

Agricultural Department.

Suggestions For February Farm Work.

Progressive Farmer.

February is the month in which real agricultural activity usually begins, but this year January has been such a fine month for farm work that much has already been accomplished. However, there is still much that can be done in February. It is an old saying, full of truth, that it is far better for one to push his work than for the work to push him. By taking advantage of nice weather for plowing our farmers will be ready when planting time arrives. When we say plowing we mean real plowing, the real kind that will break the land deeply and evenly so as to hold the moisture for planting time and growth of the crop later. There is probably no farm work that our farmers are more careless about than that of plowing. Let them now for once and all determine that the plowing shall be done in a strictly first class manner which will also insure that after-cultivation will be of a better character and easier done. This cannot be done with a one-horse plow, and for stiff land the two horses or mules will have to be larger than those generally used.

Much of the land intended for corn, in this State, is bedded rather than broken flat. Especially is this true where the "Williamson plan" is adopted. With out here discussing the comparative merits of flat ridge breaking, we suggest that all land to be ridged should have that work done as quickly as possible and then reverse the ridges just before planting time. This will insure better breaking of the land with all the benefits to be derived therefrom, which are many and important.

Do not forget the stables, manure sheds and compost heaps. The average Southern farmer pays too little attention to home-made manure. We wish here to report that there is no manure used on the farm that pays as well as that made and saved on the farm. Stable manure contains a great deal more than simply the nitrogen, phosphorus and potassium. None of us probably know how to fully appreciate good stable manure. It is full of bacterial life that is so helpful to the growth of all farm crops. Save all the stable manure possible and apply it judiciously. The effects of it do not pass away in a year, but are often seen for several years.

In the beginning of active spring work do not over-work your mules and horses. Many of them have been idle during the winter months and have become "soft". Violent exercise at first, until they become somewhat used to work, may be harmful. Be careful with them the first week or two. Also be careful about feeding. It is always dangerous to increase the work and the feed very much both at the same time. First, gradually increase the feed and add to the work slowly. They still have

their heavy winter coats, are soft from lack of work and the weather is getting warmer while the soil is soft and the footing bad. All these combine to make the first two weeks the most difficult for the work stock, and it is during this time that shoulders and back are galled and digestion damaged.

This reminds us that February is a good time to overhaul the harness and work gear. First, make such repairs as are needed and then oil and put in good soft condition for the spring work. Too much care cannot be observed in seeing that the collars fit. One too large is nearly as bad as one too small. Keep these collars and the shoulders clean.—For the first week wash the shoulders with cold water, rub dry and apply a solution of sugar of lead—two (2) drams of lead to a pint of water—provided there is any tendency of the parts to chafe and gall.

On account of the peculiar weather conditions last fall forage of every kind is exceedingly scarce. This should cause a large acreage to be sowed in oats and other forage crops. If fall oats were not put in, do not neglect to put in a good acreage of spring oats. Prepare the land well and sow liberally, from two to three bushels per acre on good land, using from 220 to 500 pounds of commercial fertilizers to the acre. The Burt and the Rust Proof are the most popular spring oats.—On real good land the Rust Proof may be more satisfactory than the Burt, but on medium land we prefer the Burt.

This is also the month to arrange for the purchase of fertilizers as suggested last month.—Do not forget your club orders, for the reason you can buy for less money in large than in small quantities. The same rule applies to many things. In your Alliance or Farmers' Club meetings, get up orders for plow castings—all you think you will need during the summer. You will not only have the advantage of buying cheaper in large lots, but you will have a repair whenever needed without having to go to the store every time you need a point or some other repair for the plow.

