



THE



PROGRESSIVE



FARMER.

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

Vol. 1.

WINSTON, N. C., MAY 26, 1886.

No. 16.

Agricultural.

OUR FARMERS' CLUBS.

What our Farmers are Doing and How the Work of Organizing is Progressing.

FARMER'S CIRCLE AT TRINITY.

Discussion on May 15th, 1886.—Subject: "The Grasses and Hay."

Pres. Parker.—We take the common acceptance and class clover with the grasses. To succeed as a farmer you must raise cattle, horses, mules, hogs, sheep, etc., sufficient at least to consume all rough and bulky material produced on the farm, for which there is not a near and ready market. To grow stock successfully you must have grass and clover; and an abundance of hay made of both. More grass, more stock; more stock, more manure; more manure, more grass; and so on *ad infinitum*. Grass and clover, for pasturage and hay, lies at the very foundation of good farming. There is no doubt about it. The productive capacity of a poor soil must be developed by a slow process. It is to be hoped that our farmers will speedily come to a better understanding of the importance of grass growing; and that our grass lands will be treated with due consideration.

W. W. Andrews.—The importance of grass is immense. It is one of the things that poets write about. The grasses are among the most beautiful things in nature. It is beautiful when small and exceedingly beautiful when grown large. It holds the soil together and shades the ground—two essentials in improving the farm. What grasses shall we cultivate? Don't go wild over some new and untried grass; in a majority of cases they are humbugs. The ones to hitch on and stick to are the tried ones. Some native North Carolina grasses are good. Is clover a native plant? It has been here so long we will claim it. It is an excellent hay. I think we can do no better. Have your ground rich and cure it right, which by the way is a very difficult matter; I think it requires five or six days to cure it properly; bunch in small shocks soon after cutting.

Mr. Joyner.—Do you let it heat in the shock?

Mr. Andrews.—I think that of doubtful propriety. I should never let it heat; such would damage its food properties. We have other native grasses it would be well to cultivate; I am thinking of one called fodder grass, with blades similar to corn, but smaller; generally found on ditch banks; can be cured in a day and is an excellent hay for stock. Herd grass yields but one crop a year, and a light one at that. Crab grass makes good feed; to raise it, plow ground about twice, put on a light coat of manure; go off and leave it, it will come and make the earth almost smile. The reason we fail so much in manure, we let it waste. The manure bank must be kept up. The money spent for fertilizers, if economically spent, would make mountains of manure; keep the manure pile damp and it will not fire-fang. Apply it judiciously, then this old country will blossom as the rose. Do your part, and God will do the rest; it seems a law of nature for grass to come.

J. J. White.—Of all the grasses, clover is my hobby. I would no more attempt to farm without clover, than I would without farm implements. I have never failed in any crop on clover sod; my finest potatoes were grown on it; never failed raising good wheat when sown on it; it improves the land and pays as a feed crop at the same time. Grain and clover alternate, each with a profit. You can't point out a man who fails, that seeds his lands to clover. I admit the curing to be a difficult matter; the same process will succeed one time and fail another, owing I suppose, to damp weather. If dry and windy it is easy kept; if damp

and foggy, will spoil with same treatment.

Mr. Andrews.—Ought it to heat or ferment while curing?

Mr. White.—No; you can cure in feed barn, in damp weather, by putting it on girders, poles, etc., in layers eighteen inches thick, allowing air to pass through it, or by putting in alternate layers of wheat or other straw.

Pres. Parker.—Never stack clover. Always put in barn or rick and cover with boards.

Mr. White.—Orchard grass and clover grow well together. The orchard grass cures quickly and aids in saving the clover. Orchard grass does not improve land like clover, but lasts longer for mowing; an objection is it becomes turf; it makes fine hay. Clover and timothy will not ripen together in this climate; clover for hay or sod will last about three years. I find crab grass hard to cure. Manure is our key note in bringing up poor lands to a state that will produce grass. Fresh lands can be kept up with clover and pay all the time. Commercial fertilizers with me seems to be a habit. On old lands it is almost a necessity to grow clover, but for grain exclusively I think it doubtful whether it pays.

G. H. Joyner.—Situated as we are with the stock law, I think clover is a necessity. I once cured a seventy-five acre crop of pea vines; this is the way I did it; I set some hands to pulling up the vines for wagon ways through the field; sent other hands with team after small poles; they drove along wagon ways through the pea field, sticking down those poles at proper distances apart. Then follow other hands pulling the vines, laying a good sized bunch on south side of pole, then a similar bunch on north side, then one on east side, then another on west side; continued as high as could be conveniently reached, or to top of poles, then cap with a good sized bunch on top. At the proper time, when cured, I took them in and had a fine crop of hay.

J. E. Sumner.—I agree with Mr. White; we cannot get along without clover; it don't keep well in stack; have lost some in that way; tried packing alternately with wheat straw and succeeded well; the only trouble is straw is scarce with me at that season; nothing better for stock and land. I would like if Mr. White would give us his plan of curing clover.

