

# PROGRESSIVE FARMER

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

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## Agriculture.

### MR. COOLMAN'S REJOINDER.

Mr. Blacknall has not yet convinced him that level terracing is best. I do not like to rush into print for argument with a gentleman and scholar, and especially with one who can handle his subject so well as Mr. Blacknall; but it is a sure thing that one of us is wrong, and what has already been said may cause some man to terrace his land in the wrong manner.

Let it be understood that the only thing about which I beg to differ with Mr. Blacknall is this:

He claims that a terrace to prevent land from washing should be laid off on a level, and I claim that it should have at least three inches fall in fifty feet.

It is impossible to keep all the water on the field at the time of a hard rain, and if we do not fix a place to carry it off, it will fix one of its own. And this one of its own will generally be straight down the hill across the rows, leaving a small gully at first that will get deeper every hard rain.

Mr. Blacknall surely knows that ten minutes of hard rain would overflow a level terrace of two feet high, while if it had some fall the water would be gradually carried off and the land below the terrace would be protected.

It is generally the water that comes from far up the hill and gathers strength on its way that does the bad work. If you can control that and carry it off where it should go, you will protect your land from washing. There is no one that hates to see a field of good soil washed away any more than I do. It is often cheaper to buy other land than to restore badly washed away fields. After reading what Mr. Blacknall has said, I am compelled to think that his land is

NOT SO HILLY OR SANDY nor so devoid of vegetable matter as the lands here. His system may be all right for fresh or grass lands. His instrument for laying off terraces is up to date. I have often wished that I had just such a one, but have never had a chance to buy one.

A. F. COOLMAN.  
Gaston Co., N. C.

### HARRY FARMER'S TALKS.

#### LVIII.

I wish to add something to my last week's talk on eggs and poultry. Hens that cannot get bugs, worms and food of that kind must have some substitute in order that they may lay eggs. The best substitute is

BOONE AND MEAT SCRAPS. It does not require a large amount but it must be given often enough to supply the demands of the hens. Bags contain a large amount of bony material in their legs and the covering that we call shells. Take the common grasshopper, and you will find the bones of his legs on the outside while that of the hen is on the inside, but each has the bone most suited to its life. We mention this to show the necessity for supplying this insect food in some other form.

We have given red pepper in warm mash made from corn meal in the morning when the weather was very cold. Among the grains which give the most satisfaction in the production of eggs is rough rice. We have used it very advantageously this way.

Some claim that if hens are fed on it exclusively and have a large range to run on that they will lay all through the fall and winter.

There is one fact that every egg producer should keep in mind, and that is

HENS MUST TAKE EXERCISE—A great deal of it, in order to lay; and we are of the opinion that exercise has as much to do with the production of eggs as the food. When small grain like oats, rice, etc., are fed, it makes the hens scratch more than when corn is fed. Give hens all the corn they will eat up clean

for a few days and you will soon see them sitting still for hours.

### THE BREED

has a great deal to do with egg production. Show us any very active, restive hen and we will vouch for her laying qualities, hence let the very large breeds severely alone. Any breed will lay in the spring when eggs are only worth 7 cents per dozen. We do not want any chickens with feathers on their legs. We like as far as we have tried them the following breeds and in the order named: Brown Leghorn; White Leghorn; Plymouth Rock crossed on our native ohiokens.

Mary Jane wanted some Buff Cochins, and with a little effort soon had a good number of hens. But after trying them a year or two she gave them up in disgust, after finding she could not get any eggs during the winter.

If you want the best layers for winter, you must have pullets hatched not later than the first of May. Old hens will not lay many eggs before they become broody. No hen that does not lay 100 eggs a year will be profitable.

### HARRY FARMER.

Columbus Co., N. C.

### GOOD FARMING PAYS.

The Wadesboro correspondent of the Charlotte Observer writes that paper under date of 25th ult.:

"In an interview with Mr. W. E. Crosland last night, your correspondent called some valuable lessons in farming. Mr. Crosland is the active member of the Everett and Crosland farm, located in Richmond county, and Marlboro county, South Carolina. He said that twenty-two years past, last January, Capt. W. E. Everett and he invested \$10,000 each in 1,600 acres of land and farm paraphernalia. On the first of January last they took an inventory and found that, after having lived on the proceeds of the farm, educated several children, and each member drawing out \$10,000 during the twenty-two years, there yet remained, including moneys on hand, real estate, farm products unsold, stock, cattle and personal effects, over \$100,000 in assets. They now have 8,000 acres of land in a high state of cultivation with everything needful for successful farming. These figures show a profit of 33 1/2 per cent. in round numbers per annum.

