

# New for the Farmers

BY JNO. C. BARKSDALE, COUNTY DEMONSTRATOR.

## LOOK HIM UP.

The county agent has an office in the city hall, room 206, where he can be found on Saturdays. We mention this because someone may want to call him and not know where he is located. Only last week a farmer desired to get Mr. Barksdale to assist him in treating a sick cow and lost a \$60.00 cow.

Mr. Barksdale is not a veterinarian nor has he had any special training along that line, but had he been notified, a competent veterinarian could have been secured and the animal probably saved.

## TO SEE WORK OF BOLL WEEVIL

In order that the framers of the county may see at first hand the work of the boll weevil, the county agent and other interested farmers are endeavoring to get up a party of farmers to go out and see the boll weevil at work in the infested district and learn of him while watching his work. "Seeing is believing," and more can be accomplished towards getting our farmers prepared for the boll weevil invasion by having a delegation of our farmers visit the infested district than by any other means. Opportunity will be afforded for first hand study of conditions and talking with the farmers of the infested territory much valuable information can be secured.

The plans are to make the trip about the 10th of August via the Ford route, the party pooling expenses so as to reduce the cost of the trip to a minimum. Much good will be derived from the trip and it will prove a source of pleasure to see the country, etc. The County Agent would be glad to hear from any farmer interested.

## SHORTAGE OF DAIRY CATTLE.

Farmers and business men should awaken to the fact that there is a tremendous shortage of dairy cattle in this country. This is true not only in Abbeville county, but in other parts of the country as well. In looking around for the cause we are forced to the conclusion that farmers are selling their cattle because of the high priced feedstuff and in order to raise more cotton. We should stop, look and listen, lets not fail to see the handwriting on the wall. We must not forget that within the next few years the production of cotton is going to be seriously hampered. Our yields are going to be cut and the more we plant to cotton the more we stand to lose financially. Let's not be caught unprepared, conserve your livestock, breed them to the highest state of efficiency, sell no desirable animal that will bear young, and in the meantime produce feedstuffs to market through your cattle to aid in maintaining your soil fertility. In addition to this seed winter and summer legumes liberally so that our soils may not be depleted of their fertility and our people impoverished by the coming of the boll weevil.

## MOUNDING FRUIT TREES.

Fruit trees should be mounded now to head off the round headed borer that works at the crown of the tree. The trunks should also be whitewashed to keep back the flat headed shot hole borer. Whitewash the trunks with a solution consisting of 3 pounds of turpentine soap, 4 pounds sulphur, and 20 pound lump lime. Slack the lime in 25 gallons water, dissolve the soap in 3 gallons of hot water, make a thin paste of the sulphur and add to the soap solution, mix this with the lime and stir thoroughly, dilute to 250 gallons. This should wash 250 old trees, if you haven't that number the ingredients can be cut down to the number you have.

The round headed borer can be easily found by the jelly-like substance clinging to the tree at the surface of the ground. Dig around the tree and remove all borers with a sharp pointed knife or some other instrument.

After removing all borers, wash the tree with the above wash and mound with dirt to a height of 10 to 12 inches. Allow the mound to remain around the tree until the latter part of October or the first of November then tear it down and allow to remain down all winter, all borers found when the mound is removed can be easily destroyed.

## CREAM ROUTES.

There are splendid prospects of a cream route being formed in the upper section of the county, extending out from Iva through the Lowndesville and Antreville sections and back towards Iva. Iva being the shipping point. The County Agent

is working in that section with farmers interested in the route and hopes to get it established at an early date.

With the coming of the boll weevil, cream routes are going to be as common in the south as in the north west. Under weevil infestation livestock is the farmers standby, and the surplus cream produced will find a ready market the year round through the creameries of the state. Creameries furnish to the farmer a ready market for his produce enabling him to market at a good advantage and at a minimum cost his surplus cream and eggs right at his door without the extra trouble of churning or hauling to market. The farmer is often forced to market his butter, eggs, etc. at a loss, frequently he has to trade 'em out at a disadvantage because the market is flooded. The cream routes, however afford him a steady market but are not a get rich quick scheme. Besides affording the farmer a ready market for his produce, they bring him a home market for his rough feeds and provide an excellent feed for the young calves, hogs, etc., in the form of skim milk. Skim milk is not only good for the hogs and calves but is an excellent feed for young chickens and turkeys. It is in this home market that the farmer will derive a good income and profit. Because it enables him to turn his rough feeds into compost for conserving his soil fertility and he makes money on the deal without depreciating the value of the crops fed to any great extent. When our farmers grow into the livestock business, they will experience a real prosperity and wont mind that the weevil has come to hamper the production of cotton.

