



# THE



# PROGRESSIVE



# FARMER.

THE INDUSTRIAL AND EDUCATIONAL INTERESTS OF OUR PEOPLE PARAMOUNT TO ALL OTHER CONSIDERATIONS OF STATE POLICY.

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## Agricultural.

### ENSILAGE AT THE SOUTH.

If preserving forage in silos is desirable at the North, it seems to me it is much more so at the South. You can make hay; here we cannot or do not, to any extent. I have tried clover, orchard grass, blue grass, etc., at a cost of about seven hundred dollars, and have nothing to show for it but a ten-acre patch of a poor stand of clover. These grasses as far South cannot withstand our long, dry summers. If we had the climate for grasses, we could not raise cotton.

But we can make Spring crops—wheat, rye, barley, oats, corn, fodder and pea vines, and hence can have plenty material for filling silos. Year before last, I built one in which I put fifty tons of fodder cut in saccharine stage, or when in silk, and ran it through a large threshing machine with steam power; this threaded it nicely for packing in the silo. It was then put in in two days, covered with a few inches of straw, then with one-inch planks, and weighted with rocks. The theory—from my reading—was, that the sooner it was put in and weighted down the better. It did not get even warm from first to last; when opened it was found perfectly preserved, but very little acid, or vinegar sour. The cattle, however, ate it all. I sent samples to two chemists, who both said it had been too long exposed between being cut and weighted down.

Since then quite a number, in giving their experience, say that they made better ensilage by not filling the silo too rapidly, but gave no reason. Then came the theory of allowing the ensilage to heat to destroy bacteria.

I have seen but little in the paragraphs published in papers as to proper stage of ripeness to cut corn fodder. All the books I have read on the subject say it should be cut while in the tassel. This thought must be wrong, as nothing is so good and wholesome when immature as when ripe.

Last year, before filling the silo for the second time, I thought it best to satisfy myself by experiment as to the two points, viz., filling the silo quickly or slowly, and the proper stage of ripeness to cut the corn fodder. I procured three good, tight barrels; one I filled with corn fodder cut in tassel, and weighted it down at once; another with corn cut when in the saccharine stage and weighted it down at once; also, the third, with the corn cut in saccharine stage, but did not put on the weight for eight days. They were opened a month afterward. The first had a very offensive smell, and was miserable stuff, not fit to feed to anything, much less to a Jersey cow.

The second barrel was sour, like my ensilage the year before, but the third was much better and sweeter. The barrels were emptied in the cow lot and in separate piles, and four of the cows turned in; they examined each pile, then ate all the sweet ensilage, next the sour, but that cut in tassel they would not touch. May not this fact of the corn fodder being cut in tassel account for the objections that have been made to milk and butter when ensilage was fed?

Last year, I filled my silo with corn fodder, cut in silk, two feet per day, taking seven days to fill it. I weighted it down as usual; after it settled, we opened it and filled to the top again with pea vines (making in all sixty-five tons) of what we call cow clay peas. This makes decidedly the best and richest ensilage and is greatly relished by the cattle. They prefer it to anything else you can put before them.

This variety of peas grows to perfection here, making an enormous yield and seldom fails. No

better milk or butter was ever made than we are making now from feeding this ensilage. I have a small herd of twenty-five Jerseys, with Puzzler (a grandson of Signal) and Raymond Duke (a son of Duke of Darlington) at the head. I am not alone in introducing Jerseys in this section. Several others have good numbers and of good pedigrees, and, with ensilage, I think they will thrive, and we can make dairying pay in connection with cotton-planting.

Above you have an article which I contributed to the *Country Gentleman*. In addition, I may say that last summer I built another silo, about same size of the first one—cost sixty dollars—and filled it with early Amber sorghum (cut when ready to make up into syrup) and pea vines cut when a few pea pods were grown.

I run both through a large threshing machine, made by C. Aultman & Co., Canton, Ohio, and after three years' experience, I decidedly prefer threshing to cutting. I was more than two weeks filling each silo. On opening, we found the ensilage in splendid condition. The mules prefer the sorghum, the cattle the pea vines.

I have seen it frequently stated that corn fodder and pea vines would keep just as well put in the silo whole. A neighbor of mine tried pea vines this fall; he sent for me when he opened his silo, and notwithstanding, he had put an enormous amount of weight on them, they were not in a solid mass, and therefore were not preserved.—*W. P. Orme, in Southern Cultivator and Dixie Farmer.*

### CHICKENS AND COTTON.

At the beginning of 1885, Mr. John K. Humphrey, of Jones county, had forty bushels of cotton seed for which he was offered five dollars, cash; but he had determined to make one acre rich for cotton, and refused the five dollars for the cotton seed and applied them with stable manure to this acre. After his cotton was up and growing, he made another application of stable manure. From this acre he obtained a bale of cotton which brought him \$32. One-half of this had to go to Mr. Williams for land and team, which left him \$16. The picking of the cotton was worth \$6, leaving him \$10; the cotton seed he applied as manure was worth \$5, leaving him \$5 for his stable manure and cultivating one acre in cotton.

