

Farm Notes from Warren.

Editor of The Progressive Farmer:

Allow me to congratulate you upon the improved appearance of your most excellent paper, and especially do I admire the sentiment expressed on the eighth page of 16th inst: "It is ours only to speak the truth and defend the right as God gives us to see the truth and the right." Oh for more of such sentiment! Then the Lord would hear us and hearken to our prayer.

Our farmers will make a short crop, though where they have been properly worked there will be enough to eat. We have had nice seasons lately. Very little grain will be sown in our vicinity. They (the farmers) seem to think that it is better (or rather they have fallen into the habit) to buy with cotton nearly everything used, consequently they are always behind in money matters. If you will pardon a personal allusion, I will say that I too did that way until it nearly broke me. I thought I could not stop, but I did, and now I am thankful to say (not bragging) I have my home and farm unencumbered; have my own home-raised meat and bread; have not bought a pound of meat or bushel of corn this year, but have sold both; and I find I have time to devote to improving my land, feeding stock, raising fruit, etc. I sow peas, clover, rape, etc. Have an abundance of milk and butter from my cows, and blankets and cloth from my wool. This pays better than buying everything with cotton.

JONAS C. WILLIAMS.

Warren Co., N. C.

One Man's Experience.

Editor of The Progressive Farmer:

I have been reading articles on farm life in your paper for some time, and I ask a short space in your paper to give my experience on the farm.

I was born on a farm and my father made a farm hand of me as soon as I was large enough to carry a hoe. My father was one of those hustling farmers that you read about; he worked his family hard and spent the proceeds of their labor foolishly. As I grew older I grew wiser, and I soon cultivated a hatred and distaste for farm life. I will state here that there is one great reason why so many young men and boys have such a hatred towards farming. Without some encouragement we cannot make our boys take on to farming as they should. You may take any kind of a man that has any "get up" in him at all, and if he has nothing to encourage him he will soon get tired of any pursuit. I know some farmers treat their children like brute; they let them grow up in ignorance and work them hard from sun to sun, and it is enough to make a boy tired. Our girls should have more attention, and should be better educated, as the farmer girls make the best wives that we have in our country.

I grew to be a man and at the age of 21 years I launched out in this

world to seek a fortune. I landed in the State of Georgia, and spent one summer there in the turpentine business, and that was enough for me. I returned to North Carolina and engaged in the mercantile business. I soon found that my health was failing, and I decided to settle down and try farming again. My wife agreed to this, as I would be at home to help her look after the children, and in fact she seems to make me useful in a great many ways about the house. Farming is hard work, but it takes hard labor to make a success at anything.

I read The Progressive Farmer, and all the agricultural bulletins that I can get, and I find that farming is not such an up-hill business after all.

In conclusion I will say that up-to-date farmers have more pleasure and privilege than millionaires, if they will avail themselves of the opportunities. Hoping this may benefit some one, I remain

A SUBSCRIBER.

Cumberland Co., N. C.

STARTING A DAIRY FARM.**A Specimen Result of the A. & M. College Dairy Instruction.**

Mr. Jas. H. Bostian, a son of the late Jacob Bostian, has ordered a lot of Jersey cattle with a view to establishing a dairy farm at the Bostian place near town.

Mr. Bostian took a special course in dairying at the A. and M. College in Raleigh last winter. He took a high stand in the course and won the prize offered the class—a milk separator. With the information gained at the A. and M. added to the knowledge of farm work attained by being reared on a farm, he is well qualified for the work in which he proposes to engage. It is a progressive departure from the old style methods and the Landmark wishes him unlimited success in his new field.—Statesville Landmark, 23rd.

In many fields cotton is all about open and if the fine weather continues the great bulk of the cotton crop will be gathered by the 1st of October.—This has been a year in which insects have done great injury to crops. The chinch bugs have destroyed thousands of bushels of corn in the county and the army worm, a little worm about the size of a caterpillar and able to eat its own weight of green stuff in fifteen minutes by the clock, has made its appearance in different sections of the county, doing considerable damage.—Monroe Enquirer.

When one remembers the gloom and despondency of the farmers last season it is very consoling to see the change in them this year. All are seemingly prosperous. Every crop is averaging up good. Much supplies and provisions have been raised for another year, and some money been cleared. To hear them congratulate one another on their prosperity makes the souls of their friends rejoice.—New Bern Journal.

