



Running gear comes with a 4 by 8-ft. steel frame bed with stake pockets. The customer adds his own bolt-on plywood deck and sideboards.

Build Your Own ATV Trailer

This new running gear for ATV-size wagons lets you economically build your own wagon by adding a bolt-on plywood deck and sideboards.

Model 3000 running gear has a 1 1/2-ton load capacity and comes with a 4 by 8-ft. steel frame bed with stake pockets. A 4 by 8-ft. or 5 by 10-ft. expanded metal bed is optional. It's available in both front wheel steer and all wheel steer models. The all wheel steer model has a short 12-ft. turning radius.

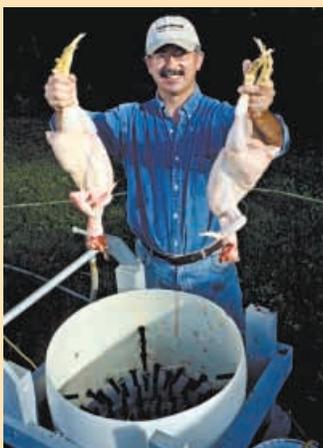
"With its low profile and narrow width, it has a lot of different uses including on farms, nurseries, greenhouses, golf courses, and so forth," says general manager Larry Lauritzen. "People

use them for fruit markets, hauling melons, as people movers, hay rides, parades, etc.

"These running gears are built tough and have high speed bearings, 18.5 by 8.5 2-ply tubeless flotation tires, heavy duty wheel hubs, and tapered bearings."

A bigger model is also available. Model 5566A has a 5-ton load capacity and comes with an all steer running gear and a 7 by 12-ft. expanded metal floor.

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Herrick Kimball says his home-built chicken scalding lets him process birds fast (left). The framework on wheels makes it easy to move about as needed.



Do-It-Yourself Chicken Processing Equipment

By C.F. Marley, Contributing Editor

Herrick Kimball likes to get his chickens in the freezer as fast as he can. His home-built chicken scalding and plucker let him process 75 birds in no time. In fact, his equipment worked so well for him he wrote do-it-yourself manuals to help other people to build their own.

"I've sold more than 5,000 copies of the Anyone Can Build A Tub-Style Mechanical Chicken Plucker since I published it several years ago," says Kimball. "I have an internet discussion group with 1,600 people on it who post pictures of their pluckers and share comments about them. There are Whizbang Pluckers all over the world, from England to South America to Africa."

While the internet has helped him sell his

book, it was frustration with the hand plucking of hens that drove him to build his own plucker in the first place.

"I helped a friend process some birds, and he had a mechanical plucker that worked great. It seemed like the feathers disappeared by magic," recalls Kimball.

He had to have one, which meant building his own since commercial units were selling for \$2,000 or more.

"After a bit of experimenting, I had a plucker that could clean off two birds in 15 seconds with virtually no effort," he says about the birth of the Whizbang Mechanical Chicken Plucker.

It uses rubber picker fingers rotating at the center of a plastic barrel against stationary



Home-built gravity-fed dispensers include chicken feeder (left) and cat food bin.



Gravity-Fed Feeders Simplify Chores

Feeding both cats and chickens is quick and easy for Galen Mommens of Tecumseh, Nebraska, who uses home-built gravity-fed dispensers.

His chicken feeder is a 55-gal. drum mounted on the outside of the chicken house. It saves space inside and eliminates the mess chickens make roosting on the feed bins inside.

Mommens bolted an old feed grinder cyclone on the drum to create a funnel at the bottom. The funnel reduces down to a 4-in. pvc pipe secured with metal screws, which goes into the building. Inside, Mommens added a coupler and two plumbing caps, with slots cut in each cap. The slot of the interior cap is at the bottom. A piece of wood attached to the inside of the exterior cap stops feed from overflowing. Mommens attached a pipe to the cap for easy turning. He turns the slot to the bottom to release feed, then turns the slot back to the top to close it off. Total cost for parts was less than \$10.

The drum holds 9 1/4 bushels of ground chicken feed, which Mommens augers in, or fills with 5-gal. buckets. The top of the drum is about 9 1/2 ft. off the ground

To feed his cats, Mommens made a smaller

unit. "I got tired of opening the lid on the bucket every day, so I decided to make it easier to dispense the cat food," Mommens says. He cut the bottom out of a 5-gal. bucket, leaving a rim around the edge. He used metal screws to attach the reflector from an old heat lamp to create a funnel, and sealed it with caulking.

He attached a 45-degree, 2 1/4-in. pvc elbow to the bottom and added a cap. He opens the cap, taps the bucket to release feed and replaces the cap when he's done.

"The bin will hold over 18 lbs. of dry cat food, and I only have to open the lid once every 6 to 8 weeks instead of daily," Mommens says. Cost for new plumbing parts runs about \$6.

"It has really been helpful to have it around," he says. "Not only is it easier to feed the cats, but it also gets it off of the floor and out of the way."

Mommens sells plans for his cat food bin at his web site.

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fingers mounted around the sides of the barrel. A feather discharge gap at the bottom of the tub allows the operator to simply hose away feathers as the fingers pluck them off.

Kimball's 60-page manual offers detailed instructions for how to build a plucker and where to get needed parts, such as the picker fingers, pillow block bearings, motors and even plastic barrels. It goes into detail on wiring and making and installing an idler arm. Kimball even tells where to buy a ready made plucker for those who decide not to build one.

Directions in the book cover everything from building the plucker to setting up a processing line to scald and clean the birds. Little hints are tossed in, like adding some liquid soap to the scalding water to make the feathers come off easier.

Although Kimball suggests you can use a deep fry kit for turkeys as a scalding pot, he has since designed his own scalding complete with an automatic dunker. He starts with a propane fired water heater that allows the scalding temperature to be set and maintained within four degrees of the desired temperature. The framework on wheels makes it easy to move about as needed.

It worked so well he wrote a manual about it, too, called "Anyone Can Build A Whizbang Chicken Scalding".

"A plucker is a necessity, but the scalding is really a luxury," says Kimball. "With my book, you can start out by building a very inexpensive scalding using an old water heater. The next chapter tells how to add electronic controls, and a later one tells how to make the automatic dunker."

Kimball cautions that the automatic dunker adds a lot of expense that isn't needed by most people. The gear motor alone adds around \$1,000 to the cost, which he estimates at \$675 for the basic scalding.

"If you are doing a lot of birds, it is great to just hit a switch and dunk birds up and down," says Kimball. "When motorized, it will process up to 120 birds per hour."

The Whizbang plucker costs from \$350 to \$500 to build. The plucker book costs \$19.95, and the scalding book \$23.95, plus shipping and handling.

Perhaps the biggest surprise for Kimball has been a growing business supplying parts for his pluckers and scalders. "I sell some of the harder to find parts from my web page" he says. "That has turned into an even better business than selling the books."

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