But Mr. Humphrey had better results from poultry raising. Last September he had twenty-five grown pullets which ate, up to the time of making this statement, two and one-half barrels of corn, worth \$7. From them he has sold eggs to the amount of \$29; has fifty thrifty young chickens and three dozen more eggs just ready to hatch out.

According to Mr. Humphrey's experience, twenty-five pullets are far more profitable than a rich acre in cotton, even if the farmer has the land of his own to cultivate.—*New Berne Journal.*

The late wood's fire in 71st township was very destructive. Mr. James D. Nott and Mr. Thos. Lutterloh were both losers in the matter of timber and fences. The fire swept three hundred acres in a few minutes' time.—*Fayetteville News.*

Several farmers from Ashe county, in the city trading yesterday, tell us that corn is so plentiful in that county that it would not bring 30 cents a bushel if put up at auction. Money is exceedingly scarce.—A gentleman who has just returned from a visit through Wilkes, Yadkin and Davie informs us that in the lowlands of these counties, fruit has suffered very much, and a great deal killed. In other sections it promises well.—*Charlotte Chronicle.*

## State Items.

—A Yadkin county man tells the *Concord Times* of a genuine case of leprosy in that county.

—On Saturday last, Col. Geo. W. Tate, of Orange county, was taken to the Insane Asylum at Raleigh for treatment. Col. Tate was one of the cleverest and most substantial citizens of Orange.—*Durham Tobacco Plant.*

—Capt. John R. Stockard's crop of tobacco averaged about \$100 for each acre cultivated. One of his sons received \$65 from the tobacco grown on a half acre with the use of one bag of fertilizer.—*Alamance Gleaner.*

—The present panic prices for low grades of tobacco is quite a hard blow to some of our farmers. But it will open their eyes to the necessity of raising enough at home to go on. After guano bills are settled there will be very little left with many to buy something to live upon next summer.—*Dan Valley Weekly.*

—We heard it remarked last week by a lady that there was less drunkenness among the young men of Concord than of any other place she ever knew. This certainly speaks well for Concord. This is one place where drunkenness is disreputable.—*Concord Times.*

—It is expected that work will begin May 1 on the west wing of the penitentiary.—Work begins the middle of the month on the new State building, west of the agricultural building.—Yesterday fifteen convicts were sent from the penitentiary to the Clinton & Warsaw railroad, bringing the force there up to eighty-five.—*Raleigh News and Observer.*

—We hear very favorable reports of the wheat, oat and rye crops in this immediate section, and also in the counties west of Mecklenburg. The prospect is good.—In our travels on railroads last fall and this spring, we had seen many persons leaving the State for Texas and Florida, but we have seen just as many returning to the State to stay. They got very sick of Florida and Texas.—*Charlotte Democrat.*

—Forty-four persons, so far, have connected themselves with the M. E. church at this place, since the protracted services began.—From the way lumber is pouring in, we may look for many new houses before another winter comes upon us. We learn that more new buildings are on foot now than ever before in this place so early in the spring.—*Reidsville Times.*

—Mr. John Turner, of Davie county, was in Winston one day last week with tobacco, and informed a *Sentinel* reporter that he was 84 years of age and that was his first trip to Winston, notwithstanding he only lives 35 miles away. He also stated that he never wore a pair of boots in his life, but thinks himself none the worse off for that.—*Winston Sentinel.*

—Tobacco men say their plants are coming up poorly.—The farmers in upper Sampson have gone to work in earnest. All are cheerful and hopeful for a bountiful crop this year.—We hear of a good many forest fires, which have done more or less damage. One in Taylor's Bridge township burned several days and destroyed much valuable timber, a large quantity of fence and some houses.—*Clinton Caucasian.*

—Mr. W. H. Idol, of Jamestown, is erecting a steam saw mill near Abbott's Creek church.—The growth of Greensboro's tobacco interest is further substantiated by the fact that there was more tobacco in town last week than ever before seen.—There are 126 cases on the State docket and 102 on the civil docket in Stokes county, to be tried at the present term.—*Greensboro Patriot.*

—Wilmington in the past twelve months had forty eight fires, causing a loss of \$800,000; with insurance of \$650,000.—Industrial education may be seen every day at Shaw university. The students have built with their own hands the massive brick buildings of the school. They work in all sorts of ways, and receive a certain fixed pay. They are now building a mechanical department, 60x50 feet, two stories in height.—*Raleigh News and Observer.*

—There are 22 paupers at the poor house.—Trinity farmers brag on their wheat.—A carriage and buggy factory on a large scale to be operated by a Northern company is soon to go up at High Point.—Messrs. J. H. Free and J. E. Walker are preparing to put up 60 Plaid looms at Randleman in the building formerly occupied by A. O. Redding Co as a sash and blind factory.—*Asheboro Courier.*

—Our farmers, generally speaking, have made good use of the very favorable weather, during the greater portion of March, and they have their spring work well advanced.—Potecasi Sub. Grange held a very interesting meeting last Saturday. Fertilizers and ensilage were the principal topics of discussion. Post Master, E. B. Lassiter prepared and read an interesting paper on ensilage. This subject is now claiming the attention of our farmers.—*Roanoke Patron.*

—One of Cleveland's farmers, Mr. T. M. Oats, brought part of his first crop to the warehouse on Wednesday and got 32 cents per pound for 55 pounds, all he sold.—Numerous petitions for a local option election for Cleveland county have been circulated during court. Quite a number of voters have signed their names and it is probable an election will be ordered at the next meeting of the Commissioners.