THE OAT-CHESS THEORY GETS ANOTHER DRUBBING.**Mr. Meacham Proves by Experiment and by Science that it is a False Superstition.**

Editor of The Progressive Farmer:

As so much has recently been written and said on the subject of oats producing cheat under certain conditions, I fear you have become disgusted; but as the mission of The Progressive Farmer is to instruct, enlighten and encourage the farmers so as to bring about a more advanced state of agriculture, and as we have a new generation now taking hold of agriculture as a profession, they should receive all the information on all subjects pertaining to the profession that past experience and knowledge can afford. So I beg you before you close the door, to allow me a little space to give the result of our twenty years' experience with this grass (cheat) and what our investigations have proven.

We profess to be a plant breeder as well as a sixty-five year old farmer. Plant breeding is one of our favorite sciences, and for many years we have studied and practiced it. Among fruits, vegetables, nuts and the grasses. The subject of cheat engaged our attention first, about twenty years ago. We sowed a lot of wheat on a hillside sloping west, and by the time the wheat began to head out well, we found many plants of the cheat and some spelt. A neighbor informed me that if calves or rabbits should eat off the mother plant, that the suckers would make cheat or chess. Examination revealed a sound plump seed. We concluded that it might make a good grass, and planted some of the seed with that end in view; but one year's experience with it proved that it was no valuable acquisition. A land along the side-hill ditch was left for a trash catcher, and not cultivated, so the cheat sprang up regularly for a number of years and only disappeared, after the briars and dewberry vines took that strip of land. But about some old stumps it continues to come every year, and has never improved any. Ditch banks appear to be favorite localities for it here in Wake.

When I set out to identify it, I found it to be a grass, as distinct as spelt or cockle, and in order to test the theory that spring or winter oats would produce cheat, if winter killed or trampled by stock, we planted good seed oats on a plot, both spring and winter varieties, in the fall. The spring variety was nearly all killed, but winter turf oats came out all right, but not a sprig of cheat appeared on those plots. Well, the calves and cows trampled and grazed on the third plot from November until April. The oats had been so badly trampled and eaten down so closely that they could not be conveniently reaped, but not a sprig of cheat appeared. A few spring oats are another lot sowed in March had both spelt and cheat in it, but I was not surprised at that, for

before sowing I examined the oats seed, and found both cheat and spelt seed with the oats. Every effort at crossing the cheat on the oat and rye failed, as did also my efforts to cross the wheat and rye. I could cross the bearded on the smooth-head wheats, but could effect no cross on rye or oats. Nor would the pollen of cheat take on the orchard grass or any other grass.

Cheat is as much a variety of grass, as foxtail, bullrush, or orchard, or any other variety of grass. Monstrosities, as they are called by vegetable phisicologists, may appear on corn or other vegetation, but it will still be corn, mustard or whatever the parent was. You can't cross Kaffir corn on Johnson grass, nor can you cross the milo maize on the teosint (reanna luxurians).

Cheat is either a variety of grass, or a hybrid. It is not a hybrid because it has a seed that readily germinates and reproduces itself year in and year out with no sign of variation, a thing which a hybrid will not do. We often have bud sports to appear on our fruit and other trees, which may be propagated by division (budding and grafting), but the bud sport that propagates itself by seed is not yet known. Many of our pome fruits are crosses, so violent that their blooms are either sterile or too near so to set fruit. Nature abhors hybridization, but loves crossing. If cheat is not a distinct variety, then what is it? It must be a variety of some species or it must be a hybrid. If it was ever a hybrid, it would have shown some variation; but no variation has ever yet been reported. It was cheat when first noticed and is cheat still with no variation. Aside from all that botany and vegetable physiology teaches us, our own experiments have proven that it (cheat) is as much a distinct variety of grass, as timothy, red top, or even the oat itself.

Now just one more question: If it is possible for the oat to vary far enough to produce another distinct grass—cheat, for instance,—why has it not produced something else? Why cheat every time? All plants known to vary, have not stopped at one step, for wherever one variation has occurred others have followed, but in no case has a variation occurred that was not the result of crossing the variety, by which process the type was broken, and a possible variety of variations followed, but the drift was always towards one or the other of the parents until a type was fixed. But in the cheat you have no cross to start from which could possibly result in a distinct variety. The oat plant is not the result of a cross with any other species of plant, consequently it can do but one or the other of two things, either reproduce itself or be abortive and produce nothing. This is Nature's law, pure and simple, from which there can be no departure. Men may be deceived and reach just such conclusions as suit their fancy, but Nature has her fixed laws from which she suffers no departure. Man may dwarf, or ameliorate, but he can't create new vegetation.

Two varieties of cheat have been identified, viz., the *Bromus Secalinus*, and *Bromus Racemmerus*. The seeds are used in adulterating other high-priced grass seed. It belongs to a family consisting of over 35,000 species and varieties of grasses.

D. P. MEACHAM.

Wake Co., N. C.