Farmers patronizing these routes afford to themselves an excellent opportunity for cooperative improvement of their livestock. Cow testing associations can be profitably formed within the route, the farmers can buy pure bred sires for heading their herds and improving the offsprings without great cost to themselves. Just here we want to point out that in a very few years cattle are going to be more expensive than ever before. Already we are beginning to see advances. Owing to the tremendous slaughter of desirable types, we are going to see a sharper advance. For the successful operation of these routes, no less than 60 cows in milk should be available. In forming a route, it is highly important that the farmers provide feedstuffs to winter the cattle successfully so as to keep the flow of milk as high as possible, sorghum can be planted as mentioned elsewhere in these columns, rye, turnip and mangrel patches can be seeded and the products utilized to advantage. Remember that the man who prepares in advance for the coming of the boll weevil will be better prepared to withstand the storm.

## PLANT SORGHUM

We cannot urge you too strongly to provide feed stuffs for wintering the livestock. Plant sorghum and save corn. The sorghum should be seeded in 3 foot rows, fertilized with commercial guano, compost or both, and should be thinned to a moderate stand and cultivated so as to get as much growth as possible.

The stalks can be cut and harvested in the field as corn. It can be fed directly from the shock or hauled up and housed. If the feed is housed, stand the stalks on end as it will not tend to heat so readily and will keep much better. If you shock in the field, dig up the soil where the shock is to be placed and you'll find that the stalks will retain their juices better. Stalks grown to one half inch or more in diameter will retain their juices all winter and will be very palatable to the livestock. Sorghum made and cured in this way will make a better feed than cotton seed hulls or corn stover, it is second only to silage for cattle and mules and horses will go through the winter in excellent condition if fed on it.

Mrs. Lee Hodges of Greenwood, came over Monday and will spend several days with her friend, Miss Mary Quarles Link.

## FREE OF CHARGE.

Why suffer with indigestion, dyspepsia, torpid liver, constipation, sour stomach, coming-up-of-food-after-eating, etc., when you can get a sample bottle of Green's August Flower free at P. B. Speed's drug store. This medicine has remarkable curative properties, and has demonstrated its efficiency by fifty years of success. Headaches are often caused by a disordered stomach.

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## COVER CROPS, A VALUABLE SOURCE OF SOIL FERTILITY

With cotton selling at present prices, the tendency is to plant more cotton and to attempt to realize as much money out of this crop as possible while the price is high. We do not deny that this is a wise plan in farm management, but we want to point out the evil of all cotton farming, it robs the land of its fertility.

We maintain that no system of farming is economical that does not conserve the fertility of the soil. The production of cotton is essential, we should endeavor to grow as much cotton as we possibly can after we have provided for the necessary food stuffs to run the farm. That cotton farming or any other one crop system of farming robs the soil, we have but to stop and think. Compared with a short time ago, our yields per acre are greatly reduced except when produced under the stimulus of a heavy application of high grade commercial guano. This is expensive not only in the initial cost of potential plant food and is robbing the soil of its humus or organic matter, which is essential to the economical use of commercial guanos. One common cause of our soils "setting up" like cement, as it were, or baking after heavy rains is that the land is depleted of its humus content. The crying need of the southern soils is humus. We know that yields can be maintained and increased by the use of commercial fertilizers, if the seasons are favorable, but the cost is increased from year to year, because we have to increase the applications of fertilizers yearly and all the while we tend to further deplete the soil or run it down while the cost of fertilizers go higher.

Land that is rich in organic matter will not "set up" or bake after rains, crops will withstand drought better, they grow off better in the spring because the soil retains more heat energy, commercial fertilizers give larger and more economical returns when used on lands full of organic matter, and lands rich in humus do not lose as much plant food through leakage of drainage because they hold more moisture, which makes the plant food more soluble and readily available for the plant.

We want to see more acres seeded to winter cover crops. When our lands are left bare during the winter months much valuable plant food is lost through drainage and leakage. A cover crop would take up this loss and store the plant food for the next crop, besides the washing and gully-ing of the land would be largely prevented. If leguminous crop be used as a cover crop, it will absorb nitrogen from the soil and assimilate a great deal from the air which will be of great benefit in reducing the nitrogen bill of the next crop. If you do not feel financially able to see leguminous cover crops, then seed rye. A coat of rye turned under at the proper time will be worth \$5.00 in manurial value to the next crop, while a growth of crimson clover would equal 750 pound of cotton seed meal and would be at the present price of the seed, a much cheaper fertilizer.

Our land needs humus. The more trash you put on them to decay and mix with the soil the richer the land will become and you will be enabled to produce cotton next year more economically. We urge you to give the matter of seeding cover crops serious consideration.

## FAIRFIELD

Fairfield, July 23.—The rain last week has brightened up the crops considerably. We can see the farmers have great big smiles over their good looking corn and cotton.

Mr. and Mrs. John McCaslan spent last Wednesday in Harrisburg the guests of Mr. and Mrs. T. P. Creswell.

Mrs. M. J. Young and little Gladys Bowen, have gone to Georgia to visit friends and relatives. Mrs. Lizzie Horn of Troy, accompanied them to see her parents. We wish them a pleasant trip.

Messrs. John Henry and Cowan Young attended Children's Day at Bradley last Sabbath, also Miss Minnie Belle Talbert, Misses Eva and Alma Young, Furman McCaslan, David and Joel Young.

Mr. Wylie Long spent Monday night with David Young.

Mrs. J. W. Long spent part of last week in Willington. She returned home Sabbath.

