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The Progressive Farmer.

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B. W. KILGORE, }
C. W. BURKETT, } - - - Agricultural Editors

OATS, RYE AND RAPE.

Notes About Crops That May Partially Replace Corn, and Should be Seeded at Once.

Editors Progressive Farmer:

Fall-sown oats at Auburn have yielded about 50 per cent more than those sown after Christmas, and the former can be fed several weeks before the latter are ready. It usually pays to sow oats in the fall, and to risk the danger of winter killing rather than to postpone sowing red rust proof until after Christmas. The danger of winter killing can be reduced by (1) sowing in October; (2) selecting a location protected on the north by woodland, or on a southern slope; (3) drilling the seed on well-drained land in shovel furrows only half filled in covering the oats; or (4) by leaving the ground rough or ridged.

The farmer cannot afford for smut to destroy 10 to 25 per cent of his oat crop as usual. We prevent oat smut at Auburn by wetting seed for two hours in water containing 1 ounce of formalin for every three gallons of water, then sowing or drying the seed; or by soaking seed oats ten minutes in water between 130 and 135 degrees F., then cooling and either drying or sowing the oats.

Turf or grazing oats are somewhat hardier towards cold than red rust proof or Texas red oats, but less hardy than wheat. Turf oats require earlier sowing and richer land, are several weeks behind red rust proof oats in maturing, and are more liable to rust and for the heads to be incompletely filled.

Oats cut in the milk stage make excellent hay, and the straw is more completely eaten than if the plants are allowed to ripen.

Beardless wheat is hardier and sooner ready for use than any of the above. It should be largely sown this year for either hay or grain for feeding purposes. If rust threatens, cut it early. If cut in the early milk stage the entire plant is eaten with relish. Any good beardless variety grown south of the Ohio River (or even somewhat further north) will answer. Among the well-tested varieties of this class are Purple Straw or Blue Stem, Fultz, Red May, and Currell.

Rye makes good pasturage or green feed, to be cut and carried to stock. Sown in September, or early October, it is the first plant ready for cutting and for feeding green, on good land reaching a sufficient height about February. It can be cut at least twice. It makes very poor hay. It never winter-kills. Sow one to one and one-half bushel per acre.

All the small grains intended for cutting early for feeding purposes should be sown thickly on rich or well-fertilized land. Those that are to be cut by hand and fed green should be sown in narrow drills. All require liberal fertilizing with nitrogenous material, as stable manure, cotton seed, or cotton-seed meal. If these are not

at hand, apply in February or March, on the surface, eighty pounds per acre of nitrate of soda. Phosphate in addition to any of these fertilizers will, on some soils, increase the yield of grain.

Farmers having for sale seed of rye, oats, or beardless wheat, should be able to sell these to advantage by promptly advertising them.

Dwarf Essex rape has been repeatedly grown at Auburn for winter pasturage for hogs, which relish it, making good growth on rape pasture from December 15th to April 15th, when supplied with a half ration of corn. Land must be as rich and as highly fertilized as for turnips, and preparation, sowing and cultivation are the same as with that crop, except that rape is not thinned. Sow three to five pounds of seed per acre in narrow drills between September 20th and October 20th. Seed are cheap, ten to twelve cents per pound, and they are sold by all seedmen. We have also sowed rape in March, getting hog pasturage in May and June.

J. F. DUGGAR,

Agriculturist, Alabama Experiment Station, Auburn, Ala.

Cotton Farmers' Meeting Fair Week.

There will be a Cotton Farmers' Convention held at the State Capitol Wednesday night of Fair week, October 19th.

This will be an important meeting, as the delegates to the St. Louis Convention will then report the action taken at that meeting in regard to the storage and marketing of the cotton crop.

Every one interested in improving the condition of the farmers of the South, and the advancement and protection of their chief money crop, is invited to attend this convention.

T. B. PARKER,

Secretary State Farmers' Alliance.
Raleigh, N. C., Sept. 16, 1904.

Controlling the Cotton Crop.

Editors Progressive Farmer:

I am a cotton raiser on a small scale and have been reading with interest the recent articles on controlling the marketing of cotton. I am anxious indeed that some way may be found to market our cotton so as to control it better. There is one very favorable quality in cotton that will make it easier than for any other crop: it is non-perishable. Keep fire and water from it, and it will keep indefinitely.

I do not wish to be understood as saying that the marketing of cotton cannot be so controlled that the price may not be kept at a profitable point for the producer, but do say that it is going to be a hard thing to do. There are too many people engaged in the raising and selling of cotton to make it easy to control them. A few people can be managed; but it is hard to control millions. In my opinion, it will take millions of money to do it—and then there is a chance that the producer may be fleeced.

E. S. MILLSAPS.

Iredell Co., N. C.

DR. FREEMAN'S TALKS.

XVI.—Information Wanted.—Sow Some Wheat.

Editors Progressive Farmer:

There are more apples in this section than have been for some years. We want to put up some for the winter. Will some of your readers tell us when they gathered and how they put up apples, when they made a success of it? Where should they be put? Who has succeeded in keeping apples in this section of the State?

Who has had experience with corn shredders? Tell us what you did when you made a success and what you did when you failed. Some farmers have succeeded and some have failed. Now will these farmers who have had experience along this line tell us all about this matter?

Several of my neighbors have prepared some corn to have shredded and they need information about it.

The cotton crop here will be only a half crop, and the corn is very short of what we once thought. Only a few men put in tobacco, but the price is much better than last year. But I think the prices of cotton and tobacco will bring in more money this year than we had last year. Yes, our farmers are better off financially this year than last. Now friends, save every dollar of this money you can, as it looks now like prices of edibles are going to be high next year.

Wheat crop in the West is very short, and it is said that it may go to \$2 per bushel before the spring. If our down-east farmers can get a few sacks of Peruvian guano it will be a good idea to put in a few acres of wheat. This guano nearly always makes a crop.

Don't rush your tobacco and cotton to market; prices are going to be higher.

H. F. FREEMAN.

Wilson Co., N. C.

North Carolina Farmers' Institutes Yet to be Held.

Jefferson.—Tuesday, September 20th.
Valle Crucis.—Thursday, September 22nd.
Burnsville.—Monday, September 26th.
Mar's Hill (not Marshall).—Wednesday, September 28th.
Asheville.—Thursday, September 29th.
Waynesville.—Friday, September 30th.
Webster.—Saturday, October 1st.
Franklin.—Monday, October 3rd.
Bryson City.—Tuesday, October 4th.
Robbinsville.—Wednesday, October 5th.
Murphy.—Thursday, October 6th.
Hayesville.—Friday, October 7th.

INDEX TO THIS NUMBER.

A Business Talk	4
Controlling the Cotton Crop, E. S. Millsaps..	1
Crop Conditions, W. H. Todd.....	5
Current Events: Editorial Review.....	8
Dr. Freeman's Talks	1
Fungicides and Spraying, Dr. F. L. Stevens..	2
Gigantic Business Combination of Farmers, F. D. Koonce	5
Hand Separator: Its Value.....	3
Oats, Rye and Rape, J. F. Duggar.....	1
Peanut Industry	1
Plenty of Forage, C. C. Moore.....	3
Specialization in Farming, J. M. Lindsay....	2
"The Dragon's Teeth." A Story.....	6
Departments on usual pages: Home Circle, 6; Social Chat, 7; State News, 12; General News, 13; Sunshine, 14; Markets, 16.	