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Special Rates to Raleigh, N. C., and Return

Account of the State Fair, October 15th to 20th, 1906.

The Sea Board announces rate of one first-class fare plus fifty cents, including admission, from all points in the State of North Carolina, including Richmond, Norfolk and intermediate points in Virginia. Low round trip rates for military companies and bands in uniform. Tickets will be sold October 12th to 19th, inclusive, and for early morning trains of October 20th, with final return limit of October 23rd.

Special trains will be arranged from points between Weldon, Oxford, Hamlet and Raleigh. See announcement later, or address,

C. H. GATTIS, T. P. A., Raleigh, N. C.



"PRACTICAL POULTRY TALKS"



LXI.—SELL YOUR LEAN, SKINNY, SCRUB HENS; THEN BUY HALF AS MANY OF SOME GOOD BREED AND MAKE SOME MONEY.

Messrs. Editors: At first thought it seems surprising that it should be necessary to present an argument in behalf of better poultry. That the better article pays a decidedly better profit to the producer is self-evident, and should be convincing, and yet such is the indifference to, or ignorance of economic conditions, that the great bulk of the farmers and their wives who raise poultry for market, still stick to the lean, skinny stock, which pays but a small profit to the producer, while at the same time the buyer is eagerly searching for and demanding a better article.

Get Rid of Your Lean, Skinny, Scrub Fowls.

I know the average farmer has not had the same incentive, or even love for his fowls, as the city lot "chicken crank" has, because the larger animals around him seem to be of more importance, claiming his whole attention, and it seems easier to become fond of them. Neither will the farmer think of fowls as being a factor for intellectual observation. In fact, the farmer has at first no use for a hen so far as there is money to be made, yet he is not slow to take advantage of improved breeds and methods, after being once convinced that it pays, and to try to convince the farmer of this fact is the object of this week's letter.

Eggs and Chickens Getting Higher Every Day.

The continued rise in prices of beef, mutton, and pork has caused—to say nothing of the decrease of the large Western cattle and sheep ranges, which necessarily makes beef and mutton higher, nor to mention the recent packing house scandal, which gave one for awhile a decided distaste for anything coming from that quarter—has sent the price of chickens and eggs soaring skyward. Eggs at the present writing are 30c. to 35c. per dozen, and half-grown chickens 40c. to 55c., and hard to get at that. Now, if in place of old scrubs, the farmers had a good laying strain of some good standard-bred stock, they could be selling eggs at these paying prices, and not be standing off looking at some one else reap the reward. Brother farmer, stop and think. It has been carefully estimated that on the average, it costs just seven cents to produce one dozen eggs; deduct that from the selling price, and see if you would not have several extra dimes to spend on the Midway at the State Fair next week.

Sell Your Scrub Hens; Buy Half That That Number of Some Good Breed.

You cannot get the same results from scrubs as from standard breeds and it is "love's labor lost" to try. Now what I want you to do (and they say, "God helps those who help themselves"), is to sell off that mixed lot of chickens and with the money buy half that number of some good breed. Of all the times of the year, the fall is the most opportune. You will be ready then for winter eggs and early spring hatches.

But listen! Read, mak, and inwardly digest: you can't expect good results from any chickens on earth, if you put them in that old rotten trap of a house, with half a roof,

cracks large enough between the boards to put your hand through, and the floor damp and emitting an odor that is not suggestive of peaches and cream.

Fix Up Your Hen House and Feed Well.

Fix up the house, bottom the cracks, but give good overhead ventilation. If the floor is of dirt, fill it up six or eight inches higher than the surrounding ground outside.

Then, lastly, and by no means less vital, feed these fowls right. Don't throw down a gallon of corn for a dozen chickens in the morning and go off and think you have done your whole duty, and then consign me to another land than this because they don't lay. Feed right: a variety of foods, the greater the variety the better. Summer is the natural laying season of the hen. Why? Because she gets all the component parts of an egg, with exercise. Give her this in winter and if you have provided comfortable roosting quarters, she can no more help laying than the wind blowing.

Do You Want Four-Pound or Seven-Pound Hens—60 Cents or \$1.05?

The average scrub hen will weigh four pounds while the average weight of a standard-bred bird of the American class (and these are the kind, in my opinion, a farmer should have) will go seven pounds. At fifteen cents a pound you can soon determine which pays the best. Farmers are no fools even if they are not all sticking together on the cotton question. My friend, Mr. Moore, seems to be the only one who has his whole heart wrapped in cotton. He has been away from home so long—an unusual thing for him until he took up cotton—that I doubt very much whether Mrs. M. and the children will know him.

One More Thing to Consider.

But I digress,—back to my favorite subject: If you do decide to sell those mixed chickens and buy good ones, don't forget that it is better to pay \$10 for three chickens than it is to pay \$10 for ten chickens. That is one great mistake that is often made. The cheapest are not always the best, though I admit we sometimes catch a bargain, but not often. Buy good ones with an egg record. Never mind the show part of it, though I admit "a thing of beauty is a joy forever," but that is not your **UNCLE JO.**

Mecklenburg Co., N. C.

Only 15 cents till January 1st. Tell that neighbor.

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did. You can't afford to lose the price of one or more cows each year—there's no reason why you should. Get a Tubular and get more and better cream out of the milk; save time and labor and have warm sweet skimmed milk for the calves. Don't buy some cheap rattle-trap thing called a separator; that won't do any good. You need a real skimmer that does perfect work; skims clean, thick or thin, hot or cold; runs easy; simple in construction; easily understood. That's the Tubular and there is but one Tubular, the Sharples Tubular. Don't you want our little book "Business Dairymen," and our Catalog A. 233 both free? A postal will bring them.

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