



Jerry McCabe's modified silage wagon makes it easy to fill the outside wood boiler he uses to heat both his home and an on-farm auto repair shop.



"The covered roof keeps wood dry, and the unloading bed means I never have to scramble inside the wagon to get wood," says McCabe.

Wood Wagon Makes Furnace Stoking Easy

Jerry McCabe depends on his wood boiler to heat both his home and his on-farm auto repair shop. His wood wagon makes it easy to fill the big boiler and keep his shop uniform clean.

"The covered roof keeps the wood dry, and the unloading bed means I never have to scramble up inside to get the wood," says

McCabe about his modified silage wagon.

The 6 1/2 by 14-ft. silage wagon had a pto-powered apron bed and 2 1/2-ft. high sidewalls. McCabe moved the gearbox to the rear of the wagon. A small electric motor with a 30:1 direct drive powers the gearbox. He also changed the 3 by 3 1/2-ft. rear doors from hanging vertical to hori-

zontal swing for easy access.

To reduce refill trips, he added a 2-ft. high extension to one side of the box and a 4 1/2-ft. extension to the other side and installed a slanting roof to cover the bed.

On the high side, he mounted two 4 1/2 by 4 1/2-ft. doors that make it easy to load the silage wagon with his skid steer

or tractor loader.

"The electric motor makes it easy to control the unloading action of the bed," says McCabe. "The wood is always dry and easy to handle so it burns well."

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Dave Greise's 8-ft. sq. chicken coop is fitted with four retractable wheels.

Wheeled Chicken Coop

"It's easy to move around and was cheap to build," says Dave Greise, Rockwood, Tenn., who recently sent FARM SHOW photos of an 8-ft. sq. chicken coop that he fitted with four wheels off a pair of lawn mowers.

The coop's front wheels are the plastic rear wheels off a push mower, and the taller and wider rear wheels are off a riding mower. A screw-type jack is attached to each wheel, allowing Greise to use a cordless drill to lower the coop's wheels for transport.

"Jacking the wheels down raises the coop about 4 in. off the ground. It eliminates the need to block up the wheels," says Greise, who raises chickens free-range style and moves the coop about 8 ft. every day.

Each wheel is attached to a screw-type jack that's mounted upside down. The jack's base

plate, now on top, is lag bolted to a pair of 4 by 4 landscape timbers that Greise screwed onto both sides of the coop. He used a sawzall to cut a pin off the top part of the jack and then bolted on the wheel's original bracket and axle.

"The coop is made from heavy gauge wire and can't be supported by four plastic wheels, which is why I mounted the riding mower wheels on back. I used heavy gauge wire because I was able to get it free from a neighbor. If I had used lighter gauge wire I could've used plastic wheels all the way around," says Greise.

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A screw-type jack, mounted upside down, attaches to each wheel. Greise cut a pin off the top part of jack and then bolted on the wheel's original bracket and axle.



Cleaning manure out from under the roosts in his chicken house was a difficult job until Ron McCoy built new hinged roosts.

Chicken Roosts Raise Up Out Of The Way

Ron McCoy, Hotchkiss, Colo., raises about 75 chickens in a 12 by 20-ft. chicken house. Cleaning the manure out from under the roosts was a difficult job until he built new hinged roosts that lift up out of the way.

McCoy used 2 by 2's to build the two roost sections that attach to wall-mounted 2 by 4's fitted with metal hinges. Once the roosts are lifted up they're held in place by bungee cords. A wooden leg supports each roost when it's down. The leg is swiveled up out of the way and held in place with baler twine.

When lowered, each roost rests on top of a 2 by 4 that's bolted to the side of the building.

"It's a real blessing, being able to get the roost up out of the way," says McCoy. "I had been using a roost that I had to take apart

every time I wanted to clean out the manure. If I didn't take the roost apart, I had to crawl under or around it, which was a real hassle. After I clean out the manure I put sawdust down on the floor to absorb moisture. I left a 1 1/2-ft. gap between the two roost sections to make room for a ladder, which the chickens use to climb up onto the roosts."

McCoy raises the chickens mostly for his family but also sells some of the eggs. "It gets cold here during the winter, so when I built the chicken house I insulated it and paneled it. Most of the time I don't even need a heater."

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Once the roosts are lifted up they're held in place by bungee cords. A wooden post supports each roost when it's down.