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PAPERS.

Progressive Farmer, State Organ, Raleigh, N. C.
Caucasian, Raleigh, N. C.
Mercury, Hickory, N. C.
Satler, Whitesboro, N. C.
Our Home, Beaver Dam, N. C.
The Populist, Lumberton, N. C.
The People's Paper, Charlotte, N. C.
The Vestibule, Concord, N. C.
The Plain Dealer, Wadesboro, N. C.
Carolinean, Salisbury, N. C.

Each of the above-named papers are requested to keep the list standing on the first page and add others, provided they are duly elected. Any paper failing to advocate the Ocala platform will be dropped from the list promptly. Our people can now see what papers are published in their interest.

AGRICULTURE.

If you wish to try possibilities of currant and gooseberry culture, set the plants in very rich soil, give them thorough and even high cultivation. Thus fine fruit and plenty of it is grown.

Right now is a good time to sow peas on poor, run down land. May is the month. They will grow well and mature, and can be turned under before frost. It will greatly improve your land. Try it.

Growers of small fruits should follow a rule with reference to prolonging the fruit season as long as possible. Several varieties should be set out, that you may always have something for the local market.

One of the best means for saving soil moisture from evaporation is by shallow cultivation after every rain, but farmers usually limit this to the period of crop growth, and permit waste of moisture after the crop matures.

For corning beef, says the American Cultivator, take a clean half barrel, put in four quarts of rock salt, five or six pounds of sugar, three ounces of salt-peter; pack well, then make a brine, fill and head up. You will get as a result the choicest of corned beef.

Every farmer who makes a success of his work keeps in touch with the markets. He watches not only the time to sell, but he is also on the alert for a good buying time. He is not gulled by every smooth-tongued agent who comes along, for he watches the advertising columns of reputable papers and knows what reputable firms sell, and how they sell. The advertising columns are one of the most valuable features of any paper.

Bran is more highly thought of as food than it used to be. But it has its limitations, and should not be relied upon entirely when fed alone. It is an excellent food to give animals that have a surfeit of corn, and should always form a part of the ration of fattening sheep. It is not so good for hogs, as its coarse texture makes it unpalatable. But the fine wheat middlings have all of the excellencies of bran, and will be eaten in greater quantities by fattening hogs.

PEAS.

The great advantages of clover in modern farming has been repeatedly dwelt upon, and no doubt it is at the basis of all good farming, unless some equally good crop can be substituted for it. The tendency to rob the soil, and give nothing in return for the crops, has been checked largely in recent years by the clover advocates, who have insisted with justice that clover must be a part of every system of rotation of crops. But the trouble with clover is, and has been, that it is very difficult to secure a good catch on many soils. Soils that have produced clover right along appear to be what is called clover sick, and the plants do not thrive as well on it as formerly. It is for this reason that the cow peas may come into great advantage in our northern farming. If the cow peas can be given a place in which clover is, and has been, says the Farmers Magazine, that it is little doubt but clover could be excluded without any injurious results. Owing to the ease with which they can be raised, and the fertilizing value of the clover roots, and the quick growth, the cow pea may eventually prove a popular northern green manure crop. The full benefit of the plants, and the easiest way of raising them, will need to be appreciated by the farmers more generally than now, but with a little experiment each season on a small patch of ground, everyone can see for himself. It is a small matter to do, but it may prove of great value in the future. Next season would be a good time to begin with planting a plot of land designed for clover with good southern peas when the soil is warm enough for a millet crop.

WEEKLY WEATHER CROP BULLETIN

For the Week Ending Saturday, May 2, 1896.

CENTRAL OFFICE, Raleigh, N. C.