Rev. R. F. Bradley will have the summer meeting at Long Cane the fifth Sabbath of this month.

Mr. Furman McCaslan spent last Thursday night with Joel Young.

Messrs. John Henry and Cowan Young spent Saturday night with Mr. and Mrs. Allen Walker.

Messrs. Tommie, John Henry, Frank and Cowan Young went to Abbeville last Tuesday on business.

Some of the seigners were out last week. They report good luck.

## THE CROSS-EYED COOK

Mr. and Mrs. Brooks had been married only a few months, but already they had had nine cooks, and most of the time had been without a servant at all. After each and every departure of the presiding dames of the culinary department of the Brooks household, Mrs. Brooks declared that she was sick and tired of fooling with them, and that thereafter she would do all the cooking with her own fair hands. Mrs. Brooks was long on enthusiasm, but a trifle short on experience and skill, and after a week or two of wheat cakes with all the taste and juiciness of asbestos, chops with all the endurance and elasticity of rope-ends, and coffee that tasted like a chill tonic, Mr. Brooks was wont to declare that she was simply wearing herself to a frazzle; that he wasn't going to have it any longer, and that a cook must be immediately signed up.

It was on the first evening after they had moved into a new flat, and just after Mr. Brooks had taken a stand of this sort that Mrs. Brooks announced that she had that day engaged a new cook, who had promised to appear on the following morning.

On his return home from the office the following evening, instead of Mrs. Brooks, he met at the door of the flat an apparition that made him give a perceptible start before he could control himself. It was a huge, bony, white-turbaned negress, with a complexion of Stygian blackness and the cross-eyed pair of cross-eyes that Brooks had ever seen in a human being.

He walked back into the flat wondering where his wife could be. That person came bounding in almost at that instant, explaining that she had just run out for some flowers, the occasion being one that seemed to call for some celebration. "Have you seen her?" she demanded.

"Oh, it's a her, is it?" said Mr. Brooks. "I'm glad you told me or I might not have known. Yes, I have seen her, and I am still a trifle weak from the shock."

"What is the name of this ill-favored daughter of Ham?"

"Gwendolyn," replied Mrs. Brooks.

"Gwendolyn," repeated her husband, sinking weakly down upon a couch. It was a very agreeable odor that smote Mr. Brooks' nostrils as he lifted the cover from Gwendolyn's dishes. And they proved to be no false heralds. Not many times in his life had he sat down to so satisfying a meal, he soon found himself saying. Sipping a cup of delicious coffee, Mr. Brooks lit a cigar, pushed his chair back from the table, and forthwith pronounced the gargoylean Gwendolyn the original pearl of great price. Mr. Brooks, in fact, was so pleased and satisfied that he could not resist the temptation to tease his young wife a little.

"I might have known, though," he said gloomily, "that there would be some thorn to the rose. How could you have deliberately invited bad luck by bringing a cross-eyed negro into the flat just as we have moved into it?"

Mrs. Brooks looked up in alarm. Her eyes widened. "Why, really, are they bad luck?" she inquired anxiously.

"Are they bad luck?" he repeated, solemnly. "Do you mean to tell me that you've lived almost twenty-two years and never heard that about a cross-eyed negro. Why, my dear child, they're almost the worst luck there is."

"How dreadful!" exclaimed Mrs. Brooks, looking as if some horrible calamity had already befallen. "What are we going to do about it?"

"Nothing," said Mr. Brooks. "We'll just stand pat. You see it may be years and years before this bad luck happens, so there's no use worrying about it."

Meals at the Brooks flat continued to be enjoyable. Gwendolyn remained gloomy and silent, but she proved herself a born cook, and Brooks wended his way homeward every evening with great satisfaction in the thought of the dinner that was waiting him.

It was a month or two after Gwendolyn's initial triumph that Mr. Brooks went home one evening and found his wife cooking dinner and also herself in the kitchen. She explained that it was Gwendolyn's afternoon off.

It was after her husband had eaten bravely through the meal that Mrs. Brooks gathered herself together and suddenly burst out:

"John, just now I told you only a half truth. It is the cook's day off, but she isn't coming back any more."

"What?" almost shrieked Mr. Brooks. "What has happened?"

"I've discharged her," said Mrs. Brooks almost tearfully.

"Discharged her!" shouted Mr. Brooks. "What does all this mean?"

"Well, you see, Harry, it was like this," began Mrs. Brooks tremulously. "I was feeling lonesome today while you were gone, and I picked up a novel telling about a young bride who lost her husband on their honeymoon, and it was so sad I cried and cried. And then the horrible thought came to me—what if you should die! Then I remembered what you said about cross-eyed negroes bringing bad luck. Gwendolyn was working in the kitchen and the awful thought came to me that if you died it would be because of her, and I would lose my mind and go staring mad thinking how it was me that brought her into the house. The thought preyed on me till I couldn't stand it any longer, so I just went in and discharged her."

Mr. Brooks sank back into his chair in dumb stupefaction and then with a suppressed groan he, metaphorically speaking, fainted dead away.

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