"Mr. Crosland says there is no man living who can make a success farming who persists in planting any one crop, be it cotton, corn, or tobacco, pinders or what it may. The only practical way to make planting pay is to rotate your crops and diversify your farming. "The success of these gentlemen only shows that a farm judiciously managed is profitable and that the lack of success among the majority of planters is due to mismanagement."

### A PROFITABLE HALF ACRE

Prof. John W. Lloyd, of the Illinois Agricultural College, planted a one-half acre farmer's garden. He reports his experience as follows:

"If nothing is charged for the use of the land or the manure, the total cost would be summarized as follows: Seeds and plants, \$5.45; insecticides, 50 cents; labor, \$26.11; total, \$32.06.

"In return for the expenditure the garden furnished a continuous supply of fresh vegetables throughout the growing season, with enough sweet corn for drying, tomatoes for canning, cucumbers, pepper, cabbage, string beans and green tomatoes for pickling; onions, beets, carrots, parsnips, salsify, winter radishes, cabbage and celery for winter use and parsnips, horseradish and salsify left in the ground for spring. These vegetables could not have been bought in the usual way for less than \$83.81. This leaves a balance of \$51.78 in favor of the garden. What other half-acre on the farm pays as well?"

It is all but useless to plant seeds when the springtime is gone; the harvest of characters must depend in part upon planting the soil in the time of awakening.—Ex.

### TIMELY FARM TOPICS.

Correspondence of The Progressive Farmer.

More grass for the cows and more beef, poultry and vegetables! This should be the war cry for the year 1902. Supplement your tobacco and cotton crops by growing all home supplies. Peas for table, for stock and as land improvers, also timothy and orchard grasses. Lands that you have

### TURNED OUT TO BROOM SAGE

try one more time by breaking to the depth of fifteen inches with a coulter close and fine as soon as you can get to it. Then sow to peas, turning the peas in with one horse turn plow and then harrow.

The old lady said when there is plenty of corn made there is plenty of everything else; where corn is scarce everything is scarce. She was about right. The foundation of success is in having enough home supplies.

Anything poorly fed will show it in the returns they make. My land that gets the best feed and in greatest quantity gives the best clear profit and holds a reserve profit after it has made the delivery.

North Carolina lands are capable of producing

### THIRTY BUSHELS OF WHEAT

per acre. But some farmers say that land does not produce as in old times. Why so? A Mr. Hiatt said to me that he sowed twelve bushels of wheat and the following year threshed out six hundred bushels. Fifty bushels to the acre and that was a year of much complaint of poor wheat crops! An old gentleman said to me to-day that a man came and bought a tract of poor land and he himself said he was sorry that the man had come to starve so near him. But he made thirty bushels of wheat per acre and now has one of the finest farms in all that section. Cow peas was this man's manure crop.

Again, I thoroughly agree with many of your writers for THE PROGRESSIVE FARMER in the fact that land properly cultivated does not get tired and worn out as an old horse. Deepen the root bed and put it in proper shape for the chemical action of light and heat and cold. Feed the plants from above as well as from below.

### BUYING WESTERN MEAT AND FEED.

Another mistake is this: Let some one make a great success in any line of business; the rush of others make what is called an over-production—cotton and tobacco, for instance. Now we are eating beef steak from the market at fifteen cents per pound and pork steak the same. In my boy days we sold beef at three and four cents per pound, and such a thing as eating Western meat was not known here. Baled hay was a curiosity. We have fine grass lands, good climate to grow stock.

When a man is in a rut he continues until it is too late to pull out, or rather he is fearful it may be worse for him. The safe man grows all his surplus at home, much or little, if he makes farming a success. When hay, corn, wheat and oats are plentiful it is so easy to have fresh beef, pork and fowls; then the vegetable garden full of a variety of all kinds of table supplies—then home is something worth the name. Chickens and eggs that sold in my boy days at six and eight cents are now selling at twenty-five cents and hens at thirty-five cents. And yet some people cry hard times. When a man makes his own hard times, why complain of the government making hard times? Home surplus make up much of home comforts.

### MARKET FOR VEGETABLES.

When our vegetable growers learn to grow such vegetables as may be shipped on quick time, they need not be afraid to grow in large quantities. No one need complain that he has no market. The celery used in our town, for instance, much of it probably comes over five hundred miles. Kraut will bear shipping a thousand miles; potatoes hundreds of miles, roasting ears and some others will bear shipping. Salads of the tender and various kinds will not bear trans-

portation a long distance except in cool weather.

