

FARMERS' PAGE

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

Can the Slaughter of Calves Be Prevented

The slaughter of young calves is one of the serious phases of the problem of the maintenance of our country's beef supply. Statistics indicate that the slaughter of such animals is increasing rapidly, due primarily to an increase in the demand for veal, in spite of the fact that veal is ordinarily sold at an extremely high price per pound.

These veal calves are largely drawn from the dairy districts, but, with the growth in the demand for veal, other sections are marketing as veal in considerable numbers calves that if kept and fattened, would have made good beef steers. The market for stockers and feeders is therefore affected.

Various suggestions have been made to prevent this even such radical ones as legislation to prohibit entirely the slaughter of calves. The fact is not always recognized, however, that this is purely economic. In dairy districts, milk production is the chief business and calves are an incident, valuable only to replenish the milking stock or for such revenue as may be obtained from their sale as veal.

As the average dairyman must keep the number of his milkers at a maximum, economy demands that he relieve himself of his surplus calves as soon as possible. As there is not ordinarily any market for such calves except for veal, they become the slaughter of calves in districts which are not exclusively devoted to dairying probably has as its governing factor a market near by which pays more for calves as veal than as stockers.

A comparison of English and American methods in this respect sheds some light on this problem. In England men make a business of buying young calves throughout the dairy districts to be raised on milk substitutes and subsequently fattened for beef. In England the dairy cows are largely Short-horns whose calves are valuable for beef production. In the United States, on the other hand, the cows of the dairy districts are principally of the strictly dairy breeds (pure bred or grades) or natives with no breeding, and the calves from such cows have, as a rule, little value as feeders for beef, but make good veal.

As the calves in a dairy herd are not of paramount importance, a system of breeding which would increase their value for beef production would not necessarily decrease the dairy value of the herd when grade or native cows are used. If such cows were bred to beef or dual-purpose bulls, the calves would have considerable value as stockers. This practice would not be warranted, however, unless there was a near-by market for such stockers. It must also be observed that this practice necessitates raising calves by hand, largely on milk substitutes, which adds to the expense and as where they follow the cows until weaned naturally. The labor item is likewise important, as this system de-

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mands not only a considerable amount of labor but of skill also. In England skilled farm labor is cheaper than in the United States.

Another possible solution of the problem would be an increase in mutton consumption in the United States. We consume annually per capita 7-12 pounds of veal, which is 4 per cent of our total meat consumption; the people of Great Britain eat 4 pounds of veal per capita annually, which is 3 per cent of their annual per capita meat consumption. We consume 6.1-2 pounds of mutton and lamb per capita, which is about 4 per cent of our total, whereas the British people consume 26 pounds of mutton and lamb per capita, which is 22 per cent of their annual meat consumption.

An increase in our mutton consumption at the expense of the consumption of veal would of course, tend to make calves less valuable as veal and would encourage a system of breeding which would bring them into demand as stockers. An increase in mutton consumption would also encourage the farm raising of sheep, and this could be brought about on dairy farms without affecting the economy of management from the dairy standpoint. A small flock of sheep on a farm will increase the productivity of the farm, keep the farm clean of weeds, and add to the family meat supply without entailing serious additional expense for feed, labor, or shelter.

WHY CORN STUBBLE SHOULD BE TURNED

Corn Stalks Borer Profits Greatly When Farmers Leave Stubble Undisturbed.

Clemson College, Dec. 30.—The corn stalk borer is one of the "reasons" why corn stubble should not be allowed to stand in the field all winter undisturbed. This insect is one of the most notorious corn pests of the south. Without cutting the stalks the evidence of its work may be seen in every corn field at the time of harvesting by the holes that may occur on any portion of the stalk. These holes vary largely in number.

"The point to be remembered in the life history stages and habits of this insect," says A. F. Couradi, entomologist of Clemson College, "is its habit of remaining as a larva in the base of corn stubble below the ground during winter. There, therefore, is a chance for those farmers who are friends of this species to do it a great favor by allowing the corn stubble to stand undisturbed in their fields during fall and winter. Destroying corn stubble is not very easy, except on modern farms where there is sufficient horse power and the stubbles can be turned under thoroughly."

