

## Agricultural Department.

### Suggestions for December Farm Work.

#### Progressive Farmer.

Any crops that yet remain un-gathered should be gotten in at once. To remain in the fields longer will result in deterioration. The early frost and the continued rains in October caused great loss to our pea and cottonseed crops. It will be the part of wisdom to save all the peas possible, though many of them are unsound. Peas will be scarce and high another year. The farmer who has peas to plant and to sell will be fortunate indeed.

It is now too late to sow small grain with any degree of certainty of making a full crop, yet it will pay to sow rye on the land on which we intend to make that increased yield of corn next year; also for spring grazing. The roots of the rye will literally fill the soil with millions of hungry mouths taking up the soluble fertility which would leach out during the rainy spells of winter and be lost if the land were left uncovered. The rye will hold this fertility and give it to the corn crop next spring and summer when it will be so badly needed.

Rather than have no wheat at all, it may be well even now to sow a piece of well prepared land if this is done as quickly as possible. With a favorable winter the results may be satisfactory. It is now too late to sow winter oats. It will be better to prepare land intended for oats and sow in spring oats in February or March, according to location. The Burt oat and the Rust Proof are both good spring oats, especially on good land. We do not know the name of the oats that will make a good crop on poor land. If any one does, please advise us!

In localities where fall and winter plowing is practiced, every nice day in December would find the plow running—a good two-horse chilled plow or disc plow, set to run just a deeper than ever before. Over the holidays there may not be much good weather that will be of plowing for some time. Any clay lands a day's plow now will be worth much more than it will be next February.

It is the time to fix up the stables. Make them comfortable for the stock. Clean the eaves and rafters in the roofs. It is a good food to carry stock over winter when they are dry than when left in the weather. This is true for many reasons.—Save the manure possible.—Save an extra quantity for the corn field next spring. You must feed the stock, so do not waste the manure. Fertilizers will be higher next year than they are this; besides, many people are going to buy more than ever to put under cotton and possibly some other crops. Get ahead of

these people by saving more farm manure than ever before to supplement your commercial fertilizer. The results will justify the work required.

December is the hog killing month in many sections, as it should be. Hogs should be fat enough to slaughter before the very cold weather sets in. It is always better to kill hogs in medium cold weather than to wait until cold freezing weather. Hogs intended to be killed should not be fed for twenty-four hours before killing. They will butcher much better for not having been fed.

We cannot refrain from making one other suggestion, and that is: be sure to clean the heads and feet well. Many men just give the feet a twist and the nose a kick or stamp with the foot and expect the women to do the rest. It is so much easier to clean well when you are at it.

We prefer to kill one day and cut up and salt the next day. Use plenty of salt; it is much cheaper than pork. Salt well and put away in a box or dark place where flies cannot reach it. Mr. Troutman's recent articles in The Progressive Farmer have so nearly covered the ground that we will make but few suggestions as to curing the meat, making sausage, etc. The meat should lie in salt from four to five weeks, and then be smoked slowly, without heating, until the job is thoroughly done. Tastes differ as to the degree to which it should be smoked. If for family use, then smoke the way you like best. If for market, study the wishes of your customers and smoke accordingly. As to sausage, we suggest that you weigh all meat and also the seasoning. Then all your sausage will be seasoned alike. Two pounds of salt to one hundred pounds of meat is about right and other seasoning to taste. Tastes differ in this respect. For instance, some want a good deal of sage while others want none. Some want sausage so hot with pepper as to remind the average person of the Jap's attack on Port Arthur, while others want only a trace. Suit your household or your customers in this respect; weigh the quantity of each ingredient and there will be no further guessing as to quantity. Mix the seasoning well with the meat before grinding; then the grinding will mix still further—better than is possible in any other way.

Now is a good time to set out the strawberry plants. Set out at least 1,000 plants for an ordinary family. Have them of three or four varieties early, medium and late. Do not reserve all your best land for cotton, but take a part of it for your fruit trees, vines, etc.

Again, have you arranged for putting out cabbage plants as was suggested in last month's "Suggestions?" Now is the time to set them out if you are to have early cabbage next spring. Manure the land heavily. Do not be stingy with it.



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Constitutional school tax	3 "
Total over county	14 1/2 "
Local R. R. tax Gills Creek	5 "
" " " Cane	4 1/2 "
" " " Pleasant Hill	3 "

#### LOCAL SCHOOL TAXES.

District Nos. 5, 32, 46 and Jones X Roads	2 Mills
District Nos. 2 and 24	3 "
" " 12, 17, 23, 39, 49	4 "
" " 38	5 "
" " 14	5 1/2 "
" " 40	7 "

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