

Priebe's Chicken "Dragster" Simplifies Pasture Rotation

Jerry Priebe's chicken "dragster" reduces mowing chores, fertilizes the yard and cuts chicken feed costs. The 4-ft. sq. unit includes an indoor pen and outdoor cage for a dozen chickens and pulls easily by hand every day to new ground.

Priebe attached an old trailer axle to the back and built a wooden arm on the front that pulls ahead and lifts the pen to make it easy to pull the 150-lb. unit. Though the big ATV wheel works, Priebe says setting it up like a fifth wheel unit would be better and prevent the tire from twisting.

"There is no floor, so I never have to clean it out," Priebe adds. By using old windows and a storm door and leftover metal and lumber from a building project, he kept the cost down to about \$80 with new 1 by 4-in. treated lumber and woven wire.

Though it's not insulated and the walls are

just 1/2-in. plywood, Priebe's chickens did just fine in the small pen through Ohio's winter. His biggest chore was shoveling snow before moving the pen ahead.

Priebe says the pen could probably be 50 percent bigger and still be easy to pull. The nesting boxes could also be on the outside of the pen in the summer to give the chickens more room to roost. He has a long eave to protect the hanging feeder, but may add clear fiberglass roofing to provide even more protection.

Priebe saves about one-third of his feed costs during the summer. He pulls the pen along the edge of the horse pasture, which cuts back on mowing the area. The portable pen also protects the chickens from neighbors' dogs and wild predators.

The pen works great, Priebe says, and if it ever gets too difficult for him to pull, he can



Chicken "dragster" includes an indoor pen and outdoor cage for a dozen chickens. Priebe pulls it by hand every day to new ground.

move it with an ATV or tractor. He'll provide drawn plans for anyone interested.

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Limbhog Offers Safe Way To Cut Tree Limbs

The Limbhog is a new tree trimming attachment that mounts directly to the front-end loader of a tractor, skidloader or backhoe. The commercial grade chainsaw slides easily into a receiver on the front-end loader and works off the tractor's auxiliary hydraulics.

The LIMBHOG's 8-ft. mast allows it to reach limbs 8 ft. higher than the bucket's reach. It reduces the risk of injury by eliminating ladders, ropes and standing in the tractor bucket. Limbs fall in front of the loader while the operator sits safely and comfortably in the tractor seat.

The LIMBHOG runs at 5,500 rpm's and cuts 5-in. dia. limbs in just over one second. Since it runs off the tractor's hydraulics, there's no gas engine noise or exhaust, and

kickback is completely eliminated. The LIMBHOG comes equipped with a self-oiling system and weighs only 68 lbs. making it easy to attach and be operated by one person. It also has the unique feature of reversing the chain to back out of a pinch.

The Limbhog sells for \$2,495, has a one-year warranty on the saw motor and comes completely assembled and pre-tested with an extra chisel chain. Price includes shipping.

The website includes a video of the LIMBHOG in action.

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Tree trimmer has an 8-ft. mast and mounts directly to receiver on front-end loader.

Riding Mower Drives 10,000-Watt Generator

When the electricity goes out, Ken Schmitz starts up his Deere 325 riding mower.

Schmitz bought a 10,000-watt generator at Harbor Freight for \$279 and mounted it on an axle and two small plastic wheels. The generator can be wheeled up onto a metal platform on front of the riding mower and bolted down. The riding mower's engine is used to belt-drive the generator, which delivers electricity through an electrical cord to a transfer switch in his basement.

"It's relatively inexpensive and there's no engine to maintain," says Schmitz. "I can remove the generator and put my snowblower back on in less than five minutes.

According to Schmitz, the engines on standby generators don't get used often enough which causes the seals on the crankshaft to dry up and leak oil. He had that problem with his 4,400-watt Homelite standby generator equipped with an 8 hp Briggs & Stratton engine. "I had to take the entire generator apart so I could get at the oil sump and replace the seals."

He bought a used Deere 325 tractor equipped with an 18 hp air-cooled engine. The generator attaches to a metal platform that bolts onto the bracket that holds the snowblower.

"It took me quite a while to get everything all figured out," says Schmitz. "The generator will take up to an 18 hp engine which is what my Deere riding mower has. When the generator is under load it'll produce up to 7,000 watts which provides enough electricity for an average house."



Riding mower's engine is used to belt-drive the generator, which delivers electricity through an electrical cord.

"At first I had to run the tractor almost wide open, at 3,600 rpm's, in order to produce 110 and 120 voltage and also 220 voltage. It was too noisy and was hard on the governor. To solve the problem I replaced the original pulley with a smaller 1/2-in. dia. one. Now the tractor's engine runs at about 2,700 rpm's and is much less noisy."

Schmitz says that if there's another widespread power outage, he'll be ready. "Ten years ago there was a power station malfunction in Ohio caused by an overloaded grid, and some people all the way to the East Coast were out of electricity for two weeks. If we get another power outage like that and it happens during the winter, I'll be able to blow snow off my driveway and also keep my house warm."

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KoolCoat "Radiant Barrier" Paint Reduces Energy Costs

Since learning about KoolCoat radiant barrier paint additive three years ago, builder/developer Chris Brassard of Ft. Worth, Texas says he won't apply exterior paint without it. The owner of Square One Development, LLC, heard about KoolCoat from owners of homes (without insulation) in a historic district who raved about energy savings after mixing the product into their exterior paint. KoolCoat reflects heat away, avoiding heat absorption. During the winter, it keeps heat in.

Some people claim up to 50 percent savings in cooling costs. Personally, Brassard says his energy bill is half the cost in his new home with KoolCoat vs. his previous home without it.

"Anything I can do to add energy efficiency, I do," Brassard says. "I just ordered enough for another 45 gallons of paint."

He explains that there are radiant barrier paints available but they cost about \$60/gal. He prefers to buy less costly paint and then add the \$10/gallon pre-measured package of KoolCoat powder. Adding KoolCoat increases the volume by about 20 percent and Brassard says his painters simply use a larger nozzle when spray painting it on.

"I consider it a no-brainer to add it," says Brassard. "I have, and do, recommend it to others all the time."

KoolCoat also works with interior paints to reflect heat back into the room to reduce winter energy heating costs. It mixes with acrylic, latex, oil based, epoxy, urethane, and even elastomeric roof paints.

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