The reports of correspondents of the Weekly Weather Crop Bulletin, issued by the North Carolina State Weather Service, for the week ending Saturday, May 2, 1896, indicate that less favorable conditions prevailed for the growth of crops on account of the cool spell on the 7th and 8th and the continued dryness towards the end of the week. Favorable rains fell on the 31, 4th, 5th and 6th, which were least in amount in the Western District; after the 6th cool weather set in from the north east, with even light frost, which damaged cotton to some extent. Only the 7th and 8th were below the normal in temperature, and the remainder of the week was quite warm. The amount of sunshine has been in excess of the normal. Frequent light rains are needed, especially in the Central and Western Districts.

EASTERN DISTRICT—First of week warm, with beneficial rains on 31 and 6th, but decidedly cooler weather set in on 7th and 8th, with minimum temperature as low as 42 degrees Friday morning, with light frost in north east portion. The latter part of week warm and dry, and rain is needed again. Considerable damage to crops was reported by a severe hail storm in Pamlico county. The effect of cool weather Thursday and Friday was to retard growth somewhat, and some cotton was killed. Planting corn and cotton practically finished, except what little replanting may have to be done. Transplanting tobacco well advanced, though interrupted by dryness at some places. Corn looking well and growing nicely. Shipments of truck and strawberries continue in large quantities. Fruit trees reported to be shedding considerably.

CENTRAL DISTRICT—Good rains occurred Sunday, the 31, after which weather remained dry. Many places are still suffering from drought along the western border of the district. The cool weather of the 7th and 8th stopped growth of cotton, but did not injure anything else. Cotton is being chopped and corn plowed. As grass is beginning to make some headway, cultivation is necessary, for which weather was favorable. Large quantities of tobacco have been transplanted and are doing well, but dryness latter part of week interrupted this work; some plants are now overgrown. Wheat is heading well, though low. Sweet potatoes sprouted in beds nicely, and transplanting progressing now. Peach trees are shedding fruit; strawberries plentiful, raspberries ripening. Reports of deprivations by insects were received in large numbers.

WESTERN DISTRICT—Light local showers on the 4th and 5th did great good where they occurred. Some cor-

respondents report no rain and consequent suffering of all vegetation. It seems that the counties of Cabarrus, Iredell, Rowan, Surry, Yadkin and a portion of Mecklenburg are the worst sufferers from drought. Wheat is apparently the most seriously injured crop in the localities. Two correspondents report damage by hail. There were two or three cool nights, but the average temperature for the week was above normal. Good stands of cotton and corn are reported from nearly all places where these crops are up. Some are waiting for rain before finishing planting cotton. It was a good week for work and harrowing cotton has gone on pretty generally; also setting out sweet potato plants, hoeing corn and plowing. Potato bugs reported very destructive in several localities.

HORTICULTURE

FACTS FOR FRUIT GROWERS

Correspondence of the Progressive Farmer. There is one fact which my eleven years experience in fruit growing has impressed on me most strongly. That is the unavailability of all, or nearly all, the commercial fertilizers to the fruit growers' needs.

Most fertilizers are recommended as good for everything that grows beneath the sun. While the truth is that different crops and even the same crop on different soils, need the three great properties, ammonia, potash and phosphorus, in widely varying proportions, to feed all crops and all soils alike is not a whit less irrational than for one to feed all the animals and fowls on his place on exactly the same diet, instead of on the special grain or forage suited to each.

Comparatively few of us are able to have all the widely varying soils on our farms analyzed. Nor is it essential that we should. A few inexpensive experiments and close observation will keep us better informed as to the need of each than all the chemist can do. For a soil often undergoes rapid changes, and its needs to day may not be its needs a few years hence.

But an analysis of the crop one proposes to grow is easily within his reach, and no man can afford to ignore it. This is particularly necessary in the case of the fruit grower, owing to the fact that the commercial fertilizers rarely or never contain the three great staples of plant food in anything like the proportion which his crop must have if success is to be attained.

The analyses of all kinds of fruit show the presence of large quantities of potash. Thus a ton of peaches contains 52 pounds of potash, 11 pounds phosphoric acid, a fair proportion of nitrogen or ammonia and a little lime, magnesia, etc. Strawberries contain a still larger proportion of potash, a ton of this fruit showing 60 pounds potash, 22 pounds phosphoric acid and about the same proportion of other properties that peaches contain.

