



An old 15-ft. travel trailer serves as home for about 200 chickens on the Ault's farm.

## Old Trailer Makes Nifty Chicken Coop

Steve and Chris Ault's chickens sleep in style inside an old travel trailer. About 200 of them fit on rows of 2 by 2-in. roosts along two walls of the 15-ft. trailer which Steve gutted.

He purchased it for \$200 from a neighbor. Ault happily took it to his Pamplin City, Virginia, 95-acre farm and spent a day with a cordless drill removing screws that secured most everything inside.

"Ripping out the bathroom with all the molding and tub was probably the hardest part," he says. He repaired the sunroof, but other than that the roof was sound and the windows and screens all intact. He ripped 2 by 4-in. boards in half to build roosts that mount about a foot apart. He hinged them so they can be lifted up to the ceiling for cleanout.

"The walls are made out of plastic-coated wallboard so it's waterproof," Ault says. About four times a year he thoroughly cleans the trailer with a pressure washer. The rest of the time he just adds fresh bedding.

The trailer works as well - if not better - than a coop Ault built on a hay wagon, which cost him more than \$1,000.

"We try to keep everything as mobile as possible so we can move things around in the pastures," Ault says. He moves the trailer with a small pickup every couple months. The Aults raise chickens, pigs and lamb on pasture and sell eggs and meat to natural food stores and at farmers markets.

Ault cut a small door in the side of the trailer and built an awning to protect the chickens from predator birds. The trailer is



Rows of 2 by 2-in. roosts are located along two walls of trailer, which Ault gutted.

surrounded by electric net fencing, and the chickens can go in and out of the trailer when they choose. They lay eggs in 20 nesting boxes Ault built on the outside of the trailer.

In Virginia's moderate climate, the trailer works well year round. There's a good cross ventilation by keeping the windows and door open during hot weather, Ault says, and the trailer is insulated to be warm enough in the winter.

"We had a terrible wind storm that took off tree tops. The trailer was in the path, but it just knocked it off the blocks," Ault says.

"It's perfect," he adds about the trailer coop. "When I'm driving around, I look for old trailers. I would love to have a couple more."

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Steve and Chris Ault, 14100 Thomas Jefferson Hwy, Pamplin, Virginia 23958 (ph 434 248-6050; aultsfamilyfarm@yahoo.com; www.aultsfamilyfarm.com).

## Scale Kit Lets You Weigh Grain On-The-Go

There are many times when it would be helpful for farmers to weigh grain while still in the field. A new easy-to-install retro-fit scale kit makes it possible to convert existing wagons.

"Our scales allow the producer to quickly obtain field yield totals or check strip yields," says Dean Toews of Triple Star Mfg. Ltd. "They're also helpful for maximizing truck loads or calibrating combine yield monitors. Farmers like having inventory totals for marketing and crop insurance reasons, too."

Kit consists of three load cells, a gauge, mounting hardware, and cables. The compact 640 model gauge provides basic readouts and field totals and has hookups for a memory card or printer. It has a 3-year warranty.

The system is typically accurate to 0.5 percent, and will fit any model of grain cart, according to Toews.

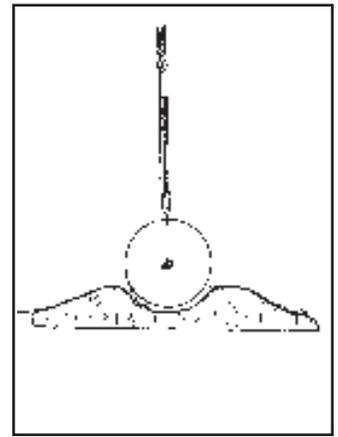
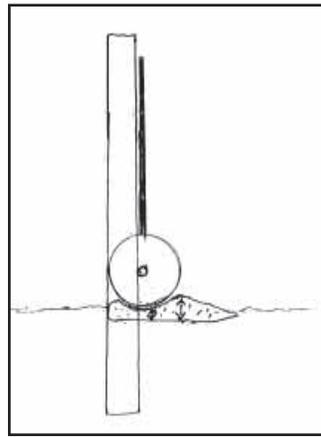
The kit is priced at \$3,495 (Can.) plus S&H and will weigh up to 1,000 bu. For larger grain carts, the company can supply custom kits.



