

My Old Hen's a Good Old Hen

As sung by
Pearl Jacobs Borusky
08-30-1940 Antigo, WI

My old hen's a good old hen, she lays eggs for the farmer
men. Some-times one, some-times two, some-times
enough for the whole darn crew. Cluck, old hen, cluck, I
tell you. Cluck, old hen, or I'm a-gwine a sell you. Cluck, old
hen, cluck, I say, cluck, old hen, I'll give you a - way.

My old hen's a good old hen,
She lays eggs for the farmer men.
Sometimes one, sometimes two,
Sometimes enough for the whole darn crew.
Cluck, old hen, cluck, I tell you.
Cluck, old hen, or I'm a-gwine a sell you.
Cluck, old hen, cluck, I say,
Cluck, old hen, I'll give you away.

Transcription and lyrics from the Helene Stratman-Thomas Collection.

Critical Commentary

Transcriptions by Peters, p. 268, and HST.

Editor's notes:

Pearl Jacobs Borusky also sang this song for Asher Treat in 1935. The version of this song on the Digital Tradition Mirror web page has text nearly identical to Borusky's version, although it

has several extra verses. The tunes are also very similar, except that Borusky's second section ("Cluck old hen ...") is not present there.

Alternate titles/related songs: "Cluck Old Hen."

Sources:

"Cluck Old Hen." From the Digital Tradition Mirror. <<http://sniff.numachi.com/~rickheit/dtrad/pages/tiCLUCKHEN;ttCLUCKHEN.html>> [accessed 6/8/05]. "Cluck old hen." Citation: "Recorded by Tom Ashley, Frank Profitt Note: one of the standard fiddle virtuoso pieces: chicken imitations were highly appreciated. RG"

Peters, Harry B., ed. *Folk Songs out of Wisconsin: An Illustrated Compendium of Words and Music*. Madison, WI: The State Historical Society of Wisconsin, 1977.

Treat, Asher E. "Kentucky Folksong in Northern Wisconsin." *The Journal of American Folklore* 52, no. 203 (Jan.-Mar. 1939): 1-51.

K.G.