"Turning under corn stubble is of great help in reducing the corn stalk borer for the next season. Where thorough turning cannot be practiced, there are other methods, such as 'busting' out the stubble and hauling it to the compost heap for rotting. After the corn is gathered, the stalks, stubble and everything else may be buried out, raked in heaps and, after a few weeks for drying, burned."

In experimental work a very large percentage of larvae was destroyed during winter where the stubble was plowed out and left exposed to the weather. It can readily be seen that when these methods are practiced by farmers only here and there it does not help the situation very much. The control of the corn stalk borer, says the entomologist, depends on the cooperative action of the farmers of a community.

"The fact must be borne in mind," Prof. Couradi concludes, "that it is an extravagant farm practice to let corn fields be idle and exposed during the winter months, not only on account of these insect pests, but on account of the washing and leaching of the soil."

The full-grown insect is a moth on the base of the corn. There appear to be two generations a season.

LET THE LAW STAND, PRES. DABBS ADVISES

GIVE ACREAGE REDUCTION FAIR TRIAL, HE SAYS

WILL HELP FARMER

President of State Farmers' Union Writes of Marketing and Other Problems.

"I wish that I could get the ear of every farmer in the State to beg that this law be allowed to stand until it can be thoroughly tested out by three or five years' trial," says E. W. Dabbs, president of the South Carolina State Farmers' union in an address to the farmers of the State, in which he makes an appeal for a retention of the cotton acreage reduction law.

Mr. Dabbs' letter follows: To the Members of the Farmers' Union and All the Farmers of the State:

I noticed in the papers of Monday that there is a movement to induce the next legislature to repeal the cotton acreage law. I wish I could get the ear of every farmer in the State to beg that this law be allowed to stand until it can be thoroughly tested out by three or five years' trial. I do most sincerely hope that no farmer will be so determined to show his independence, or to assert his liberty to do as he pleases with what is his own, as to go into the courts to set aside this wise law. I can not believe that there is a single farmer in the State whose condition will not be better next November if he lives up to the letter and spirit of the cotton acreage law, than if he succeeds in smashing that law either in the courts or in the legislature. It is the most conservative and sensible cotton reduction measure that has ever been proposed, and bears equitably upon all farmers alike, rich or poor, landlord or tenant. In my opinion the farmers who have any kick are the few who sell corn and hay at fancy prices to their more improvident neighbors. They will have to take what their stuff is worth hereafter in the world's market less the freight. The average farmer will find his own farm market that has been a buyer plus the freight, plus the commission, plus the time prices, will absorb all that he can make and save him these commissions and profits that are making every one but himself rich.

Besides with less cotton to engross all his time, if he plants right he can harvest oats and wheat 30 to 60 days before the grain belt and sell at the highest prices in the world's market. Of course this means that the threshing men must be ready to sack the grain right from the field and that the farmers have new sacks ready, and have organized some system of marketing. The biggest work that Clemson has ever undertaken lies right here, and if the powers that be in Clemson and Washington back Dr. Long to carry out what I know he has wanted to do ever since I first met him, there will be sane marketing in South Carolina next June and July.

Right now is the time to be planning for sacks for this grain. Every man who expects to have a hundred bushels of oats well ought to pledge to use new cotton sacks to put them in; four-bushel sacks for oats and two-bushel sacks for wheat and rye would be about the right size—125 pounds and 120 pounds, respectively. I trust that this is a matter that the farmers' union will take up at the January meeting and we should like to hear from manufacturers what they will charge for such sacks. I hope this matter will be taken up at once and pushed through. Certainly if we demand that salt, flour, etc. be put up in cotton, we ought to put our grain on the market in cotton sacks. The wheat growers of Washington through the farmers union sent a committee to Atlanta for 10,000,000 cotton sacks three years ago and could not get them. And the hop growers of California had to go to Philadelphia for cotton twine, when the mills of the Carolinas and Georgia ought to have supplied both.

E. W. Dabbs, President South Carolina State Farmers' Union.

Care of Pregnant Sows.

Sows that are due to farrow this winter should not be kept in small, cramped pens, as they so often are, but should be given plenty of room for exercise, and, if possible, allowed some pasturage to themselves. This advice is given by the live stock men of Clemson College. Many people keep sows on a corn ration up to the time of farrowing. This is unwise. Three or four weeks before farrowing, the sow should be put on a thin slop of wheat bran and middlings. This, with the pasturage, will be sufficient.

