

FARMERS' PAGE A Regular Weekly Feature for the Farmers of Anderson and adjoining Counties. Contributions for this page gladly received.

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A Farming Program for 1915

How the Small Farmer May Succeed Despite Low-priced Cotton—Intensive Work, With Especial Attention to Grain, Hogs, Cows and the Family Garden, Are Necessary.

(By A. M. Soule, President Georgia State College of Agriculture.) A farmer has 28 acres of land fairly well suited to cultivation. He has been emphasizing cotton production very strongly in the past. He suddenly finds cotton unprofitable and realizes that under existing conditions he must change his practice essentially.

First of all, he should minimize cotton production and not attempt to devote more than five acres of his land to the cultivation of this crop in 1915. At least eight acres of the land now in cotton should be seeded to cereals immediately; three acres should be used where the soil is suited to this crop, for wheat, and five acres for oats. He should prepare an acre of land as carefully as possible with the idea of planting Irish potatoes as early in the spring as it is practicable to put them in the ground.

This accounts for the 28 acres which the small farmer can hope to operate successfully with the power of one or two horses or mules and such labor as his family can provide. The reader will observe that this provides for an intensive system of cultivation and that a considerable area of land produces two crops in a year. This means, of course, that thorough and efficient soil preparation must be had, and that the land must be judiciously handled and as well fertilized as possible.

Contiguous to practically every area of cultivated land in the South, there will be found more or less waste or idle land, as much as 15 to 25 acres. This land should be used for grazing such cows and calves as may be raised on the farm, and as a range for the hogs when not confined on specialized grazing crops.

Situated as described in this article, what may a farmer operating 28 acres of land naturally expect to produce in an average season where the land is reasonably well handled? The figures presented below have been carefully considered, and the writer believes them to be thoroughly conservative.

The cotton land should produce five bales; the corn should yield at the rate of 35 bushels, making a total of 230 bushels for the eight acres. The three acres of wheat should yield 60 bushels of threshed grain; 12 1/2 acres of oats, 40 bushels per acre, or 500 bushels all told. The Irish potatoes should yield 100 bushels and the sweet potatoes 70 bushels.

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\$500. In addition to the above, there is an abundance of grain for feeding one to two head of work stock and at least two cows which will supply the farmer with an abundance of milk and butter and leave \$50 worth of dairy products for sale.

There are thousands of farmers in the South so situated that they can carry into full force and effect, by taking action immediately, a plan such as has been indicated, and it is needless to state that by doing so they would effectually solve the problem of the hour and be in better financial condition next fall than they can possibly hope to be by the pursuit of the all-cotton will-o'-the-wisp.

FALL TREE PLANTING. Autumn is the time for all fruit tree planting in the South. Our soil does not freeze deeply, and is often unfrozen for weeks at a time, and the root action of the trees goes on and new fibres and root hairs are formed ready to supply the swelling buds in spring.

A good healthy tree, properly planted in the fall, seldom fails to grow. But the new feeding roots are more rapidly developed from a clean cut surface than from the dried up fibres. Hence in planting any tree it is better to prune the roots well, cutting with a smooth sloping cut on the under side.

I have always advocated the planting of one-year-old trees, because one can then head them back to start the head as low as is necessary, for the older trees in the nursery are usually furnished with a head started too high above the ground, for the nurserymen know that most people like tall trees. Now the nurseryman seems to be endeavoring to remedy this.

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Ladies or Gentlemen

Elgin Hamilton Rockford Walham Howard Illinois

Ladies or Gentlemen

In Cases of Any Style

LYON The Cash Jeweler

THE WHITE TENANT AND THE "ALL COTTON" SYSTEM

For half a century this "submerged" white tenantry of the South has been ground between landlordism on the one side and the black tenant on the other. For half a century he has been forced to come, at close competition with the man, but a few generations removed from the jungle and the naked truth of it, he is today practically where he was fifty years ago.

Falling to rise above this all-cotton system, the word "shiftless" is hurled at him from every quarter, and under this cruel and in most cases, unjust taunt he shambles through life, sullen and resentful.

With him goes a hollow-cheested, over-worked woman, like him, uneducated, bringing into the world children, who as a rule repeat the whole miserable tragedy.

Should he, on account of a barren home life, decide to quit the unequal struggle and turn from a future that knows no hope, the door of the cotton mill is practically the only one open to him. Many of them attempt to thus escape, and in the hope of bettering conditions, place their little ones amid the ceaseless rattle and click of the flying shuttles, where their young lives are woven into shreds for others.

These are the farmers (God save the mark) who are suffering most. These, with the help of the black tenant, are the ones upon which this unjust system is built, and let us not deceive ourselves. This system must be radically modified, for it will, if not changed, bring a disaster greater than has ever been witnessed in this "land of the free"—this "home of the brave."

