard run, to say the least. If it greatly exhausts, that is, perhaps, in consequence of close pasturing and grazing; for no extraordinary exhaustion is observed where grazing is arrested by early turning under the stubble for wheat. By sowing peas immediately after the oats are cut, and turning under the vines to sow the wheat upon, the land would be enriched, and all succeeding crops increased. My opinion is, oats and rye might both be very profitably raised for hogs as well as horses. Let particular fields be seeded for hogs, so divided that the hogs will first take the oats, and then the rye—neither being cut—

thus returning the straw to the land. By the time the rye is exhausted, peas and potatoes will come on; and I have not a doubt pork may be raised in many sections of our State, by pursuing this plan, at much less cost than any other now practiced.

I hope some, aye, many of your readers will give this plan a fair trial. It may bring out favorable and important results.

I am, as a general rule, for diversifying as much as possible, and raising all the valuable products with which God has so bountifully blessed us, that may be needed for domestic consumption and comfort, in connection with that which circumstances may indicate as a leading crop for market.

Very respectfully yours.

TABS CREEK.

Granville Co., April, 1857.

For the Arator.

#### RAISE SHEEP.

I see that some of the writers for the Arator strongly recommend the raising of sheep in North Carolina. I am also a zealous, though I must confess, a weak, advocate for attention to this agreeable branch of husbandry. I have long been convinced it might be done with great profit and comfort to individuals and with immense increase to the wealth and prosperity of the State, throughout almost every portion of her wide-spread territory. So far as the West is concerned, this was shown conclusively, some years ago, by the Hon. T. L. Clingman; and there is no doubt success would crown the attempt in the middle and some of the eastern portions of the State. What is done elsewhere, can, with equal advantages, certainly be accomplished here. Our advantages of climate and soil—main things—all will admit, are at least as good as those of Vermont. Well, now let us see what they do there. Mr. Comings, of Greensboro', states, in the last March number of the New England Farmer, that three years ago he purchased two ewe sheep of the English Leicester breed, at ten dollars each; and that the total income