Organization For Farmers.

Untold good has been done for cities by chambers of commerce and similar community-building bodies. All cities now have their central medium of co-operation and benefits are accruing to the citizens in even increasing measure. The farmer needs co-operation more than the city man needs it. Organization can do even more for the rural community than it does for the urban. Let the farmers organize. The county demonstration agents of Clemson have instructions to lend their efforts to every worthy attempt on the part of farmers to organize.

COTTON SITUATION IS STILL MENDING

The German Bargain is Reported on the Market for Big Things.

NEW YORK, Dec. 30.—The census bureau's seventh ginning report of the season was published on Tuesday. It indicated gainings to December 13 of 13,977,189 bales, a new high record. Ginnings, however, for the period from December 1 to December 13 this year were 911,000 bales, slightly less than in the big crop year of 1911 when they amounted to 954,000 bales.

The report had little or no market effect for the obvious reason that this year's supply has for some time now been a known quantity and in market influence will hereafter play a secondary part to conditions as they develop affecting next year's supply. The week has witnessed the heaviest foreign buying that has been seen since business was resumed on the exchange. German orders now predominate, and houses with Bremen connections have accumulated large lines. There is every reason to expect that this buying will continue for some time to come. It will be recalled that in 1911 when cotton was selling around 81-2 cents, under the weight of a record breaking crop for that year, it was German purchases that first checked the decline. On that buying movement Germany took about 2,000,000 bales. There is no question from recent developments that the German bargain hunter is in the market again, he is apparently confident that whatever the outcome of the war may be, German industrial enterprise will not be destroyed. Aside from this, however, it is noted that the stocks of other European countries are now the smallest on any corresponding date in years, and this added to the fact that most of the obstacles to exports are removed and that the foreign demand for cotton is growing at a time when it should be slackening, should before long result in a statistical position which, considering the price level, can no longer be construed as unfavorable to values.

In addition to the export development the most important consideration is the conditions surrounding and leading up to next year's acreage curtailment. A convention of the commissioners of agriculture of the Southern States was recently held at Atlanta, J. D. Price, commissioner for Georgia, says: "I talked with each one of the commissioners and asked them to give me conservative estimates regarding reduced acreage. I am inclined to think that from what they told me that the reduction will come nearer to 50 per cent. than 40 per cent. as previously estimated. It is not a question of what the farmers want to do, but what they have got to do." Judge Kone, the Texas commissioner, confirms this by stating that it is his belief that the cotton crop in his State will be cut fully 40 per cent. Cotton acreage reduction is unquestionably essential to the prosperity of the South and it is reasonable to suppose, with all the publicity given, that planters have come to a realization of this fact and will act accordingly. The situation as a whole, basically and speculatively considered appears to be stronger now than at any time since business was resumed on the exchange. There is a growing realization that the very low current prices discount the unfavorable factors in the situation, while, on the other hand, increasing exports and the probability of a small crop next year are of sufficient constructive force to eventually carry prices to a higher level. Doubtless there may be some hesitation after the recent recovery in prices, and probably moderate reactions from time to time, but everything considered it is reasonable to expect that before long the upward trend will be resumed.

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PEAS PROFITABLE SUMTER MEN SAY

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3 YEAR ROTATION

Good Results Procured With Will Resistant Cotton—Successful Applications of Lime.

Another account of excellent farm work comes from Sumter to the office of the State department of agriculture. J. Frank Williams, farm demonstrator in that county under the direction of the United States department of agriculture, has furnished Commissioner Watson, upon request, with the following information:

"There have been several phenomenal yields in Sumter county this year, especially with cotton. S. J. Whit, in a contest for the Bank of Sumter prize, where he had plowed in a cover crop of oats and vetch, made on one acre two bales, one weighing 512 and the other 440 pounds with 197 pounds of scrap seed cotton, making a total in all of 2,897 pounds of seed cotton per acre.

"The same man in the same contest made 12,070 pounds of wheat oats, which would be at least 120 bushels of oats and 10,890 pounds of corn in the ear, net weight, which allowing 80 pounds per bushel would give a yield of 135 bushels of corn. These yields were made with ordinary fertilizing, less than 1,000 pounds per acre.

