

The Broken Rooster

Story By: Andrew Frinkle



There was a farmer in Georgia that used his rooster as an alarm clock. Every morning, his old rooster woke him up when the sun rose. Sadly, his trusty old rooster could no longer do his job, because its voice was too tired after many years of waking up the farmer. The farmer kept oversleeping, and decided to buy a new rooster, so he could get back to work on time.

The farmer searched for days and days to find the best one. Finally, he found a special new rooster in California. The farmer had the special bird shipped to his farm, so he could have a new alarm clock. This bird was guaranteed to sing!

When the new rooster arrived in its cage, the farmer was so happy! The bird looked healthy and strong. It clucked happily when it was freed. He let it into his chicken coop and gave it special chicken feed to make it happy. When he went to bed, he felt certain that the strong new rooster would wake him up the next morning.

The farmer woke up the next day on his own. That was strange. The bird hadn't sung to wake him up. He rolled over and looked at his clock. It was after nine! The new rooster should have woken him up! What was going on? Was this rooster broken? He had paid good money for the rooster.

Shortly after he got out of bed, the farmer heard the rooster cry out. It was very late to be singing now. Why hadn't the rooster done that three hours ago?

Slowly, it dawned on the farmer. His rooster was jet-lagged! His rooster was still on California time, and the time there was three hours later. He laughed and decided to give the rooster some time to adjust.

A week later, his new rooster started waking him up on time every day. The farmer loved his new rooster.

Use the information in the story to answer the questions below.

1. What does the farmer need?

- A. A new clock B. A new tractor C. A new cow D. A new rooster

2. Why does the farmer need a new rooster?

- A. His old one is sick.
B. His old one is tired.
C. His old one is retired.
D. His old one can't sing anymore.

3. What does the farmer use the rooster for?

- A. For dinner! B. For an alarm clock in the morning
C. For decoration D. For protecting the hens.

4. Why doesn't the new rooster wake up the farmer the first day?

- A. The rooster isn't used to the time change yet.
B. The rooster is lazy.
C. The rooster doesn't know how to sing.
D. The rooster is just a chicken. Why would he wake up the farmer?

5. How long does it take for the new rooster to get used to his new home?

- A. A day B. An hour C. A week D. A month

