

A Convertible Poultry Shelter House

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Shelter Houses Mean Healthier Pullets.—Range and good pasture for pullets take on a new importance in our war production effort. Stunted, under-developed, and under-nourished pullets grown in over-crowded, hot brooder houses will not make efficient egg producers.

In recent years we have come to rely to a large extent on fish oils for vitamin A. So important is this vitamin in human nutrition that it has become necessary to limit the amount of fish oil that may be used in poultry rations.

Fortunately, pasture crops, if they are tender, green, and succulent provide vitamin A in adequate amounts. This means that every poultryman is interested in devices which will get his pullets out on good pasture.

Old ranges are usually infested with parasites. New, clean ranges are important in controlling both worms and coccidiosis.

Shelter Can Be Converted for Brooding.—The shelter house illustrated in Figure 1 is so planned that it can be used with open sides and ends for hot weather, or it can be enclosed, as is shown in Figures 2 and 3, for early pullets. And, by further enclosing the front end, it can be pressed into service as a brooder house.

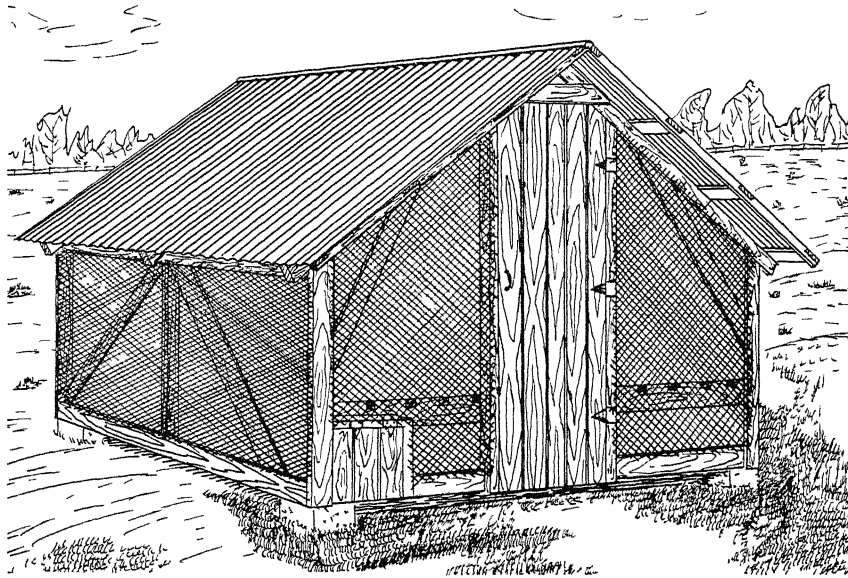


Figure 1—Convertible shelter with sides open for summer.

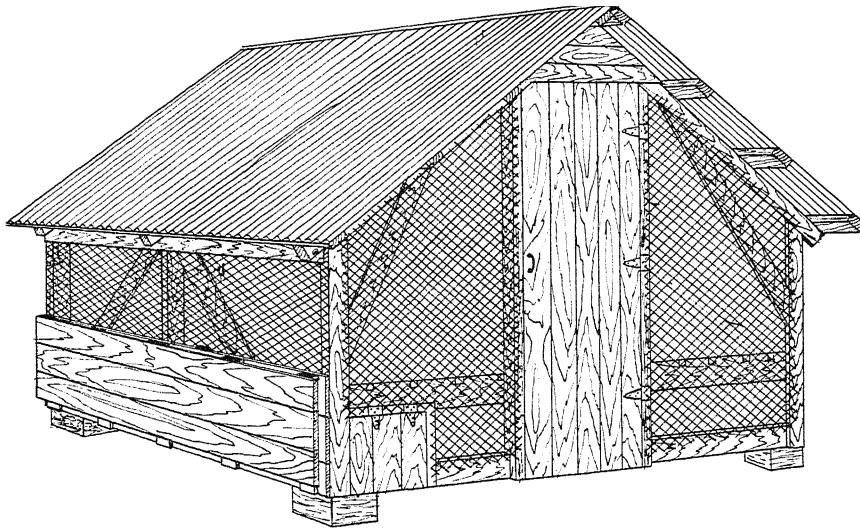


Figure 2.—Convertible shelter showing methods of hinging sides for cold weather protection.

Flooring the Shelter House.—If the building is to be used only as a shelter for pullets, after they are weaned from heat, a wire floor under the roosts will prove most satisfactory. For this purpose, a 1-inch mesh 16-gauge fox fencing or a 1x2 inch welded wire will prove satisfactory.

A section of wooden flooring through the center of the shelter adds rigidity and makes working in the house more convenient. This section of floor also provides a convenient place for feeders when pullets are first put out on range. If the shelter is to be used for brooding, a permanent wooden floor can be used, or the wire sections under the roosts can be covered by a temporary floor. Some poultrymen have filled the space between the ground and the wire floor with sand when shelters were used for brooding. If wire flooring cannot be obtained, cover the entire area with wood.