Now the commercial fertilizers sold in my neighborhood show in different brands from 1 to 2 1/2 per cent. ammonia, 5 to 8 per cent. phosphoric acid and 2 to 3 per cent. potash. These fertilizers are plainly unsuitable for fruit, though thousands of dollars are yearly wasted in applying them to that crop. As a rule they contain more phosphoric acid than potash, while fruit calls for three times as much potash as phosphoric acid. The ammonia, too, is far in excess of the right proportion. Specially prepared fruit fertilizers do not, it is true, show the same disproportion; still after testing a great many brands, I find that I cannot only make cheaper, but that is far more important, better fertilizers than I can buy.

The following formula I find to pay well for strawberries or other small fruit on all soils from extreme sandiness to tariff clay: Per acre, 600 pounds kainit and 400 muriate potash, 600 dissolved bone or acid phosphate, 400 pounds nitrate soda or 600 to 800 pounds cotton seed meal. Break all lumps and mix thoroughly with hoes. Apply half or two-thirds in spring before crop is planted, harrowing in well. Apply half the remainder as top dressing over plants in November and the remainder in February or March following. The mixture will not hurt if sown in winter, while plants are in a dormant state. Never sow anything on them while in growing state. If it is desired to apply fertilizers at other times, they can be plowed or chopped in by the side of or around the plants.

The above is no theoretical formula. It was learned in the school of experience, whose tuition comes so high. I have used it for years, and find it to give better results in size and quality

of crop than any other. Some soils need more ammonia than others. Some very rich ones need none for several years. But I have yet to find one on which moderate quantities of phosphoric acid and heavy applications of potash did not pay.

A CHEAP GARDEN HOSE.

A good hose is necessary in nearly all gardens, but they are very expensive. I have used one which I made myself, and which answers the purpose very well, but it will not stand very hard pressure. During 1895 I used 100 feet of it, and this spring made 150 feet more. The cost for 150 feet was \$30. I got a 20 ounce white ducking and cut it into strips sufficiently wide to go around a one-inch pipe. Allow enough room for a good seam. The strips will have to be about five inches wide. Sew with a good No. 8 thread, on a lock stitch machine, and repeat, sewing back in the same place, then overcast with ravelings from the same cloth. Paint with two coats of boiled oil, but no turpentine. Let the hose hang in air eight or ten days, until the oil is thoroughly set. The hose can make any desired length short pieces last better than long ones. One piece 40 or 50 feet long and two 50 feet pieces are convenient.—American Agriculturist.

POULTRY YARD

A FEW REMEDIES.

A poultry almanac says: "One teaspoonful of liquid carbolic acid given in two quarts of water is an excellent preventative of most diseases among fowls. One tablespoonful of chlorate of potash in one quart of water for roup; for little chicks that are weak in the legs, one teaspoonful of sulphate of soda in one quart of water. For worms, give ten drops of aloes or spirits of turpentine in a pint of water. For gapes, add a few drops of spirits of camphor or turpentine to the drinking water. For cold or catarrh, put ten drops of acetic acid in a pint of water. For sneezing or running at the nostrils, put about one tablespoonful of kerosene oil in one quart of water. Asafoetida tied up in a rag and placed in the drinking water for the fowls will be a good remedy for roup, also a preventative of most diseases.

THE COMB AS AN INDICATOR.

By watching the appearance of the comb the health of the fowls may be easily noted; when the comb looks white, pale, or black, something is wrong; great thirst is another sign, and a nervous, restless disposition also gives warning; sometimes a hen will go moping about with drooping wings, but with no other signs of sickness; whenever the comb, however, does not show a bright scarlet in color, and the fowl is not lively, it should at once be examined; there is no particular color for any disease that is indicated by the comb, as the pale or black depends upon the stage of the disease, for very often the comb will be pale and then turn black, but the poultryman may depend upon his fowls being in full health when the combs are a bright scarlet, and especially during the laying season, as the first sign the pullet gives of beginning to lay is the color of comb.—Southern Planter.