Wagon-mounted scale kit lets you weigh grain in the field.

"We also carry a full line of scales for livestock, axle, platform and seed tender situations. We sell weigh bars that can go under anything people want to weigh," says Toews.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Triple Star Mfg. Ltd. Agricultural Scales, Dean Toews, P. O. Box 149, MacGregor, Manitoba, Canada R0H 0R0 (ph 204 685-2045 or cell ph 204 871-1175; toews1@mts.net; www.triplestarmfg.com).



Wheel at bottom of gate rides up over concrete hump and settles into a "cup" against a backstop (left). The same idea can be used on gates that open both ways (right).

## Concrete "Stops" Make It Easy To Open, Close Rolling Gates

"It saves a lot of getting on and off my ATV," says James Bryant, Camden, Ark., who makes concrete "stops" for rolling gates.

He buys 10-in. dia. wheels at Wal-Mart and mounts them on the bottom corner of each gate. Then he pours a little concrete pad next to the gate post with a "hump" on it. The wheel rides up over the hump and settles into a "cup" against a backstop. It holds the gate in place.

To open the gate he simply uses his pickup

or ATV to bump the gate open. "It'll hold the gate closed except against the strongest winds. Livestock don't usually rub up against it," notes Bryant.

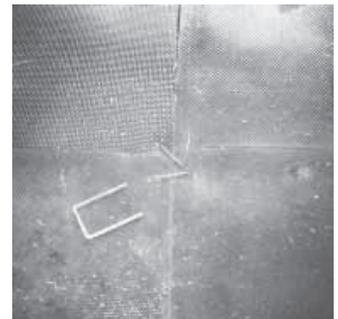
The same idea can be used on large gates that open both ways. He just makes a deeper depression in the concrete with a bump on each side.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, James L. Bryant, 645 Ouachita Road 43, Camden, Ark. 71701 (ph 870 574-0527).

## Rubber Mats Hold Down Dust

"We had a dusty area around our barn. Nothing would grow there and I didn't want to pour concrete," says Jim Cole, Ottawa, Kansas. "I got the idea of covering the ground with some old 4 by 6-ft. rubber stall mats that I wasn't using. I laid them with the ribbed side down and hold them in place with large 4 by 7-in. "staples" made from old electric fenceposts. I drilled holes slightly smaller than the staples through the mats and then drove them into the ground. After three years, they're still holding tight. We drive tractors on them with no shifting at all."

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Jim Cole, 3241 Oregon Rd., Ottawa, Kansas 66067 (ph 785 242-8284).



Rubber stall mats with ribbed side down are held in place with large 4 by 7-in. "staples" made from electric fence posts.

## Post Pounder-Wood Splitter

Hans Pfaeffli of Busby, Alberta, burns a lot of firewood every year to supplement his home's furnace. He found a way to speed up the job by using a splitter he made from a fence post pounder.

He simply fitted the pounder with a home-built splitting axe attachment. Pfaeffli used the head from an old axe he had broken the handle on, and welded it onto a frame he made from 1 by 3-in. channel iron.

To help guide the wood away from the machine as it's being split, he welded a rounded piece of cultivator chisel on either side of the axe head.

The channel iron frame has two pieces of flatiron (also off an old cultivator) welded onto each side, and each one bolts onto the post pounder.

"The attachment is easy to put on and take off, so it makes my post pounder versatile. I like to let it do the work instead of me," he explains. "I like to find ways to do as little work as possible."

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Hans Pfaeffli, P. O. Box 5485, Westlock, Alberta, Canada T7P 2P5 (ph 780 349-5576; fax 780 349-5629).



Fence post pounder is fitted with a home-built splitting axe attachment.