

\$500 More a Year Farming: How to Get It

THE PURPOSE AND METHOD OF THIS SERIES.

"Why the '\$500 More a Year Farming' Articles Were Written and Their Spirit—To Be Published in Book Form.

By Tait Butler.

WITH SOME three or four exceptions only, an article under the above title, and dealing with some one or more of our important agricultural problems has appeared in The Progressive Farmer each week during the past two years. The one dominating idea of this series of articles has been that the average Southern farmer is not earning enough—is not getting sufficient financial returns for his labor. Another idea closely associated with the one just stated and furnishing the chief motive for the publication of these articles, is that more must be earned by the average farm worker; that is, he must obtain more money before our rural sections can enjoy the best and most comfortable farm homes; before they can make and maintain good roads, before they can build and equip satisfactory schools and establish such other rural institutions as are required by the best modern rural civilization. More money than is necessary to do these things we would not ask for the Southern farmer; but these are his by right and may and should be his by honest achievement.

It has been the purpose of this series of articles to point out a few definite methods of better farming from which experience has conclusively proved better financial or practical results surely follow.

What the Articles Have Tried to Teach.

While our chief aim has been to teach facts, our greatest care has been to make no statements that were not in line with the best scientific or practical agricultural opinion of the day. We have aimed at giving facts as understood by the best agricultural authorities of the times, rather than in airing personal opinions or individual experiences.

At no time have we had any idea of covering all phases of Southern agricultural problems, nor of trying to exhaust any of the subjects discussed. Moreover, no attempt has been made to lay down "hard and fast" rules, but to state facts and principles which are unchangeable and the same everywhere, differing only in their application to the varying conditions met with on the different farms.

No writer can tell any farmer how to manage the details of his farming. Only one man can know how to run a farm and that is the man living on it, but the farmer can receive help through acquiring a knowledge of facts—the facts underlying and directing the best agricultural methods and practices. The aim of this series of articles has been to put into simple language the most important of those facts and principles, which will be of assistance to the Southern farmer in doing better farming.

Some have not found in these articles the help they needed most, and none have found all they wanted. Moreover some things have been discussed which all did not find appreciable to their conditions, but nothing has appeared in them which has not been found practicable and profitable by actual trials in hundreds of cases and by successful farmers working under the average general farm conditions existing throughout the South.

These have been the aims and purposes in the production of this series of articles and while they have not contained as much definite and detailed information as we had hoped, yet, if we can accept as sincere the many letters and expressions of approval which have come to us, the series was wise in its conception, timely in its development and has been helpful in its execution.

Three Essential Problems.

In selecting the subjects which should make up the series, we kept constantly in mind the need of more money for the betterment of farm life, and at all times have tried to give some aid towards the solution of the three basic or essential problems of the Southern farmer, which, as stated at the outset, are:

1. A more productive soil, secured through drainage, the prevention of washing, and the addition of humus by crop rotation and the feeding of more and better live stock.

2. Increasing the efficiency and earning power of the farm worker by equipping him with a better knowledge of agriculture, with more and better work stock and with more modern labor-saving implements.

3. The making of better rural homes and schools, that those who till the soil may enjoy the same comforts and privileges and obtain the same preparation for their life work as those who engage in any other profession.

In response to a more or less general and persistent demand it has been decided to publish these articles in book form and during the next few months they will be offered to our readers and other Southern farmers in permanent and convenient form. They will appear in the book practically as they have been published in The Progressive Farmer, with little change or alteration, except to arrange in a more logical and systematic order.

WINNERS IN TEN-EAR CONTEST.

The prizes for the best ten-ear lots in our Boys' Corn-Growing Contest were awarded as follows: 1, J. C. Lewis, Reedy Branch, N. C.; 2, Isham H. Snowden, Chumley, Miss; 3, Frank Moore, Winona, S. C.; 4, Alfred Stewart, Caledonia, Miss. Honorable mention in this class is also due John Seagle and Arthur Raines, of Virginia. If Mr. Seagle had not won in another prize, he would have been awarded fourth in this class.

SOME BEE TALK.

Our New York correspondent, Mr. F. J. Root, writes us that at the National Bee Keepers' Association in Albany last month a movement was started for an advertising campaign in behalf of a more general use of honey. Mr. Root estimates that the average consumption of honey in the United States is not over three-fourths of a pound per year per capita, surely a very small amount when the healthfulness and the palatability of this food are considered together with the large consumption of other sweets. "It is a neglected industry," says our correspondent, "but I can think of no food product with greater chance of expansion." The remedy Mr. Root proposes is more advertising by

apiarists so that the public may learn better to appreciate good honey. This is well enough, but before there is any great increase in consumption there must be an increase in production. It is not too much to say that in our territory there are ten farmers who could make bees pay them handsomely to every one now keeping bees. It is a subject worth considering.

In this connection we might say, too, that the U. S. Department of Agriculture has recently issued a circular on the two worst diseases with which the bee keeper has to contend—American and European "foul brood." Any one having trouble with these diseases should write for a copy of this publication to the Division of Publications, Department of Agriculture, Washington, D. C.

DO YOU NEED A SILO?

Messrs. Editors: The silo furnishes a succulent feed all winter, saves the entire corn plant, increases the milk flow, cheapens the ration and keeps the animals in better health.

From 30 to 50 per cent of the corn crop is lost under the present conditions of curing fodder—this can be saved by the use of a silo.

If any reader has ten or more cows it will pay him to build a silo and now is the time to get ready. Find out where you can get hoops, lugs and cement, or any other ma-

terial needed. Figure on the cost of filling, etc. See if you can not get two or three of your neighbors interested in the matter and go together in buying equipment so that the expense of starting this new work will be divided.

Now is the time to get busy with pencil, paper and "thinker," and find out whether you can afford to do without a silo longer.

J. A. CONOVER.

"I have been reading your great paper two years, and it has helped me from \$30 a month to \$70. I am manager for a big rice, cotton and corn plantation"—J. P. Parson, Lake Providence, La.

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