

# THE SOUTHERN FARM GAZETTE

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STOCK-RAISERS, AND THEIR FAMILIES.

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## Truckers

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Truckers have a branch of agriculture that should by all means be practiced entirely on the intensive system of farming. There has been, and is now, a disposition on the part of some to spread over too much land, more than they have the ability to handle, if I may be allowed to say it, and surely more than they can do justice to with the means they have at hand. This is no less true with farming than any other vocation. No more would we expect success from a man that has been managing a small store, if placed in charge of a department store, unless he makes his way slowly, but surely, round by round to this place.

When labor is uneducated, there is a limit to what one man can manage successfully. Let me give an example. It is possible for a man to handle labor to cultivate, fertilize, and mulch 40 acres of strawberries, even in connection with other crops; but when shipping season comes, what then? Crates are not made properly, berries trashy, bruised, short and long stems, ripe and green, all in the same box, poor packing, rough handling, and surely low prices. He cannot be everywhere at once, and it is hard to get a man to take his place.

Were the acreage cut to one-fourth, or even to less, I dare

say the net profit would be larger. With inexperienced labor, you make a mistake to attempt so much. Your greed for gold has got the upper hand of your better judgement. Some men get rich by risky methods, but the chances are against you.

The possibilities of the money one acre of land can make is unlimited. To say this or that man made \$600 per acre on strawberries this and that year and \$500 on tomatoes, etc., does not tell the limit, but it does tell one thing surely—he had good berries and good tomatoes and handled them well. Fancy goods will sell on almost any market at a profit.

Where do the losses come from in extensive growing? First, the land employed, untimely cultivation, inability to secure a large enough quantity of stable manure, poor labor, expense in gathering, extra box material, poor packing, and high freight or express. These are not all, but enough to make one think a little.

There is a great drawback in farming; there is a disposition on the part of the human race, to feel that any one can farm and that no education upon this subject is necessary. I believe the chances are better for success in any other calling for a man that does not keep posted in his work than there is in farming.

What steps can we take to benefit ourselves and others? First, by reading; and, next, by

organization. If every trucking section was well organized and had meetings often to discuss the success and failure of this or that crop; if the members of the organization should agree to plant so many acres in this or that and at set dates, so everything grown in that community could be handled in car lots, there would be a great saving. Better freight rates could be got by an organization. Better markets could be found. In other words, there is strength in union. The lawyers, doctors, merchants, bankers, miners, and almost every profession has its organizations. They meet to discuss the best methods to be practiced. To make a success in trucking where distant markets have to be relied upon, your success will be governed to a great extent by your shipping facilities. Where small lots are to be handled by express, your chances are slim.

## A Plea for Mules

T. M. James, Hezer, Miss.

EDITOR GAZETTE:

I will try to write again for your valuable paper. I love to read letters from all parts of our good old state. I am glad that the farmers are learning some sense, or at least some of them—that is, trying to live at home. If all that till the soil would do that, it would not be long till there would be men going round trying to get farmers to raise so much cotton at a good price, 15

cents.

Brother farmers, let us stick together and claim our rights. I read today that the cloth and lace that was made out of one bale of cotton was worth \$500; and we do well to get \$50 or \$60 for it. We ought to have half, for we are the ones that bare the burdens of the day through heat and rain to make it and through cold and wet to gather it and get it marketed; and then hear our merchant say it's just off 1/4 or 1/2 cent.

It makes me sad to think that we boys will be such fools still to buy corn, meat, molasses, and mules, to try to raise more cotton when we could raise all of them at home. Then we would be able to hold what little cotton we can raise, till the price suits.

We can raise good mules, too. I have two, one two and a half years old and the other one and one-half years old, that I have refused \$250 for. There is more money in mules than in all-cotton farming. Look out King Cotton, we want to put you down at the bottom of our list. You've been first all the time; but we are learning that you will keep a man poor if he depends on you too much. Brother, a good jack would do well here in this settlement. I would like to keep one on shares if he was a good big one. If this don't find the wastebasket, I will write again.

Help your son. By giving him a subscription to the Gazette you will lead him to success.