We are delighted with growing and eating.

THE SALSIFY OR OYSTER PLANT—something that is not generally grown here in North Carolina. It is for winter use and served in different ways. Good cooks make of it one of the finest of table dishes. Any person will soon become fond of such a dish. The plants stand in the ground all winter like the parsnip or carrot; cold does not seem to hurt them. The vast root crops are coming more into notice and the sooner the better.

R. R. MOORE.

Guilford Co., N. C.

### TREATING A BADLY DRAINED SOIL.

Correspondence of The Progressive Farmer.

Drainage of a heavy, thick soil, inclined to be hilly and uneven, is something that is not always an easy matter, but if one has such a farm the sooner he begins to make the improvement the better. It is waste of time and money to attempt farming on a field that demands drainage badly, and it is wisdom to abandon the farm entirely or begin to drain it. I have succeeded so well with a home system of drainage with stones that it may be worth recording. The soil was at first quite full of stones, which I first picked off and piled in one part of the field. A few stones would work up to the surface every spring, and these I would also pick up. In the course of a few seasons I had a fairly good soil without many stones to annoy me. But the drainage was bad. The water would settle in the soil and on the surface in the spring, and the land was always late in getting into tillable condition. It was cold and wet when most other soils were dry and warm. This made plowing late, or if done early a muddy and unpleasant task. The land sloped down in one general direction, but there were numerous depressions which collected the water all day.

I decided to drain. I planned the whole thing out on paper, noting the general direction of the slopes. I could not afford tiles or any expensive material, and so I decided to use the piles of stones. I plowed deep ditches across the land, making them all run parallel with the main slope, and cutting cross-ditches in the opposite direction. In this way the whole soil of the field was drained so that the surplus water would run into main ditches and thus down to swampy levels. Then I proceeded to fill in the ditches with the stones, using the large ones first, and placing them so that the largest possible spaces would be left between. On top of these I packed the smaller ones, and on top of them placed a layer of straw and corn stalks. Then I topped it off with six inches of soil, bringing the surface up to within a few inches with the general level of the field. Now this drainage works perfectly. The soil is never clogged with surplus water. I do not plow over the drains, but I have permitted a sod of grass to form on them to mark their course. The water flowing below the surface, and there is a steady outpour in the main ditch in rainy weather. The cost was only that of my own personal labor.

C. W. MINNERS

### A NUT FARM FOR FORTH

Winston Journal: A nut farm is one of the latest endeavors in the way of enterprise by one of our citizens. Mr. Frank Jenkins, who has just returned from Texas, has purchased a large quantity of plants and is arranging to go into the nut raising business on a large scale. Capt. R. A. Jenkins has a farm two miles northwest of Winston admirably suited for this business and Mr. G. F. Jenkins is now having planted there six thousand plants of pecan, walnut and chestnut. It will require a number of years before these plants will grow sufficiently to bear. There are now planted on this farm about two thousand fruit trees and it is expected to increase this number to five thousand.

## Horticulture.

### THE OUTLOOK FOR STRAWBERRY GROWERS AT THE SOUTH.

Correspondence of The Progressive Farmer.

Although some editors have taken issue with an estimate printed by us that the total annual sales of the strawberry product of the United States are \$100,000,000—a stupendous sum it is true, but one which we do not consider far wide of the mark—there can be no question that it is very large indeed. Both supply and demand is increasing and in a healthier ratio than in many years past. In fact gluts in the large strawberry markets of the North and North west were not nearly so frequent in the past decade as in the one previous. The worst glut that we ever ran into was in Philadelphia in 1886.

There are several reasons why these gluts have not been nearly so frequent or so disastrous as in the past. The wise distribution of shipments by shipping associations, preventing congestion in any one market, has been a potent factor to this good end. Discrimination as to varieties and the growing of fine berries as well as such kinds as carry well has had great effect. Better picking, packing and handling generally has surely done much. But probably the greatest factor of all has been

### THE PERFECTION OF REFRIGERATOR TRANSPORTATION.

Ten years ago strawberry shipments went into market mostly without refrigeration. They were like the manna that fell in the desert—they must be eaten, eaten quickly, or they were naught. They did not admit of very wide distribution from the point of receipt, but must be sold and consumed comparatively near at hand.