Mr. White.—I commence mowing in the morning, when dew is nearly off; afternoon rake with horse-rake in rows, if thick, let it remain in rows that night; if thin take it to the barn that evening. If thick and heavy, next day I put it in small shocks and let remain thus for about two days. On third day after dew is off, with a fork I take off about 1/4 of the shock, invert it on one side, then another 1/4 on other side, then loosen up the remainder. After noon the third day, take it in, you loose the leaves if you attempt to cure without bunching.

Mr. Sumner.—At what stage do you commence cutting?

Mr. White.—As soon as it is in full bloom. Never wait for the blooms to turn brown.

A. Parker.—All admit the necessity of clover. The important point is to grow it on poor land. On tolerably good land clover can be started with 200 lbs. phosphate to the acre. On very poor land a dressing with manure is necessary in conjunction with the phosphate. I have a fine stand of clover on land that was poverty stricken a hundred years ago. I prepared it for turnips by broad-casting manure at the rate of 40 loads to the acre—the turnips failed. I sowed clover in fall with 200 lbs phosphate to the acre, and now have a good stand. I think it will yield two to three tons to the acre. When will a man set a poor farm in clover at this rate? It appears discouraging. After a few

years in clover a weed appears, which I think was brought here in clover seed or phosphate. It is of the purslain family, with a red root and very exhaustive to land. Wheat will not grow with it. Land requires to be cultivated in a hard crop once in five years at least, to exterminate it. D. M. PAYNE, Sec'y.

STOKES COUNTY FARMERS.

The Danbury Reporter announces that the farmers of Stokes will meet in Danbury on the first Monday in June, to organize into clubs. THE PROGRESSIVE FARMER acknowledges with pleasure a very kind and urgent invitation to be present. Our office will be represented and we hope to meet a large number of the good citizens of Stokes on that occasion.

State Items.

—Inquiries made by the Asheville Advance show a falling off of forty per cent. in the acreage of tobacco in that section.

—We learn that a mad dog bit two children on last Sunday at Rocky Mount. At last accounts they were looking for the dog.—*Battleboro Headlight*.

—A gentleman who has traveled over a good portion of Chatham county, informs the Asheville Courier that there will not be half a crop of wheat, while the oat crop is almost an entire failure.

—Some scoundrel set fire to the storage barn of Mr. David McKee, near Caldwell, in Little River township, Sunday night, destroying his entire crop of tobacco.—*Hillsboro Observer*.

—Wheat headed out and in full bloom.—Our farmers are busy hilling and making preparations for planting their tobacco, though the crop will not be so large as in past years.—*Person Courier*.

—The laying of the iron will go forward without interruption on the C. F. & Y. V. R. R., five car loads of spikes and fish-bars having come up last night from Wilmington.—*Greensboro Workman*.

—Many farmers have begun planting tobacco.—By the laws of this State there are seven legal holidays. These are January 1st, February 22d, May 10th, May 20th, July 4th, Thanksgiving day and Christmas.—*Raleigh News and Observer*.

—There is a cow in this county belonging to Major Bruce that has five legs, the fifth leg comes out on top of the shoulder but does not reach to the ground, while it is as perfect as one of the other legs.—*Salem Press*.

—The engineer arrived in town yesterday and will start out this morning to make a survey of the country between Durham and Roxboro for the purpose of locating the proposed railroad. This looks like business and it means business. Our people are determined to build the road.—*Durham Plant*.

—The next meeting of the New Garden Agricultural Society will be held at the fair grounds, New Garden, on Friday, May 28th, at 2 o'clock p. m.—Mr. C. P. Vanstony has a ten-acre field of clover near Greensboro, from which he will realize \$600 at each cutting.—*Greensboro Patriot*.

—New Irish potatoes are being shipped from this place to Northern markets in abundance.—Both a white and colored assembly of the Knights of Labor were organized in this city Friday night by State Organizer Jno. R. Ray. We learn a goodly number joined both wings of the order.—Fifty zebra suited penitentiary convicts passed through this city Saturday and went down to New Berne, where they will take the steamer Elm City for Hyde county to begin the work of cleaning out Alligator canal.—*Goldsboro Argus*.

—Wheat is looking well in this section.—Corn is up nicely; some of our farmers are over the first working.—The Colorado potato bug has made its appearance on Mr. N. M. Pepper's potato vines. It is a yellow colored beetle streaked with ten dark lines on its wing covers.—*Danbury Reporter*.

—The truck farms near the city are suffering severely from the extreme drouth. A fair price was received for the peas but the yield was not more than a third of a crop. Also potatoes and beans, which have just commenced being shipped, are poorly matured and filled from an insufficient amount of moisture.—*Newbern Journal*.

—The tide of immigration has changed its course, over in Stanly. Last fall there was a rush from that county to Texas. Now the tide has turned. A few days ago fourteen Stanlyites returned home from the Lone Star State to their old home, satisfied with their experience, and determined never more to wander.—*Wadesboro Intelligencer*.

—A postal card from Thomasville furnishes the particulars of a horrible affair which occurred in that town last Wednesday morning. It seems that a little girl was feeding some hogs with bread when one of the number bit her upon the hand. The wound bled freely and as soon as the hogs caught scent of the blood the entire drove attacked the child and tore her in shreds before assistance could be rendered.—*Union Republican*.