FOOD FOR POULTRY.

A proper food for a dairy cow, says Mr. Dawley, should have about the same ratio between the albuminoids and the carbohydrates as is found in the milk she is giving, which is about one to four and one-half. But now in an egg, which the hen produces, the ratio is about one to two, so the hen should be fed accordingly, if we want her to do her best laying eggs. A great many people feed too much corn. This causes the hens to lay on fat. They can't make many eggs because they are not getting material to make the albumen of. A hen must have a large proportion of albumen in her food if she lays many eggs, and she must have plenty of water. Eggs are about 67 per cent water, and if they have to melt snow to get this water they won't lay many eggs for you in cold weather. And a hen must have lime to make shells of. If I remember correctly, about 10 per cent. of the weight of an egg is in the shell. Again, a hen must have grit of some kind to grind up her food with. All of these wants must be attended to. Supplying all but one will not answer. Wheat is the best single grain to feed hens—far better than corn. Oats are good, but the husks sometimes make trouble unless they are ground.—Farmers' Voice.

THE DAIRY.

ABOUT PORTABLE CREAMERY CANS.

Correspondence of the Progressive Farmer. So much confusion of ideas seems to prevail regarding the shape, size and number of cans to be desired in a portable creamery, that it seems a proper subject for a letter.

The ordinary round can is, as a rule, eight and one-half inches in diameter, is twenty inches high and holds about five gallons. From outside to center it is, of course, four and one fourth inches.

The oblong cans in some portable creameries are seven inches wide, same height as round cans, and hold each eleven gallons. Distance from outside of can to center is but three and one half inches. Hence it will be seen that milk can be cooled more readily in them than in round cans of less than one-half the capacity.

When ice is used or water of a temperature of forty five degrees or lower, it is a very easy matter to obtain all the cream between milkings if the cold deep setting or Swedish system is correctly practiced.

Therefore it will not be necessary to provide, in such instances, more than single storage for milk. By single storage is meant capacity sufficient to store milk from one milking to the next.

But there are times when the user of a portable creamery will be glad of double storage, hence an even number of cans, especially in creameries of small size, are desirable; this because when all of one milking will go in half the number of cans, double storage will be provided.

To illustrate: If the user has four five gallon cans, double storage will be provided when all of one milking does not exceed ten gallons. Or, if user has a portable creamery with two eleven gallon cans, double storage will be provided when one milking or not more than eleven gallons.

The above is mentioned because so many seem to be impressed with the belief that at least four cans are needed in order that milk may be allowed to stand twenty-four hours, or till second milking.

A careful reading of the above will show clearly some points that should not be forgotten.

First. That it is not the number of gallons of milk that a can holds that effects its capacity for cream raising, but the distance from the outside to the center of the can. In a can that holds eleven gallons, if of proper shape and proportion, milk can be cooled much more readily than in one holding but five gallons, provided the latter is in such shape as to make the distance from outside to center of greater than in one holding eleven gallons.

Second. It will be seen that double storage is just as readily provided by two eleven gallon cans as by four five gallon cans.

While this is a very simple proposition, it is referred to at this time because so many persons fail to understand it.

But the strangest idea, and one that to quite an extent prevails in some sections, is that three cans are needed in a portable creamery of small milk capacity, say for 4 to 7 cows. Nothing could be further from the truth. As shown above an even number of cans provide double storage when all the milk of one milking will go in half the cans. But with an odd number of cans—three for instance—double storage will not be provided till all the milk of one milking will go in one can and then one can will be idle.

F. W. MOSLEY.

Clinton, Iowa.

LIVE STOCK.

BEST HOG ON THE FARM.