All this has been changed by refrigerator transportation. The berries under proper management arrive in market firm, fresh and cold. If they arrive too late for that day's sale—the berry market on Pier 29, New York, where the cars are unloaded on, being ferried over from Jersey City, the terminus of the road running from the South, open at 2 a. m.—they can be kept fresh in the cars for the following day. If prices are better at any other market within a day's run by rail the car can be re-shipped to that place. If it is necessary after opening the car to distribute the shipment to small towns by express, the berries are of course far better able to stand this re-shipment than if they had come without refrigeration.

### BETTER PRICES CAN BE OBTAINED

under the new conditions than under the old. Besides the business admits of very wide expansion if wisely managed. There can be no question that the strawberry is the most attractive fruit that grows. During its season it comes nearer being a staple article of diet than any other fruit. Its color, its fragrance, its earliness all co-operate to draw buyers. It is surprising how many people buy first rate strawberries even when prices might seem to keep them above the range of the ordinary pocket. When they get low enough to retail at 10 cents a quart—a price that still bears a profit to the grower—the demand is almost without limit, provided the quality be fairly good.

All these things should give heart to the progressive berry grower, the man who plants good varieties, cultivates them well and handles them well. His business is no longer the haphazard, "head on fire" calling that it once was. These toward circumstances have elevated it into

### A STABLE BUSINESS

and given more certainty to it, and made expansion practicable. There is no reason why it should not be expanded in keeping with other interests of the country now booming with such a will, provided a fair business judgment is used. A novice should not expect to make a fortune at it quite as fast as the average novice would like. Hard work and horse sense are unfortun-

ately as requisite here as anywhere. But

THE RETURNS ARE QUICKER than in other lines of fruit growing. A little over twelve months—and at the far South a much shorter period—intervenes between seed time and harvest. The returns to the acre are larger than in almost anything else, but the outlay of money and labor is also.

It is hardly necessary to reiterate the caution against a beginner being too greedy, trying to make all the money there is at one master stroke. Let the beginner begin at the bottom and work up as to acreage. It beats beginning at the top and working down. Then too he might have to repeat the experience of the Irishman who said that a fall was nothing; the trouble being there was a sudden stop at one end of the fall.

O. W. BLACKNALL.

Vance Co., N. C.

### POTATOES FOR PROFIT.

Correspondence of The Progressive Farmer.

The difficulty of raising good potatoes is due as much to the soil, seed and climate as to any method of culture, and it is often useless for farmers in one section of the country to attempt to compete with those in more favorable places to raise fancy potatoes. Yet I believe it is only the fancy stock that pays. Ordinary potatoes do not pay any more than ordinary yields of a crop prove profitable. We must be able to raise large, fancy potatoes, and extra large crops, to make this business pay. Then, indeed, we have a specialty that one can depend on to prove very profitable.

As I said at the beginning, potatoes are largely a matter of location, climate and soil. If these are not naturally supplied I consider it profitable work to attempt to raise these products for commercial purposes. It is far better to devote the time and attention to other farm crops. But supposing these to be supplied, it is then only necessary to study the most approved methods of potato culture to find success. The first essential is to see what the market demands. So called fancy potatoes are always of a fair, uniform size. The abnormally large potato is neither profitable to raise, nor in great demand. It takes too long to cook it, and housekeepers do not want it. A moderate size and uniform throughout is the most desirable crop that we can desire. Plants that yield heavily of such potatoes are the best for commercial uses. Next to size, the color and condition of the skin should be considered. The delicately-pink-tinted potato is the one that attracts attention, and invariably receives the prize. To obtain this the seed must first be selected with that in view. If one can give the potatoes the right soil and fertilizer this tendency to a thin, pink tinted skin will become emphasized. Undoubtedly both the appearance and quality of the potatoes are greatly influenced by the soil and fertilizers. Some soils produce fine commercial potatoes without much effort on the part of the farmer. The potatoes require particularly an evenly-balanced fertilizer of nitrogen, sulphate of potash, and phosphoric acid. This should be supplied in the proportion of about 4 per cent. of the first, 18 per cent. of the second and 6 per cent. of the third. This fertilizer is strong enough, however, at first to burn the young sprouts of the seed, and consequently it must be put in the trench or hill long enough before planting to permit it to become dissolved and chemically mixed with the soil. In any case the fertilizer should be mixed with the soil so that it will not come in direct contact with the potatoes. A light soil with plenty of the right fertilizer will keep the potatoes from growing muddy and soggy in appearance, and tinge it with the bright pink color that is so much desired by housewives and market men.

W. O. HAVERLAND.

Long Island, N. Y.

Earth's noblest thing, a woman perfected.—Lowell.