—When the first train from the North arrived in this city yesterday afternoon there was a crowd quickly gathered around the baggage car, the attraction being three large English mastiffs—perfectly immense in size. They looked more like lions than dogs. One of them, the largest, weighed 212 pounds, and the man in charge of them told us that the owner of them had refused \$8,000 from Barnum, the circus man, on Thursday in New York, for this dog. They were en route for Jacksonville, Fla.—*Goldsboro Argus*.

—The acreage in corn planted in this section is reported to be largely in excess of that of several years past. Our people it seems are coming to realize that "hog and hominy" are better than low priced tobacco and high priced guano.—The acreage in tobacco planted in this section will be cut down this season. A very healthy sign we take it. Our farmers are going in more for meat and bread and a finer quality of tobacco; a wise and sensible conclusion and one that should have been determined on long before now.—*Henderson Goldleaf*.

—A gentleman who rode over a portion of the track of the cyclone in the Bethlehem neighborhood, tells us that our description can give no adequate idea of the effects of the storm. Mr. James J. Ratliffe has two or three hundred acres of fine timbered land. This has all been felled to the ground except the smaller trees. The foliage on the trees has been entirely removed, and the trees so pelted by the hail that the bark has been skinned off. It is thought that the trees will all die. There is no more vegetation to be seen than is seen in mid-winter; wheat, oats and clover having been cut to the roots and carried away by the wind.—*Leaksville Echo*.

—Farmers are plowing over their corn the first time.—There is every indication of a bountiful fruit crop.—The boiler at Brown's saw mill four miles south of town bursted Tuesday morning and killed the fireman, Henry Hamilton. No one else was injured. Mr. Hamilton was a poor but an honest and industrious man, and leaves a wife and five children.—The total amount of county taxes collected by the sheriff of Randolph county is \$9,203.09, of school taxes \$9,387.54. Notwithstanding the scarcity of money, there

is not a single insolvent to be found in nine out of the eighteen townships and there are only forty-eight returned for the entire county.—*Asheboro Courier*.

—The stand of cotton in this section is very satisfactory.—It is said that the work of grading the railroad from Rocky Mount to Raleigh is in progress for a distance of fifteen miles this side of Nashville.—Judge William M. Shipp held court in Jackson county last week. The court house, however, was in such a shaky condition that he would not go into it, and court was held in a school house.—The Oxford colored orphan asylum needs and intends to raise \$10,000 to complete the payment on the site and to erect and furnish suitable buildings. Rev. W. A. Patillo has gone North to gather together the needed money.—Although the intensely cold weather of the past winter undoubtedly killed many insects, yet there will be many pests which will give the farmers much trouble in certain sections. The cut worm and Colorado beetle are already at work. An unusual number of cut worms is reported in both the extremes of the State, eastern and western, and they are doing very great damage it is said.—*Raleigh News and Observer*.

SMALL FRUIT AND FLOWER FAIR.

Last Tuesday week was held the small fruit and flower fair, at Greensboro, and although the rain poured down in torrents, the exhibition was remarkably fine. There was a splendid assortment of berries, cherries, and flowers. The following premiums were awarded:

For cut flowers.—First premium to Mrs. J. S. Ragsdale; second premium to Burrill Mendenhall; third to Mrs. W. A. Horney.

For bouquet of roses.—First premium to Miss Mary Swaim; second premium to Miss Inditt Mendenhall. The first premium for variety of flowers in hand bouquets was awarded to Miss Belle Swaim.

Miss Emma Wharton was awarded first premium on Cactus and Miss Mamie Sherwood, second.

Messrs. A. B. Williams, of Fayetteville; S. O. Wilson, of Raleigh; J. A. Lineback, of Salem; E. W. Lineback, of Salem, and J. S. Ragsdale, of Jamestown, were appointed judges on fruit and awarded premiums as follows:

For strawberries.—First premium to J. Van Lindley, for 6 varieties; second premium to Henry Rust, for 6 varieties; first premium to Col. Wm. Rankin, for single variety; second premium to Mrs. W. A. Horney, for single variety.

For cherries.—First premium to J. Van Lindley, for 12 varieties; second premium to John Baxter, 4 varieties.

A REMARKABLE MAN.

Aaron Tillman, whose death we noticed last week, was a remarkable man in some respects. He lived to be over ninety-one years old without the aid of a single dose of medicine from a doctor. His hair never turned gray; notwithstanding his extreme age his hair remained perfectly black. He was sober and a quiet and good citizen. He left a wife, a large family of children and a numerous progeny of grand-children and great-grand-children.—*Chatham Home*.

FARMERS' CLUBS.

THE PROGRESSIVE FARMER, at Winston, will send form of constitution and by-laws for organizing farmers' clubs to any person writing for them. This is a step in the right direction. Farmers in every township should organize into a club, and have a county club in addition. These county clubs should be fostered by the State with the money that is wasted by the Agricultural Department.—*Greensboro North State*.