"In the same contest W. R. Wells made 3,000 pounds of seed cotton on an acre with only 600 pounds of fertilizer, after having turned under a cover crop of oats and vetch. This yield was made on badly infested wild land with will resistant cotton. Of course the land had not been in cotton for two years.

"After observing and dealing with will on my own land, it is my opinion that in three year rotation, where cowpeas other than Iron and Brabham are eliminated, no loss from will will be seen with a good variety of will resistant cotton.

"Iron peas and Brabham peas are being grown very extensively in Sumter county. I sold for myself and the farmers of the county last year several hundred bushels of iron peas for the sale from a four-horse farm this year.

"S. D. Cain grew 300 bushels of iron peas this year on a five-horse farm of the waste land and in his corn. Farmers who do not use large quantities of nitrate of soda have no trouble in making from five to eight bushels of peas per acre in Sumter county.

"G. A. Lemmon has gathered a hundred bales of Cleveland big boll cotton on 80 acres—or a bale and a quarter to the acre—with less than 600 pounds of fertilizer to the acre, and that of a low grade.

"D. V. Keels at Rembert grew 35 bushels of wheat on one acre and the State farm in Sumter county has been planting wheat for several years, averaging 25 bushels each year. As a result of these large yields of wheat, in this community, there is being planted in that immediate neighborhood 700 or 800 acres of wheat. D. V. Keels and E. E. Rembert are planting each 100 acres. This is one of the communities visited by Commissioner Watson and party on the grain campaign.

"W. J. Boyle gathered 23 tons of oats and vetch from eight acres of land this spring and planted the same to corn. I feel sure that the corn yielded as much as 60 bushels per acre. I have a photograph of this beautiful field.

"We have some excellent results in Sumter county from applying ground limestone. Frank Andrews of Onwego applied a ton per acre and any stranger would discern to the row in both the corn and the cotton exactly where the lime was broadcast. It would estimate that the yield was increased this year 15 to 20 per cent."

There seems to be more interest in orcharding in South Carolina this year than ever, according to reports being received at Clemson College. This is the time for pruning old trees and setting out new ones. Don't wait until spring to work on the home orchard.

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What Fertilizers to Use the Coming Season

CLEMSON COLLEGE, Dec. 30.—The present low price of cotton has caused many farmers to seek advice from Clemson College as to the economic use of fertilizers this coming season. To meet this demand, Prof. J. H. Harper, director of the South Carolina Experiment Station, has written a bulletin on this subject.

Among other things, he states that practically all the soils of South Carolina will respond to good treatment and fertilization. It does not pay to plant and cultivate crops unless they are well supplied with plant food for the soils of this State," continues Prof. Harper, "is nitrogen (ammonia). All of our soils are deficient in this element. This is due to the fact that the nitrates are soluble in water and are constantly leaching out of the land. Therefore unless crops are grown in rotation with the legumes, the farmer must use some form of commercial nitrogen and he should insist that this nitrogen be available. Nitrate of soda, sulphate of ammonia, blood, cotton seed meal, fish scrap and tankage are splendid sources of nitrogen. Cotton seed meal is one of the best and at the present price it is one of the cheapest. Nitrate of soda is also a good source of nitrogen and it will liberate a certain amount of potash in the soil. When applied early in the spring it greatly increases the yield of grain."

"It also pays to use acid phosphate on all types of soil found in this State, excepting where it has accumulated from previous fertilizations. Acid phosphate is not only a valuable plant food but it is also valuable in that it hastens the maturity of plants, especially cotton, and prevents cotton from running to stalk or weed."

"On account of the European war our sources of potash, which comes from Germany, has been cut off, causing the price to increase considerably. At the present time it will not pay the farmers of the Piedmont section to use any potash in their fertilizers. The sandy soils of the coastal plain are very deficient in potash and what is on hand should be used for the soils of that region."

"Fertilizers are not amendments or stimulants to plant growth but furnish the necessary elements of plant food without which they will not grow. Our staple crops take out large amounts of plant food from the soil which must be replaced. The farmers of the State have not acted unwisely in that they have been using fertilizers in large amounts for a number of years. However, under the present conditions with the low price of cotton, we advise the farmers to reduce the amount of fertilizer they will use this coming season."

