

Another Object Lesson.

The Live Oak Democrat says: We would rather talk crops than politics any old day, when the politics are nothing better than a clamorous and selfish personal scramble for office with no principle at stake; whereas the crops bring us close to nature and all her rich and generous and wonderful gifts to the man who woos her right and gives to his noble avocation a full measure of the best that is in him of brain and brawn. And the best kind of crop talk to those who think that growing cotton is the chief end of man in the farming districts, is diversified crop talk, for in diversification lies our hope of a prosperous future for our agriculture. Theorizing is all well enough, but it impresses only a small per cent of people who care little for abstract reasoning and earn their living by constant touch with material things as the only way of reaching material results. Seeing is believing, and object lessons furnish proof not to be disputed and are at once convincing to every type of mind. The Democrat has heretofore told about the potatoes at Hastings and the strawberries at Starke, and the enormous profit in hard cash brought to the people who cultivated them this year, and now we come to celery. It seems a far cry from King Cotton to a meek and vulgar weed like celery, a chasm not to be bridged by the typical Florida farmer, but in the instance at hand, the kingship is with the weed and the arrogant and lordly cotton seems insignificant by comparison when put to the final and supreme test of the profit in cold cash. A New Jersey man came down to Florida last summer, bought and cleared a piece of hammock land in Manatee county, put it in celery and kept a careful account of the results from one acre. He shipped to New York eight hundred and two crates, which sold for \$3,140.50. The expenses were: Freight and commission \$104.26; cost of crates, \$104.26; cost of fertilizer, \$110; labor, \$215; total cost, \$533.52. This left Mr. Rich a net profit of \$2,607.00. He has one and three-quarter acres yet to cut. Some of his shipments brought as high as \$4.50 and \$5.00 a crate. How does that compare with the profit on an acre in cotton?

Infertile Eggs.

I wonder if your readers realize how long an infertile egg will keep. Under ordinary circumstances it is almost impossible for them to spoil. The following incident is from my own personal experience this year. After putting some eggs into an incubator, I tested them in the seventh day, but not being sure that I was right, I left them until the fifteenth day. Then all that were clear were taken out. Some of them were broken and as they seemed all right, were cooked and eaten. It would have been impossible for any one to have distinguished them from absolutely fresh eggs. Some of them were kept a week or more longer and were good to the last.

There is a lesson in this for those who wish to sell eggs and to make a reputation which will enable them to get something over the market price few settings of eggs the first year, then using these for a foundation for the new flock. The mongrels may be also kept for a year or two until sufficient full bloods are raised to take their places. Several years ago I decided to change our flock of mixed chickens for full blood Wyandottes. The first year I bought only one setting of eggs and four pullets and three cockerels were raised. As we could easily tell the Wyandotte egg from the others, they were let run at large and all other male birds except the three Wyandottes were disposed of. The Wyandotte eggs and some of the others were used for hatching. The full blood chicks were easily selected from the half bloods, so by the end of the second year all but the full blood Wyandottes were disposed of and at this writing we have a real nice flock of Silver Laced Wyandottes at practically no outlay of cash except for a setting or two of eggs and the occasional purchase of a cockerel to get new blood.

Our flock has been improved from year to year by the careful culling out of inferior birds so that the flock presents a uniformly nice appearance and attracts considerable attention, especially from those who are not used to seeing a single breed on the farm.

Stolen Nests.

A writer, in Farm, Field and Fireside, gives some new ideas on this subject:

On farms where the fowls have free range, the loss of eggs through hens stealing their nests is much larger than is realized. In the spring and early summer, when eggs are plenty and cheaper in price, they are not apt to be carefully sought for and the consequence is that numbers are lost. It is true that when a hen steals her

of domestication to lay more eggs than she needs for hatching, will frequently abandon the first nest and begin laying in a new place, and if the first nest is not discovered the eggs in it are lost for good. There is also the chance that other hens will lay in the nest until the number of eggs is too large for her to cover, in which case waste only can result. Prowling vermin and crows will also destroy eggs in unprotected nests.

Again, a hen will steal her nest and bring out a brood of chicks when it may be undesirable to have them at that time.

The main remedy for this condition of affairs is to get the hens thoroughly in the habit of laying in the poultry house. The house itself should be kept clean, the material in the nest boxes changed when necessary, and a sufficient number of nests provided. No hen wants to get in a filthy nest box and be eaten alive by mites when laying. Neither does she want to stand around and wait until another hen gets through laying before entering the nest herself.

If these matters have been attended to, it is well to make use of the yard connected with the hen house, which should be kept in good condition and the fence of which should be in repair, by shutting the fowls in this yard for two or three days. The hens will then be forced to lay in the hen house and once they have formed the habit they will be very apt to continue in it after being allowed to return to free range.

Should, however, a few hens still persist in stealing their nests, one or two barrels placed on end in the yard, having a hole sawed through the side for the hens to enter, and a rain-proof cover on the top, will be found to answer the purpose in getting them to lay where their eggs can be secured.

If this method of confining the fowls to the yard is repeated at intervals, when necessary, there will be little danger of losing the numbers of eggs that otherwise would be wasted by being destroyed or abandoned in stolen nests.

Better Keep a Cow.

The Southern Ruralist asks some questions and then gives some good advice. Only those who have had a cow that gave an abundant supply of milk and butter, and have then been without, can appreciate the value of such a comfort.

How many cows do you keep on your farm? Do you have all the

milk and butter you need for your nest with the idea of sitting, that she usually selects a place where the eggs will hatch well, but she, herself having been trained through many years family, and do you make any to sell? These are pertinent questions, friends, for if you fail to have all the milk and butter you need for home consumption you don't half live. The writer remembers, when we only had one cow at the Ruralist farm, and when she went dry, how we were forced to resort to the tin cow, and eat store butter until she came in again. Things were mighty dry. I can tell you. The corn bread was hard and the biscuit didn't taste natural. Even Ted, the dog, sniffed at his dinner suspiciously, and ate slowly and with little relish. We stood it for awhile, and then we bought another cow and began to live again. Our stomach once more regained that comfortable feeling, and we feel sure that a case of indigestion was averted. Not only this but the spirits of the cook revived, and we were no longer ashamed to invite friends home to dinner. Better keep a cow, friends, and be happy and healthy.

A Lakeland party shipped 800 boxes of oranges and 100 boxes of grapefruit to New York last week and received \$5 per box for the oranges and \$8 for the grapefruit, a total for the 900 boxes of \$4,800.—N. Y. Produce News.

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The taxpayers of DeSoto Cou know nothing of small counties. Jordan does and he left them bl if the taxpayers of this county vi visit the small counties of the State they will then see what division is good for.

If cats could fly there would be no sparrows, and if a few men in this county could make you vote exactly as they want you to, or could vote for you, then there would be no doubt about the division of DeSoto County, for she would be split.

Many of the best posted people as to the result of the race between Hooker and Jordan, place Hooker majority at from 190 to 240 votes, and some bets have been made at three to one in favor of Hooker.

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