

“Cadillac” Deer Stand

The deer stand built by Mark Eilers, Tower Hill, Ill., is actually a small cabin mounted 18 ft. high on a 4-legged stand made from used oil well drilling pipe. The stand is located in a small clearing in an otherwise wooded area. It measures 8 ft. sq., is propane heated, insulated and carpeted with a paneled interior.

A 12-ft. sq. deck made from marine plywood, with a metal ladder leading up to it, surrounds the cabin. The legs at the base of the stand are about 18 ft. apart, with each leg anchored by a 3-ft. auger-type screw.

There are large windows all the way around, and also smaller 1-ft. sq. windows that flip down for shooting.

“It’s a lot of fun to use at any time of the year,” says Eilers. “Since building the deer stand I’ve never failed to get my deer during the hunting season. Also, it’s a good place to relax with my family and watch wild turkeys and deer. I planted a small patch of corn and maintain a small pond nearby.”

He built the cabin on the ground and then used a backhoe to lift it up onto the stand.



Hunting cabin stands 18 ft. high and is surrounded by a 12-ft. sq. deck. “It’s a lot of fun to use at any time of the year,” says Mark Eilers.

A small metal disc is fastened to each leg about 4 ft. off the ground to keep mice off.

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Gravity Wagon Converted To Mobile Hunting Cabin

A Wisconsin father and son say their converted gravity wagon makes hunting a comfortable pastime. They simply climb into the heated and carpeted cabin perched on top of the wagon and wait for the right deer to walk by.

“My dad is 82 years old and can’t run around the woods like he did when he was young. Yet I want to keep him hunting as long as he can. Our mobile hunting cabin helps do that,” says Marshall Lund. “We made it mostly from odds and ends. We can pull it with an ATV when necessary.”

The cabin is insulated with paneled walls,



Converted gravity wagon makes hunting a comfortable pastime for Marshall Lund and his 82-year-old dad.



Two strips of electric fence tape, positioned at 6 and 10 in. off the ground, keep raccoons out of Kenny Thomas’s sweet corn.

Electric Tape Keeps Raccoons Out Of Corn

Electric fence tape - the kind often used on horse farms because it’s more readily seen by horses - also works good to keep raccoons out of Kenny Thomas’s sweet corn.

The Taylorsville, Ill., man grows one acre of sweet corn every year. He uses two strips of 1/2-in. wide electric tape, positioned at 6 and 10 in. off the ground. He uses an ordinary fence charger in his shop to keep the wires hot.

“I like electric tape better than ordinary aluminum fence wire because it isn’t so brittle, and it’s much easier to work with,” says Thomas. “I take the fence wire down every year so I can get tillage equipment in.”

“Electric tape is so flexible, and I can keep using it year after year. Once a raccoon

touches it he learns his lesson and won’t return. I spray Roundup around the wire a couple times a year to keep weeds down.”

Some producers also use electric fence tape to turn away deer. Matt Millburg, Nokomis, Ill., says he’s had good luck keeping deer out with electric tape because the deer can see it.

Matt says he installs his electric fence tape about chest high. At that height deer will see it and not run into it. These animals don’t easily see ordinary bare electric fence wire when they’re running at full speed.

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Wagon Converted Into Portable Deer Stand

“I wanted an elevated tree stand so I found an old gravity flow wagon and converted it,” says Max Dunlap, Zearing, Iowa, who used 2 by 4’s, sheet metal, and plywood to do the job.

The wagon is equipped with a plywood subfloor that provides room to stand and shoot through six 1-ft. sq. sliding plexiglass windows, which are built into the sides of a tall metal enclosure that sets atop the wagon. The walls are insulated, with heat provided by an LP propane heater. There’s a hinged plywood door on front.

“It’s really handy. I use a pickup to move it around and set it in place about two weeks before the beginning of the deer hunting season so deer will get used to it,” says Dunlap. “I built it because I got tired of sitting in the cold when hunting deer. Another advantage is that when the deer hunting season is over I don’t have to tear anything down like I would with a commercial deer hunting stand.

“I built it mostly from scrap metal and wood left over from a previous building project.”

He started with an old Parker 300-bu. gravity flow wagon and installed the plywood subfloor about 1 1/2 ft. from the top of the wagon where the wagon box starts to taper down. To build the floor he bolted a 2 by 4 frame around the inside of



Max Dunlap used 2 by 4’s, sheet metal, and plywood to make this portable deer stand on an old gravity flow wagon.

the wagon, screwed stringers across it, and then screwed plywood onto the stringers.

The metal enclosure is screwed to a wooden frame that’s bolted to the wagon’s sides.

“Deer don’t pay any attention to the wagon. I’ve even seen them walk right up and step over the tongue,” says Dunlap. Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Max Dunlap, Max’s Auto, 73962-130th St., Zearing, Iowa 50278 (ph 641 487-7733).

a propane heater, a folding bunk bed, an office chair on rollers, and even a kitchen cabinet. There are sliding windows on 3 sides and a door on the other.

They used 2 by 4’s to bolt a subframe onto the inside walls of the wagon and laid two sheets of plywood over that, about 3 ft.

from the top edge of the wagon.

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Generator at left direct-drives alternator. Genset at right has a belt drive.

“Made It Myself” Genset Powers Up Off-Grid Home

A couple of homemade gensets are all Joe Ferro needs to keep his off-grid battery packs topped off. Ferro has a small 105-watt solar panel, but sometimes it doesn’t provide enough power to run home appliances and lights on a sunny day.

“If it’s a cloudy day or snowy or when it’s really hot and we are running fans, the battery pack runs down fast,” says Ferro.

That’s when he fires up what he calls his Type III genset. It’s a 5 hp Honda with a direct drive 12-volt alternator. It’s three years old and has more than 4,000 hrs. on it. It’s more than enough to keep the house’s battery pack topped off. Power is fed through a 750-watt inverter.

Ferro has a second belt-driven system he calls his Type II to power the shop. It’s 6 years

old and has more than 14,000 hrs. on it.

“I have a 5,000-watt generator I fire up for welding, but otherwise the small one handles band saws, drill presses, lights and such,” says Ferro. “I am a big believer in not creating more electricity than I need at the time.”

In fact, Ferro figures the 5 hp Hondas are bigger than he needs. He never runs them at more than high idle. At that rate, they will run 6 hours on two quarts of fuel. If Honda still made 4 hp motors, he would’ve bought them instead.

“Why burn more fuel than you need to?” he says.

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