"There is a considerable amount of plant food stored in our soils as a residual from previous fertilizations which can be called on in this time of need. Practically all of the phosphorus that has been applied in acid phosphate to the soils in this State is still in the first 12 inches, excepting that which has been taken out by plants. Acid phosphate does not wash out of the land as does nitrogen. In our present financial stress, we must make good use of the plant food stored in our soils and reduce our fertilizer bill as much as possible."

"We recommend to the farmers of the Piedmont section that they apply to the corn 500 pounds of fertilizer composed of equal parts of acid phosphate and cotton seed meal, this to be applied at the time of planting, and when the corn is waist high a top-dressing of from 60 to 75 pounds of nitrate of soda. For cotton, we recommend 200 pounds of acid phosphate and 200 pounds of cotton seed meal, applied at the time of planting. For oats and wheat, we recommend 100 pounds of acid phosphate should be applied early in March."

"For the coastal plain we recommend for corn 200 pounds of acid phosphate and 200 pounds of cotton seed meal, this to be applied as recommended by the Williamson plan, and 100 pounds of soda to be used when the corn is bunching to tassels. For cotton, 200 pounds of acid phosphate, 200 pounds of cotton seed meal and 25 pounds of muriate of potash and 75 pounds of nitrate of soda to be applied when the squares begin to form. For oats, we recommend 150 pounds of acid phosphate, 150 pounds of cotton seed meal. In addition to this, 100 pounds of nitrate of soda should be applied in the early spring."

"Where it is considered advisable to use more or less fertilizer per acre than here recommended, we advise that the materials be mixed in the above proportions, due regard being made to previous fertilizations, rotations, etc."

SPLENDID CHANCE FOR THE FARMER

SOUTH FINE SECTION FOR DAIRYING

HELP TO COUNTRY

By Eliminating Tyranny of Cotton It Would Tend to Emancipate Agriculturist.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 30.—For many years the United States department of agriculture has been endeavoring to make the people of the South see the great wisdom of going into dairying and cattle raising on a larger scale. At the present time it is quite apparent that something must be done to get away from too much cotton. Therefore the department believes that a good substitute is to be found in dairying.

Today discussing this matter, Secretary Houston authorized the following statement: "In many sections of the South a one-crop cotton growing system prevails. Certain evils produced by this system are very forcibly demonstrated on many farms, among which are (1) a cash income but once a year, (2) an unequal distribution of labor throughout the year, (3) impoverishment of the soil.

"A one-crop cotton growing system forces a great many farmers either to borrow money with which to make the crop or buy supplies on a time basis. High rates of interest must be paid. The merchant who furnishes the supplies often also does business on borrowed capital. What the South needs is not the abandonment of cotton growing, but the weaving into the cotton system of something that will furnish ready cash throughout the year. Dairying meets these requirements. It is adaptable to the conditions of the large and the small farmer, whether he owns or rents the land.

"Dairying also enables the farmer to utilize for feed and bedding large quantities of roughage, such as straw, corn stover, shucks and coarse and weedy hay, which can not ordinarily be sold in the market.

"Often two crops can be grown on the same land in one season. By growing such crops as corn, sorghum, peas, etc., after the wheat, oat or rye crop has been cleared off, excellent feed crops can be provided at minimum cost of growing, because of the small amount of cultivation necessary. These crops can be preserved in the silo, and thus the cows are provided with good succulent feeds for winter feeding and when pasturing is short. With roots, leguminous hay, silage, stover, straw and the cottonseed meal obtained by exchanging cotton seed, all the feed for the cows is raised on the farm.

Buzzards Spread Cholera. Buzzards are active agents in the spread of hog cholera. They visit any place in which there is carrion or offal of any sort and they have been known to transport hog cholera germs for long distances. In fact, in many cases there is no other possible source of a cholera infection except the buzzard. All hogs that die should be burned or buried. This will do much to check the spread of infectious swine diseases.

Notice!

Depositors in the Farmers Loan and Trust Co. will please present their Bank books, so that the January interest may be entered therein.

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Anderson, S. C., Dec. 31, 1914.

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