

Give your hens a varied diet of grain, animal and vegetable food, ground bone and an abundant supply of coarse grit. You will find your time well spent in the return of a plenty of eggs.

Which is the best market fowl? is often asked. It depends upon the market *appearance*, and adds greatly to the prices. The people who buy seem to have a preference for yellow skin and legs, and farmers should try and accommodate them, though really the dark legged fowls are the best for the table, being finer grained and possessing more delicate flesh with thin skin. But yellow skin is preferred and yellow skinned fowls should be bred. The Wyandotte and Plymouth Rock are the best market fowls for such as may be under six months of age, but after that period the Brahma comes in well. Plump bodies, yellow legs, full breasts, and neat clean appearance are the selling points. As customers are often guided by usage more than merit, we may safely say that any of the yellow legged fowls are excellent for market either alive or dressed, but in shipping during a cold season it is best to send them dressed.

The one variety breeder claims that his plan is the best, that no man who breeds many varieties can give them each as much care and study as the one variety breeder does to his favorites. On the other hand, the other side claims that a man may be just as well qualified to breed a dozen varieties providing he has room enough, as a dozen men are to breed one variety each.

We desire to repeat here what has been so frequently asserted as a truth, that there are few, if any more profitable products of the farm than poultry of various kinds if properly managed.

## NOTES.

## TOUCHING ON BUYING FOWLS AND WASHING SHOW BIRDS.

BY BLACK WYANDOT.

**B**EGINNER, buy fowls this fall. Do not wait until spring with the idea of investing your money in eggs. For \$10.00 you can buy a first class trio of any of the popular breeds, and from them you will get during the breeding months, March, April and May, about eight sittings of eggs, which will hatch better than shipped eggs which would cost you \$20.00 for eight sittings from good stock. You will get twice as many chicks by investing your money in breeding stock and when the season is over you will have your breeding birds left and worth nearly or quite what you paid for them. It does not take much of a business head to figure a big balance in favor of buying birds over investing in eggs. It is useless to state that shipped eggs hatch equally as well as the eggs one gets from home stock, common sense will not bear out such a statement. Aside from the financial advantage of buying fowls instead of eggs, the beginner gets the advantage of experience taking care of his breeding stock. He gets a better idea of the practical nature of the business, learning a good deal of the practical side that he cannot get by reading the poultry magazines and books. Buy breeding stock and buy early. Buy the best and give them "the best" treatment you can furnish.

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The shows will soon be with us and good breeders are already beginning to get their "picked birds" up to the

condition necessary to stand hot competition such as we now have at all our leading shows. The *Stock-Keeper* (England) thinks Indian corn should not be fed to white fowls which are to be exhibited, as this feed gives a tendency to yellowish tinge in plumage. This may be true to an extent but I have never known of such an effect. Much of the corn now grown is almost pure white and it would be on the safe side to feed only white corn to white show fowls. If the exhibitor is a "good hand" at washing fowls no doubt much advantage can be had from giving white fowls a good washing in water as warm as they can comfortably stand it. Lather the birds well with good white soap, taking care not to rub the feathers the wrong way. After a thorough soaking in the warm suds, rinse in clean warm water and put in a clean coop in a warm room but not too near the fire as drying too fast will make the plumage rough. Dry the bird as thoroughly as possible by rubbing with dry towels before putting in the coop to finish drying. Washing fowls in a way to make them appear at their best is a "science" which only experience will thoroughly teach.

## AMERICAN POULTRY ASSOCIATION.

**S**EVENTEENTH Annual Meeting of the American Poultry Association will be held in the city of Los Angeles, California, on Friday, Feb. 12th, 1892, at 8 o'clock p.m.

Yours respectfully,

OREN SCOTTEN,  
President, A.P.A.

GEORGE E. PEER,  
Sec'y. and Treas. A.P.A.  
Rochester, N.Y., Oct. 26th, 1891.