

THE PROGRESSIVE FARMER.

Title Registered in U. S. Patent Office.

A Farm and Home Weekly for the Carolinas, Virginia, Tennessee and Georgia.

Vol. XXII. No. 49.

RALEIGH, N. C., JANUARY 23, 1908.

Weekly: \$1 a Year.

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Which Kind of Hens are You Raising?

ONE OF THESE HENS (PURE-BRED) LAID 251 EGGS HER FIRST YEAR—THE OTHER HEN (SCRUB) REQUIRED AS MUCH FOOD AND CARE BUT LAID ONLY 8 EGGS.

THIS hen was bred from a strain of well-known layers at the Maine Experiment Station, and made the world's greatest record of 251 eggs in her first year. Many of her mates went over the 200-a-year mark. It is easy to make money with a strain of fowls selected and bred for large production; but the selection and breeding must be done.

THIS hen was bred at the same place from a strain of fowls deficient in laying power, and it is not surprising to learn that she succeeded in laying only eight eggs in her first year. Her consumption of food was as great and she was given the same care as was given the other. But selection and breeding was in the wrong direction.

THE MAN WITH THE HEN.

Tell me not in broken measures
Modern farming does not pay,
For a farm produces chickens,
And the hens—do they not lay?

Eggs are high and going higher,
And the price is soaring fast;
Every time we get to market,
It is higher than the last.

Not a coop but that produces
Every day an egg or two;
So the farmer gains his hundreds,
Even though his hens be few,

Every egg is very precious,
And the hens are held in awe;
When the farmer hears one cackle
He gives out a loud "Haw, haw!"

In the broad and busy farm-yard
Struts a rooster now and then,
But the shrewd, progressive farmer
Has eyes only for the hen.

Trust no rooster, howe'er showy
Be the feathers in his tail;
Pay attention to the biddies
And your wealth will never fail.

Lives of farmers all remind us
We may roll in wealth some day,
If we hustle to the market
With the eggs our pullets lay.

—Exchange.

The growing of more live stock cannot begin too soon. They give farm work diversity, and also supply that much-needed manure to make the soil richer.

YOUR TIMBER IS VALUABLE—DO NOT WASTE IT.

A contract which the Atchison, Topeka and Sante Fe Railroad has made for ties from Hawaii calls for cutting and delivering at San Francisco 500,000 ties each year for five years, and for 500 sets of switch ties each year for the same period. The ties are to be of what is called ohia wood, which is being thrown on the market at this time to make room for sugar cane plantations in the islands.

In spite of many reports that there is going to be a timber famine, saw and fuel timber continues to be wasted in a deplorable way in about every part of the country where there is any to waste. The purchase by the Atchison, Topeka and Santa Fe Railroad of ties in the Hawaiian Islands ought to convince timber destroyers in the States that wood is already getting scarce. Otherwise, why would a great railway system send into the Pacific Ocean over 2,000 miles for ties? If the railroad can afford to send that far for ties, is it likely that tie timber in the States will fail to find a market as soon as it can be got to a stream or railway that will carry it where it is to be used?

AFRICAN COTTON COMPETITION.

Frank Carpenter, globe trotter newspaper correspondent, writes about the claim of British officials, that Africa will compete with our own Cotton Belt in producing cotton. Mr. Carpenter says that the total amount of cotton now raised in Egypt and the Soudan is only a few million pounds and only about 4,000 bales were exported last year. He says there are vast areas of good cotton land in the Soudan, but that the land would have to be irrigated; but that it takes capital to establish irrigation works and that Egypt is strongly opposed to any further diversion of water from the Nile. The lower country needs more water than the river brings now. Progress in the cultivation of cotton is made, but it is slow, and modern methods are adopted in but few places. From Mr. Carpenter's statement it would seem that the day may come when Africa will compete with our Cotton Belt in producing the staple, but is not likely to do so before the world's demand is greatly increased.

Reading agricultural papers not suited to your section may do you ten times as much harm as good, and ultimately disgust you with all agricultural papers.

THE POULTRY BUSINESS AN INFANT INDUSTRY IN THE SOUTH.

There is a great opportunity for a large increase of thoroughbred poultry in the South. The five States of Virginia, Maryland, North Carolina and South Carolina and Georgia combined do not raise as much poultry as any one of the single States of Missouri, Ohio, New York, or Illinois. The total value of the poultry and eggs in the five Southern States named was \$25,988,251.30 for 1905, and for the whole South \$27,414,191.30.—H. A. Sager, Fairfax Co., Va.

WHY SHOULDN'T THE SOUTH RAISE ITS OWN EGG SUPPLY?

Two-thirds of the cold-storage eggs are sold South of the Mason and Dixon line. Why? Because you won't half try to supply the eggs yourselves.—Uncle Jo, page 4.

Exposing a hen too much uses up a lot of food to keep her in health, that ought to be used to make eggs of.

Hot-house fowls come very near needing a wet nurse to care for them, and then may be so delicate that the nurse will have to call in a doctor.