—Rev. P. T. Penick, pastor of the Presbyterian church at Mooresville, died of pneumonia at his home in that place on Monday the 29th ult.—Quite a number of wagons were in town last Thursday, loaded with apples. Our down-the-country friends would be amazed, could they but see them, the piles upon piles of apples that have been stored in our warehouses during the present season.—*Lenoir Topic.*

—Mr. Lemmon, one of the contractors on the Carolina Central extension is in the city securing hands for work upon the road. He reports that the work of grading is being pushed very satisfactorily and as rapidly as such work can be done. It will be but a short time when the entire grading and the road-bed will be completed to Rutherfordton. The Southern Construction Company is prosecuting their work, also, with vigor. The two lines will run side by side.—*Charlotte Chronicle.*

—Wheat is growing nicely, and the prospect for a good crop is materially improved.—Capt. L. C. Hanes says that farmers can make more money raising clover than they can get out of tobacco.—There is a good prospect for a tobacco factory to be built here this year, to be occupied and operated next year.—Some farmers who have been West and have returned, say that a man who emigrates westward expecting to get rich, is very likely to be disappointed.—*Lexington Dispatch.*

—A rumor comes to us, not well authenticated, however, and we therefore withhold the name of the party charged with the crime, that a man living on the headwaters of Clear Creek, in Henderson county, went home intoxicated, and being annoyed at the cries of his infant, only a few days old, jerked it from its mother and slung it into a hog pen, where it was partially devoured and killed. The story is too horrible for belief; yet it is stated to be true.—*Asheville Citizen.*

—Truck men from the North are beginning to make their appearance in these parts, soliciting consignments of truck during the shipping season that is about to open. It will hardly pay them to visit our city this year, as our truck crops, especially peas, are exceedingly shorter than we have ever before seen them; and we have seen some short crops in this line. But, moreover, the area planted in truck hereabouts this year is not so extensive as it has been usually in former years.—*Goldsboro Argus.*

—The peach crop, it is feared, has been slightly damaged by the recent cold snap.—Mrs. S. G. Woods, of Purley, Caswell county, had the misfortune to lose his tobacco storage house one night last week. He had stored therein 25,000 pounds of tobacco, valued at \$4,500. Insurance, \$2,500.—There seems to be a regular building boom in East Durham. There will in a short while be but little building space between the town and cotton factory. There are quite a number of handsome residences in that section.—*Durham Recorder.*

—Dogs killed several sheep belonging to Miss Mariah Longwood, a few nights ago.

—J. S. Sides has set out an orchard of 1,100 fruit trees on his land in Broadway township. He fertilized them with tobacco stems this spring.

—The cultivation of sumac is gaining favor in many sections, and prices paid for it are such as should induce persons to make experiments in its production. As it grows spontaneously in many vicinities, no doubt, it could be raised with little trouble and expense.

—Carp ponds are common near Lexington. Quite a number are within sight of the Lexington road. Last Saturday, Mr. Hinkle drew off one of his ponds and found it well stocked with carp of different sizes.—We talked with a Mr. Temple, of Reedy Creek township, Davidson county, who told us he has 13 children, the oldest of them being but 9 years of age. His family is composed of twins, triplets, &c. He has a son three years old that weighs 64 pounds. He says he is willing to be qualified to the truth of the statement.—*Salem Press.*

### WATER-POWERS, MINERAL LANDS, &c

We are requested by Mr. J. T. Patrick, Commissioner of Immigration, to publish the following:

Persons having water-powers, mineral and timber lands in North Carolina to dispose of or desire to secure a partner to assist them in some manufacturing or mining enterprise can have their wants made known, free of charge, to persons interested. Address with full information Commissioner of Immigration, Raleigh, N. C.

S. A. Braley, of East Roxbury, Vt., writes Commissioner Patrick inquiring if there is a suitable place in North Carolina to establish a foundry and machine shop on a small scale where water-power can be obtained and where the people in the surrounding section will patronize and encourage an establishment of the kind.

Parties in North Carolina desiring to contract for the erection of large buildings would do well to correspond with Thos. Woodruff, Mechum's River, Va., who is a first-class contractor and builder, having all the necessary steam-power machinery for erecting houses. He desires to make his home in North Carolina and will be of advantage to any section he may locate in.

Chas. A. Griffin, of Colgate, Dakota, desires to settle in the Piedmont section of North Carolina, and requests that persons having improved lands for sale will address him.