



Jack McGee made this chicken plucker out of treated plywood, 12-in. pvc pipe, and parts from disassembled squirrel cage blowers.

## Home-Built Chicken Plucker Works Fast

Jack McGee couldn't justify a commercial chicken plucker for his family's small flock. So he made his own with wood and other scraps he found around his Lake City, Mich., farm.

His model is a copy of a commercial model. "I had treated plywood and 2 by 4 scraps, and the white top is a 12-in. food grade pvc pipe, heated and flattened out," McGee says, explaining the chickens are placed on the pvc and never touch the treated wood.

The drum is also a piece of 12-in. pvc pipe with the ends of disassembled squirrel cage blowers. The drum spins on a 1/2-in. steel shaft secured on the outside of the wooden unit with bushings and metal pieces from the blowers. McGee purchased plucking fingers (\$1.30 each) from Cutler's Pheasant Poultry and Beekeeping supply, Inc. ([www.cutlersupply.com](http://www.cutlersupply.com)). They snap in place in the 3/4-in. holes he drilled into the drum.

He wired a waterproof electric box and uses a 3/4 hp Wagner water pump motor to turn the drum.

"I adjusted pulleys – 1 3/4-in. pulley on the motor and 4-in. pulley on the drum – to get the right speed," he says. "The feathers just shoot out of there up to 5 or 6 ft."

Once set up it only takes a few seconds per chicken to pluck the feathers clean. After he's finished, McGee hoses the unit down to clean it up. He stores it in an outbuilding, and the plucker is in like-new condition after 5 years of use.

"It works very well, and it didn't cost much," McGee concludes. "It's really nice for a small flock."

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K 501 Kile Thresh Bar



K 502 Kile Thresh Bar



K 506 Kile Thresh Bar

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**Reader Inquiry No. 29**



## Self-Propelled Spreader Picks Up Manure

A Belgian company that custom-builds one-off machines recently unveiled this self-propelled, self-loading manure spreader designed to clean out barns and feedlots.

A big metal auger pulls manure onto

a center-mount conveyor that moves it up under the cab and back into a spreader on back of the articulated rig. Vertical beaters spread manure out the back.

Contact: Bemad sprl (ph 011 32 67 84 27 85; [www.bemad.be](http://www.bemad.be)).