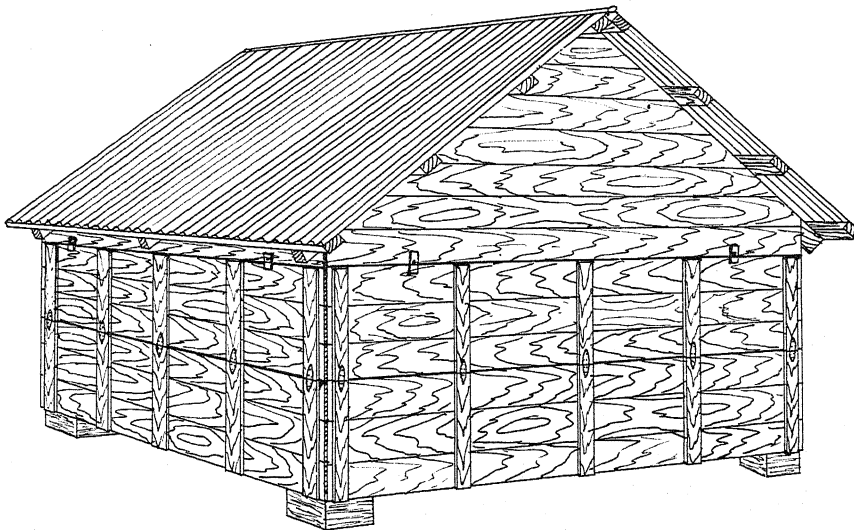
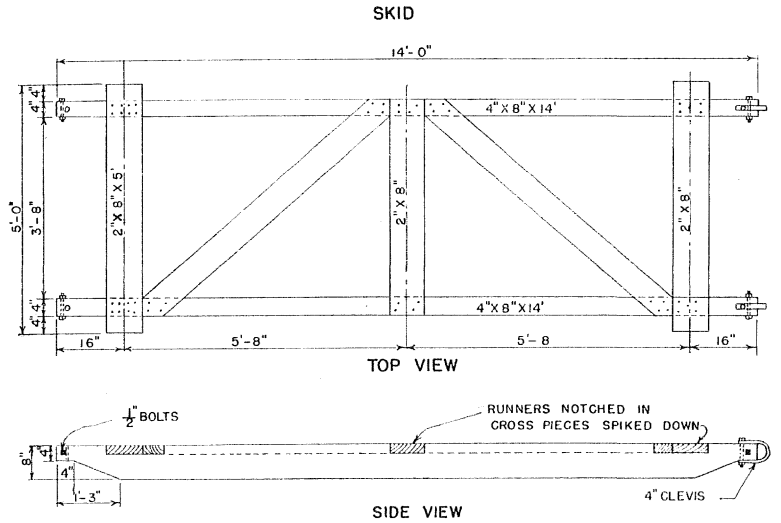
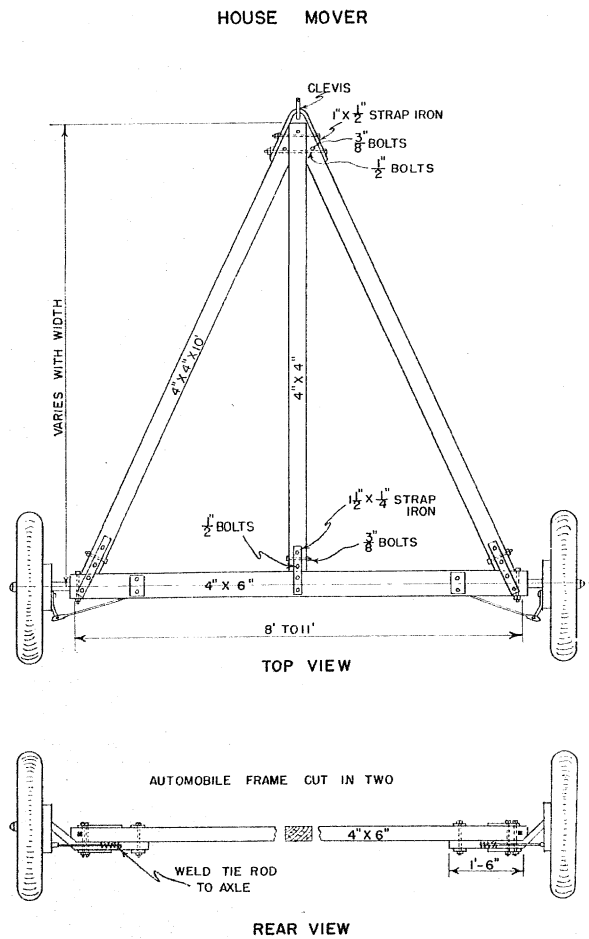


Figure 3.—Convertible shelter (rear view). One end and two sides are closed for early season use on range. If house is to be used for brooding, the front end could also be enclosed.