FROM SEITUS. If the farmers of this country, in refusing to go to the polls and vote in the recent general election, didn't repudiate and condemn the National Democratic administration for the shameful treatment given them in their trouble, then we are as blind as a three day old pup, and there's no use to be "whipping" the devil around the stump, and denouncing the fact. The common people did not intend to endorse in the general election what they themselves had done in the primary. Now we are told that the light vote was due to the fact that the people were too busy to go out and vote, yet up here, at the Five Forks box some of the managers didn't even vote, and some of the voters were there with their registration certificates and tax receipts who wouldn't vote. Does that look like they were too busy?

Some of our most progressive farmers in this section are at present agitating the idea of a farmers' bank to be established at Anderson, Pennington or Beaufort. What they want is a pure, genuine, unadorned, all-wool and a yard wide, farmers' bank organized by farmers, owned by farmers, run by farmers in the interest of farmers.

Now Farmers of Anderson county, get your shekels together and let's hear from you on this bank proposition through the county papers. No, not so long as we live will we sleep in the pen with a hog and then get up and go to complaining to other people about how filthy the hog is. W. L. CASEY.

PREPARING FOR PEANUTS AND CORN. From eastern North Carolina, "Next year will be my first attempt at farming in this coastal section. The money crops here are peanuts and cotton, backed up with two little crops—corn and peas. The tenant on the place says the land has never been flat broken, but rows have been simply run off and lined and a list plowed and the middles cleaned out with cotton plow. He contends that this prevents a "scum" boggy after a rain. I am of the opinion that the water run off on the hard pan has formed, and the crops suffer in dry weather. If cotton and corn this dry season look like this, do you think that breaking and subsoiling this land in winter will be too deep for the peanuts next summer? How would you treat peanut land for corn when hogs run on it in February?"

There is no doubt that a deeper breaking will help the land, which from what you say evidently needs draining. I would sow rye on the land now and in the spring before it gets away, and would use basic slag phosphate liberally on the peanuts, and if you can get tobacco stems at a reasonable price use them broadcast, as they carry over 2 per cent. of potash, which is better than to get bare ground. Peanut lands that are being drained by hogs and are intended for corn in spring should have the hogs taken off before February, or before the soil gets wet, because the tramping will puddle it and do harm. While it is desirable to have the hogs clean the land, I believe that it would be far better to take them off early enough to sow a winter cover of rye on the land to be turned for the corn. Then show peas among the corn, cut and shock the corn at maturity, and disk down the peas or pea stubble if the peas are rank enough to mow. Sow winter oats in September, follow these with peas for hay and grow plenty of roughage for feeding stock and making manure, and leave out cotton, so long as you can get any of the land out and not less than six inches deep.

WHEAT CULTURE IN ANDERSON COUNTY.

My purpose in writing this article is to impress with all the emphasis possible the supreme importance of sowing wheat during the present month in order that we may be well supplied with bread-stuff during the coming year, for God only knows what is to happen to us before another year rolls around, to bring another sowing season.

We should profit by this expression, and arrange our affairs in such way as to be independent of other countries and sections of this country. We are now being made to pay "war prices" for the wheat for corn, wheat, oats, hay, flour and the hog products, and should we neglect to provide a supply of these staples for ourselves and tenants, we may go hungry before another crop is gathered.

My father's wheat house stored the grain to supply the family, and he sold sufficient besides to pay the bills for the family. I recall for years after the war Mr. Sam Jones and Dean Stevens brought their wagons loaded with flour to Anderson and sold it for the money to pay their year's purchase of supplies used by their families, and my recollection is that Mr. Jones told me that he made his start on the farm by growing grain on the hills around Hardscrabble in this county.

My opinion is that there is no better place on earth to grow grain than on the clay lands along the Piedmont belt of South Carolina, and I venture the prediction that our farming people will never enjoy true, real prosperity until every planter turns his attention to growing first, corn, second wheat and oats and then cotton as the last consideration.

This is absolutely necessary for the farmer and his tenants, and there should be a clear understanding between the two on this subject now. You can grow all of these crops at the same time, grow all the cotton necessary besides under the improved manner of farming and fertilizing, the lands and after the third year you will see the increase in the fertility of your soil as well as the increase in yield.

Let me insist upon your prompt attention to this matter for the time is short in which to sow small grain. Use your cotton seed as a fertilizer, use blue bones with just water pouring it over the wheat just before sowing.

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JOSEPH J. FRETWELL, Anderson, S. C., Nov. 16, 1914.

A SAND LAWN. From Virginia, "How long does it take Bermuda grass seed to germinate? We were advised to sow these seeds on our lawn and did so three weeks ago, and it does not look as though any were to grow. Would you advise sowing the same again? We have light sandy soil, and have sown peas and clover for several years. Am anxious to get grass started this fall."

In your latitude Bermuda is a poor lawn grass, for it browns up in winter and has a very cheerless appearance. Better sow a mixture of five parts perennial ryegrass, three parts redtop and two parts sheep fescue, at the rate of 50 pounds of the mixture an acre and brush it in and roll. Sow the seed mixture now or as soon as possible.

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