

THE PROGRESSIVE FARMER.

THE MOST LARGELY CIRCULATED FARM WEEKLY PUBLISHED BETWEEN WASHINGTON AND NEW ORLEANS.

Vol. XIX. No. 19.

RALEIGH, N. C., TUESDAY, JUNE 21, 1904.

\$1 a Year.

The Progressive Farmer.

CLARENCE H. POE, - - - Editor and Manager.
B. W. KILGORE, }
C. W. BURKETT, } - - - Agricultural Editors

DR. FREEMAN'S TALKS.

X.—Organization of Tobacco Growers.

Editors Progressive Farmer:

I notice with pleasure that President Adams is doing something to organize the farmers in and for their own interest.

We have the tobacco growers' organization in North Carolina, but the organization does not amount to anything of itself. There must be men at the head of these organizations who are able and willing to do the work necessary to succeed. No man or set of men in political life will do; men who carry along a dozen or more axes to be ground are not suited. So you see it is hard to get the right men to do the organizing.

President Adams says call mass meetings and get up enthusiasm. 'This' we have been doing in North Carolina for several years, and we are farther away from being organized at this hour than at any time during these years. To succeed, two things are necessary and must be on hand: Men and money. Without these two forces you cannot succeed.

If we had the right men in our organization as leaders, we have nothing in this State to do but to succeed. I have been in all the farmers' organizations of the State since the organization of the Grange, and none have succeeded except as agents were kept actively at work in each county. This plan will succeed and no other will. Put organizers in every county, men who can and will do the work, and the thing is done.

These agents or organizers must stay in the counties and work every section until every farmer is a member, and then stay there to keep up the order. These organizers will have lots of work to do besides organizing. They should know how many acres of tobacco is planted in his county, how much guano used, what it is made of, which brand is the best, cost, etc.

Through these agents and organizations the tobacco growers could get much information which would make the organization grow stronger and stronger until the grower of the weed would control the tobacco trade. Also by the proper organization the guano we use could be made by the State organization.

The tobacco growers and cotton growers' associations can make the farmers of the South rich in five years. All that is lacking is the man and the money. It will not be hard to get the money, as the farmers are ready and anxious to succeed along this line, but the man will be hard to find. I do not know where the right man is; I wish I did. He should be the barinest man in the State. He should be above suspicion and a leader in every sense. He should be paid the salary that will get the man, and if this salary should be ten thousand dollars per year, and we get the man who can succeed, it will be a small amount indeed to pay for the great advantages which will come to us.

This man should control all the county agents and have under his direction every part of the workings of State, county and district organizations. He should fix the prices and order the sales of tobacco through the local organizations. When we are thus organized, the growers of tobacco and cotton will get rich quick (and not before) by growing these money crops.

The manipulators of these crops, by organization, are growing rich every day. The organizers of these manipulators are men. Can't we find just one man? Now if you are living, speak out and the money is ready.

H. F. FREEMAN.

Wilson Co., N. C.

What to Do with the Strawberry Fields after Fruiting.

Editors Progressive Farmer:

The most successful strawberry growers plow up their fields as soon as the berries are all gathered and sow them in cowpeas, thus putting the land in perfect tilth to reset in strawberries the following fall, winter or spring, as may be most convenient. But the vast majority of growers gather two and sometimes three crops of berries from the same field.

How to do this successfully is the object of this article. Bar off with a turning plow the strawberry rows, leaving unplowed a strip about a foot wide containing the plants. On this strip chop out the plants, leaving them about eighteen inches apart. Always leave young (one year old) plants instead of old ones when possible. In this chopping out also kill all weeds and grass. A week or ten days later sow cotton seed meal at the rate of 800 to 1,000 pounds an acre in the furrow left on each side of the row. Then split out the middle, throwing the earth closely around the plants but not on them, or they will be smothered.

Whenever practicable (though with a large acreage it is not usually practicable) it pays to burn off the field or bed before barring off. To do this, mow the foliage of the plants as closely as possible. Then loosen up the straw used as a mulch and on a dry, breezy day, after the mowed foliage has got dry, set fire to the field along the border to windward. If there is a fair quantity of foliage or mulch the field will burn quickly over, leaving the soil as clean as a floor. Weeds, seed and any insect pest that may chance to be present will meet their judgment day; to a novice the strawberry plants will seem to have done so too. But seeming will be all.

In a week, or earlier if it rains, in the fire-blackened, Sahara-like field a magic transformation will take place. Every strawberry plant will have put forth leaves of the most vivid and beautiful growth. The rows can then be barred off, chopped out, fertilized and treated as above directed.

Subsequent cultivation should be the same as for young fields—shallow plowing with a small tooth cultivator and shallow hand hoeing frequently enough to kill all grass and weeds before they come and to keep the crust on the soil broken. This is all important as in a dry time it greatly lessens evaporation and minimizes the effect of drought.

O. W. BLACKNALL.

Vance Co., N. C.

Molasses in Feed Does Remove Wild Onion Odor from Milk.

Editors Progressive Farmer:

In your issue this week of The Progressive Farmer, a correspondent asks in regard to the use of molasses in cattle feed as a remedy for the onion odor in milk, and as I am one of your subscribers and feel an interest in all that pertains to agriculture and stock raising, I will offer the information myself and you can make such disposition of it as you think best.

I own a herd of Jerseys, all of them registered in A. J. C. C., and sometimes get quite a quantity of milk, and at one time our meadows became infested with wild onions; consequently there were objections made by our milk customers. We at once began to give the milk cows molasses with their night feed, which entirely relieved the milk of any onion flavor whatever, and as long as we used the molasses remedy there was no trouble experienced from the effects of wild onions.

Should this information benefit any one, why I shall feel amply repaid for having written.

And let me say just here, Mr. Editor, that I miss Harry Farmer's (Henry Wyche's) letters very much. I always read them with peculiar interest because, aside from having known him personally, I expected to learn something that would benefit me. We were reared here in Whiteville together; were together in school during our boyhood days, and having known him intimately for so long a time, I can testify as to his real worth. He was true; he was progressive; he was practical; he believed in the right; he abhorred a sham; he felt a keen interest in all that pertains to the welfare of our Commonwealth, especially its agricultural and educational interests. In his conversation he always seemed enthusiastic; he would talk as he wrote for your paper. Many times have I met him in my place of business and he never seemed to tire in making suggestions about the practical things of life. But I fear I have written too long already and wearied your patience. When I began I only intended to write in regard to the onion trouble.

J. L. MEMORY.

Columbus Co., N. C.

Adulterated Grass Seed Will be Tested Free by the Department of Agriculture.

United States Department of Agriculture,
Office of the Secretary,
Washington, D. C., June 15, 1904.
Editors Progressive Farmer, Raleigh, N. C.:

The act of Congress making appropriations for the Department of Agriculture for the fiscal year ending June 30, 1905, contains the following:

"The Secretary of Agriculture is hereby directed to obtain in the open market samples of seeds of grass, clover, or alfalfa, test the same, and if any such seeds are found to be adulterated or misbranded, or if any seeds of Canada bluegrass (*Poa compressa*) are obtained under any other name than Canada bluegrass or *Poa compressa*, to publish the results of the test, together with the names of the persons by whom the seeds were offered for sale."

Announcement is hereby made that the collection and testing of seeds as directed by this act will begin July 1, 1904.

JAMES WILSON, Secretary.