Again, this month is the beginning of activity in the average farmer's garden. Our suggestions as to this matter will be few this month, not because there are not many things to be done, but on the supposition that the farmer who has deferred all garden work until now will run his garden in about the same way he has heretofore. However, we will suggest more stable manure and also more commercial fertilizers than we have been using; to have the best and sweetest vegetables, they must be of quick growth, which can be assured only by plenty of plant food and good cultivation. From twenty to forty two horse loads of manure to the acre will not be too heavy for the garden, and if that has been well composted, all the better. In addition to that, use commercial fertilizers at the rate of 1,000 to 2,

000 pounds per acre, according to the crop grown. There is nothing about the farm that pays better than a good garden. Get catalogues from two or three reliable seedsmen and go through them thoroughly, selecting such seeds as you wish to plant. If there is something new in the catalogues you wish to try, try it on a small scale, reserving the greater part of the garden for the vegetables and varieties that have proven themselves to be all right. It is never wise to supplant well tried reliable varieties for new untried ones. Experiment with the new before you plant largely of it.

The strawberry plants might be side dressed with a complete fertilizer at the rate of about 400 pounds per acre, but the late Dr. Porter, who was one of the most successful strawberry growers of the State, contended that the fertilization of strawberries should be done not later than November. When fertilizers, especially those containing nitrogen, were put on in the spring, he said it stimulated a growth of vine or plant, but the berries were neither so numerous, early or good. From this point of view, if the strawberries were well fertilized last fall, it might be well to leave them alone this spring, but in case they were not sufficiently fertilized last fall, then they should be side-dressed in February.

Finally, February is a good time to prepare for a succession of crops for the hogs during the summer. Had rape, oats, vetch, etc., been sowed last fall, winter and early spring grazing would have been supplied, but if that was not done, it is now necessary that provision be made for the spring and summer. Hogs cannot be economically produced on corn alone in this country.—Plant rape and oats during February; put in sorghum as early as possible; have peas, if practicable, and where they will grow don't fail to plant peanuts for this fall and early winter. Next fall be certain to plant rape, oats and vetch, rye or barley for winter and early spring grazing.

The Golden Rule of Three.

Three things to be—pure, just and honest.

Three things to live—courage, affection and gentleness.

Three things to govern—temper, tongue and conduct.

Three things to cherish—the true, the beautiful and the good.

Three things about which to think—life, death and eternity.

Three things to commend—thrift, industry and promptness.

Three things to despise—cruelty, arrogance and ingratitude.

Three things to love—the wise, the virtuous and innocent.

Three things for which to wish—health, friends and contentment.

Three things to admire—dignity, gracefulness and intellectual power.

Three things to attain—goodness of heart, integrity of purpose and cheerfulness of disposition.—Leadership.

La Grippe and Pneumonia

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CASH STORE.

Bamberg has another Fire.

Special to The State.

Bamberg, Feb. 5.—Bamberg was visited by another fire this morning. About 2 o'clock fire was discovered in the large mercantile establishment of J. A. Spann. Indications are the fire was of incendiary origin. When Mr. Edgar Dickinson, night watchman of the business section, got to the rear of the building he found the back door open. This is the second fire which has occurred here within a week and the people are much disturbed.

The losses and insurance were J. A. Spann, building, value \$2,500, insurance \$2,000; stock value \$25,000, insurance \$15,000; E. C. Hays, store value, \$1,800, insurance \$1,500.

Mill President Dead.

Mr. J. A. Harris, president of the Abbeville cotton mill, died at the German hospital in Philadelphia today at 12 o'clock. Mr. Harris was operated on last Thursday and was thought to be doing very well until yesterday. His wife and son were with him when the end came. The remains are expected here Wednesday night.—Abbeville special to The State, 5th inst.

Rising From The Grave.

A prominent manufacturer, Wm. A. Festwell, of Lucama, N. C., relates a most remarkable experience. He says, "After taking less than three bottles of Electric Bitters, I feel like one rising from the grave. My trouble is Bright's disease, in the Diabetes stage. I fully believe Electric Bitters will cure me permanently, for it has already stopped the liver and bladder complications which have troubled me for years." Guaranteed at Crawford Bros. Funderburk Pharmacy, druggist. Price only 50c.