HOW TO LOAD HOUSE ON WHEELS

1. JACK UP FRONT END OF HOUSE AND PLACE BLOCKS "B" UNDER THE TWO FRONT CORNERS.
2. JACK UP REAR OF HOUSE AND PLACE BLOCKS "A" CLOSE TO CENTER OF HOUSE SO THAT HOUSE JUST BALANCES.
3. PUSH WHEELS UNDER REAR OF HOUSE UP TO BLOCKS "A".
4. REMOVE BLOCKS AND HITCH TO TRACTOR.

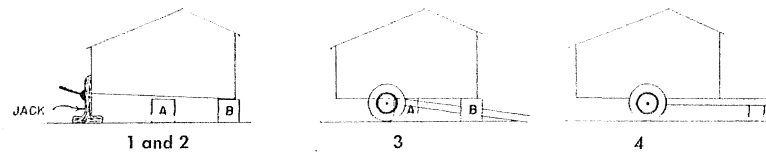


Figure 4.—A set of detached skids and a wheeled mover. They may be used to move any portable farm building.

Moving the Shelter.—The shelter as illustrated is shown without skids. Figure 4 shows separate skids and a wheeled mover that can be used with this and other portable farm buildings. If desired the building may be set on permanent skids, which should be 4x6-inch weather resistant wood, such as white oak, catalpa, or osage orange.

Shelters should be moved when the pasture becomes depleted or when a better pasture can be provided in other areas of the farm. If a highly productive pasture program is in operation, the pullets may be moved to new clean pasture areas by simply moving the feeders each day. (See Poultry Pointers No. 62, February, 1942, "Pastures for Poultry," which may be obtained from the Poultry Department, The Ohio State University.)

Money can be saved and vitamin-rich feedstuffs conserved by removing all the alfalfa leaf meal, vitamin D concentrate, and milk or whey from the ration while the pullets are on good pasture. Rations for feeding on good pasture are given in Poultry Pointers No. 62.

Shelter Is Designed for Lightness and Convenience.—As illustrated, the shelter has 4-foot side walls securely braced to give the building rigidity without adding any more weight than is necessary. The shelter as illustrated without the sides closed in will weigh about 1,000 pounds if built of yellow pine. If full dimension native oak, beach, or maple is used, it will weigh about 1500 pounds. The weight will be about 1100 pounds if native cottonwood, hemlock, yellow poplar or basswood are used. A wood shingle roof will add about 300 pounds to the weight.

Enough head room is provided through the center to overcome the disadvantage of the older, lower type shelters. The roof as shown is constructed with only 3 pairs of rafters with longitudinal 2x4-inch strips to support metal roofing. A wood shingle roof can be used if metal is not available. In this case, 1x4-inch longitudinal strips spaced 6 inches on center would replace the 2x4-inch strips shown in Figs. 2 and 3.

To facilitate quick and easy opening and closing of the sides for changes in weather, the upper half of the side wall and a corresponding section of the back wall are hinged down. This method of hinging prevents much of the difficulty experienced when the doors are hinged at the top and swing out.

If smaller doors are desired, each door may be made in two sections instead of one. If more air and ventilation is desired for hot weather, another section of the gable end may also be hinged in the same manner as illustrated for the sides and back.

The wire for the side walls should be 1-inch mesh hexagonal wire, but owing to the demand for this metal for war purposes, it may become necessary to substitute building lathe for the sidewalls and end.

Capacity of the Shelter.—A 10x12-foot shelter will care for 100 to 125 pullets. Good pasture will provide green feed for from 250 to 350 pullets per acre. An ideal arrangement is a brooder house to carry the chicks up to range age when they can be divided, putting half in the shelter and leaving half in the brooder house.

Using the Shelter for Hens.—On many farms there are good hens which poultrymen will want to keep for later fall laying or to carry over as breeders. By placing nests in the shelter, it will accommodate 50 to 75 hens on range from the time the pullets are housed until cold weather sets in in November or December.

Plans for Poultry Houses Available.—Through your county agent, you can secure complete plans for the shelter house shown in this bulletin. There are also other plans available. The list is given below:

Plan 02706—10'x12' shelter house as illustrated in this bulletin.

Plan 02707—10'x12' gable roofed brooder house with 5 foot sidewalls.

Plan 02705—10'x12' house same as 02707 except has 6 foot sidewalls—suitable for backyard flock of 35 hens.

Plan M-72704—10'x12' shed type brooder house (heavy to move.)

Plan M-72703—16'x36' stationary brooder house.

Plan 09201—House mover with wheels; also pair of detached skids as shown on p. 3.

Extension Bulletin No. 94—Poultry Housing, includes plans and materials on poultry house management.



This year every egg is needed in our war effort—
Raise Healthy Pullets and "Keep 'em Laying."