In answer to the question, What is the best farmer's hog for feed lot and market place, and by what method of breeding and crossing can such hog be produced? I would answer: The improved Chester White or a cross from the Poland China and improved Chester White. I have fed Poland-Chinas and improved Chester Whites in the same yard, both of them pure bred and not two weeks difference in their age, the Chester White being the youngest, with a decided increase in weight from forty to sixty pounds at the age of eight or nine months in favor of the Chester Whites. I have watched them close while feeding and found the Chester Whites more docile and quiet. The Poland Chinas always were first at the feeding place and the first to equal for feed. They were all fed together

and were all borrows and the longer I feed them the greater the difference seemed to be. I had two strains of Poland Chinas—the smooth haired and the curly haired. The curly haired fellows were the best; they gained more and were larger than the smooth-haired ones. I have had registered Chester Whites that at the age of six months weighed a little over 230 lbs. These were not stuffed or even fed all they wanted. They had the run of the clover pasture and in addition got a little slop and very little corn every day. As I am not a breeder or a good feeder but an ordinary farmer I did not put any extra time or care on the pigs. Anybody could have made greater gains by proper and better feeding.

I have fed a litter of nine pigs from a Chester White sow and Poland China boar six months and a few days that averaged 223 lbs. with the same care and those were the finest and best hogs at that age I believe I ever raised. I do not raise many any time. I have never raised over fifty in any one year, generally from fifteen to thirty per year, and I have done this for over ten years. These gains are not what they might have been, but I only give figures to show what the improved Chester White will do with common care. I have seen breeders exhibit Poland-Chinas at our county fairs that at six months old would weigh 160 to 200 lbs. As to the porker: Chester Whites as bred now mature much earlier than they used to. They have good hams and can be fattened and sold at almost any age. I say the improved Chester White or its cross is the breed.—Geo. WILLIAMS, in Breeders' Gazette.

NASH COUNTY ALLIANCE.

Correspondence of the Progressive Farmer.

NASHVILLE, N. C. Our last County Alliance was held with Mt. Pleasant Sub Alliance April 9. This Lodge is in the extreme southern part of the county and, as its name indicates, it is one of the pleasantest and most beautiful spots to be found. We are sure this was one of the best and most enjoyable Alliance meetings it has ever been our good pleasure to attend.

Those good brethren and noble-hearted sisters know very well how to make a lasting impression on a hungry man, and they left nothing undone; their dinner was just good enough for a king. Nearly all the County officers were present. One Lodge that has been inactive for over a year came forward and was welcomed back into the fold. We now have eighteen subs in working order, and not a single one failed to report with fees and dues for the quarter. What county can beat this? That's the way the Alliance is "a dying out" in old Nash.

Besides this I find that the Order is stronger numerically than it has been in about two years. It has gained 36 per cent. in the past twelve months.

Now, brethren, part of you at least have done well; and just see what a glorious result. According to my offer made to the Sub-Secretary reporting the largest increase by restoration and initiation from his Lodge for the quarter, I find the result as follows:

First prize (PROGRESSIVE FARMER twelve months), won by Brother Rozell Joyner, Secretary Pridgen Hill Sub-Alliance, Elm City, N. C.

Second prize (same papers six months), won by Brother M. M. Manning, Secretary Matthews Sub Alliance, Spring Hope, N. C.

Third prize cannot be given now, because there is a tie. I will now offer same paper six months to the Secretary bringing in the largest result as above stated, for the next quarter. Now let's see who will be the lucky man. Brethren did you know you were getting the Alliance on a regular boom?

Well you are, and if every one will just stand at his post and do his whole duty, we can add nearly one third more to our numbers by the July meeting. Unluckily for the Order the whole country will soon be plunged into a heated political campaign. As American citizens it is not only our privilege but a solemn duty we owe to ourselves and posterity to vote for and labor in the interest of the party that has inscribed on its banner "Equal and exact justice to all"; and the one we honestly believe will bring the greatest good to the greatest number. Now don't let the Alliance suffer on account of your political faith.

Fraternally,
C. H. BAINES.
Sec'y Treas. Nash Co. Alliance.