

# THE PROGRESSIVE FARMER.

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

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## AGRICULTURE

### HARRY FARMER'S TALKS. CXXII.

Editor of The Progressive Farmer:

As the weather grows warmer flies increase. Horses and cattle suffer a great deal from the bites of these insects. Cattle should have something like fish oil, coal tar mixed with grease, carbolic acid mixed with oil, and lots of other things that can be used to keep the flies away.

#### KEEPING FLIES OFF STOCK.

It will richly pay any farmer to try it. When milch cows have to fight flies all day you may expect the milk supply to decrease. A very little of the above-named articles will keep flies off horses and mules. Too much applied to a horse will some times make him sick. We can but feel for the dumb brute that is so harnessed that he can not defend himself when the flies are piercing his sensitive skin and great drops of blood trickle from the wound the fly has made. No one who cares for dumb animals will let them suffer when it is so easy to prevent it. The extra feed required to keep the animals in fair condition when bitten by flies will cost a great deal more than the small amount paid for oils, etc., to keep the insects off.

#### GOOD TEACHERS FOR COUNTRY SCHOOLS.

Do you want the best school teachers? Now is the time to begin to look after one. Many committees put off employing until all the best ones are engaged. Good teachers, like other workmen, do not have to hunt jobs. By waiting till about time to begin the school to get a teacher you usually have to take such as others do not want. The matter of good teachers is too great to be trifled with. An impression made on the young mind is lasting. It is hard to undo this kind of work. In selecting teachers try to get those who are up-to-date. New methods in teaching advance the children faster than old ones. The improvements are as great in teaching as in farming tools.

#### IMPROVED FARMING TOOLS.

A great many farmers have bought new implements that are great labor-savers. We would like for those who have meritorious tools to mention them. We have had to spend time and money in hunting implements that we have heard of but did not know the name or manufacturer. Some farmer bought an improved combination planter, which did splen-

did work. A neighbor wanted one but could not give the name. After considerable work and postage he found it was the Cole planter advertised in The Progressive Farmer. If when you hear of one and find it to be just what you need, when mentioning it, just say the Cole Planter, Red Ripper Press, Wilson's Bone Mill, etc. The manager of The Progressive Farmer can get the manufacturers to advertise the goods so that it will be easy for the farmers to get them. In this hustling age when labor is so scarce every one is anxious to get all the labor saving tools to be had if the cost is not too great. Not only that, but you will be helping the manufacturer, the paper and your brother farmer. It will give the worker in the shop more to do and he in turn will buy more of the farmer's potatoes, apples, pork, etc. Then it will help to make the paper better.

HARRY FARMER.  
Columbus Co., N. C.

#### Last Week's North Carolina Crop Bulletin.

Corn has not all been planted; a good deal was brought up by the rainfall this week, and that up grew nicely; most of the early corn has received first plowing; in counties suffering from drought much replanting will have to be done. The rains caused cotton to come up nicely, though all is not yet up; planting is practically finished; cotton plants are very small, but have improved, stands are better and chopping is underway. The weather was excellent for the work of transplanting tobacco in the northern counties where it progressed rapidly, while the crop shows some improvement. A number of crop correspondents state that wheat is better than expected, though the yield will be short; harvesting early wheat and oats has just begun in a few places; spring oats are not promising. Planting peanuts is well advanced and good stands have been secured. The yield of Irish potatoes in the east was reduced by the drought; many sweet potato sprouts were set this week. Gardens were much benefited by the rains. The prospect for fruit of all kinds continues fairly favorable in the central-east portion of the State, and for apples also in the west; the blackberry and dew-berry crops will be large; grapes are blooming heavily. Meadows were much damaged by the drought and are poor.

#### Sowing Peas on Tobacco Lands.

Editor of The Progressive Farmer:

Enclosed find money order for which continue to send me The Progressive Farmer. I do not see how I could do without The Farmer. It is a good paper to have in any home and is doing a great work.

We in this part of the country have been sowing cowpeas on tobacco land, and the tobacco does not grow well after peas. Will you please tell me through The Progressive Farmer what it is about peas that hinders the land from growing good tobacco? Hoping to see something on this subject soon, I remain

Your friend,  
S. P. GENTRY.  
Person Co., N. C.

We thank Mr. Gentry for his kind words. We shall be glad to have our friends who have studied the matter discuss the effect of cowpeas on tobacco. Here are the views of Prof. W. F. Massey, of the North Carolina Agricultural Experiment Station:

"I think that the trouble arises from the fact that tobacco growers fail to realize the amount of nitrogen the peas get for them, and after growing the peas they put the same fertilizer on the ground that they would have applied without the peas and there is an excess of nitrogen, causing a rank and late growth. Then, too, they sow the peas the year before on thin land with no fertilizer and cut the peas off, and this of course reduces the amount of phosphoric acid and potash in the land in an available form, since peas will use these up as fast as any crop that can be planted. Now, if instead of merely sowing the peas they would give them a good dressing of acid phosphate and potash they would not only get a heavier crop of peas but would gather more nitrogen from the air into the soil. Then the following season, when the land is put in tobacco, use no nitrogen of an organic character, but only a small amount, say 100 pounds per acre of nitrate of soda to give the crop a good send off, and then depend upon the organic nitrogen the peas have furnished for the completion of the crop. I feel sure that by the proper course of culture I could not only grow tobacco after peas, but could grow a high grade of leaf. I know that the general opinion among tobacco growers is that peas injure the quality of the tobacco the following season, but I believe that it is not the fault of

the peas, but of the farmer. The tobacco grower who cannot afford to farm right and improve his land for fear of injuring his tobacco, had better quit tobacco and grow some crop that will allow him to improve his soil. But the fact is that good farming and stock feeding and the growing of forage can be as well and easily done with tobacco as the money crop as with any other crop."

#### Prizes in Agriculture at A. & M. College.

At the recent A. & M. College Commencement here, the following prizes were awarded to agricultural students:

Medal, Presented by Zenner Disinfectant Company for Judging Stock, W. W. Finley.

Cash Prize of Five Dollars, Offered by State Agricultural Society for best Report of Stock Exhibit, Frank R. Smith.

United States Cream Separator, Presented by Vermont Farm Machine Company for best Essay on the Making of a Dairy Farm, Clarence Lytch.

Sharples Cream Separator, Presented by P. M. Sharples for best Essay on "The Middle South as a Dairy Section," W. W. Finley.

Ton of Commercial Fertilizer, Presented by Caraleigh Phosphate and Fertilizer Company for best Essay on Soil Fertilization, L. A. Niven.

Set of Rural Science Books, Presented by the Macmillan Publishing Company for the best Essay on "The Farmer's Library," R. F. Warren.

"Storer's Agriculture," Presented by Charles Scribner's Sons for the best Essay on "The Farmer, a Student," C. C. Harrell.

Registered Jersey Bull, Presented by Fairview Dairy Farm for best Essay on "Formation and Management of a Dairy Herd," A. C. Wharton.

Col. I. C. Wade, of Cornelia, Ga., writes in a private letter to The Progressive Farmer: "I enclose sample of 'Kulthi' that is raised in India; used them and saved lives of many during the great famine. It is a legume and seems fine from its growth. Has been planted less than thirty days, and never had any rain on it till Sunday. The Department of Agriculture sent me the seed and I believe from present indications it will be a great thing for our section. I am giving it various trials."