

“Hitch Hermit” Stores Ball Hitch Under Rear Bumper

“The Hitch Hermit lets you store ball hitches under your rear bumper, where they’re easily accessible whenever you need them making it much safer,” explains Vern Schroeder, owner, of Carroll, Iowa.

The Hitch Hermit attaches to the crossbar of the hitch assembly under the rear bumper on most pickups, SUV’s, and RV’s. It’s adaptable to most hitch assembly sizes. The patent-pending unit consists of a square metal tube with a pair of stud cables embedded into the top, which wrap around the crossbar to secure the unit.

Installation is easy: you bolt through a pair of 1-in. long sleeves and simply tighten the nuts.

“It puts your ball hitches under the vehicle completely out of the way to avoid serious leg injuries in adults and head and body injuries in children, which are unfortunately, common occurrences.” says

Schroeder. “Also, it makes it easy to switch ball sizes because the exact hitch you need is assessable. You don’t have to carry different sizes in your cab or in back of the pickup where they can slide around, bang into each other and cause expensive damage. I have two Hitch Hermits on back of my pickup and carry two different hitches with me all the time. I designed 75 to 100 different prototypes before coming up with the final design.”

The only tools needed for installation are two 1/2-in. open-end wrenches. The cables are long enough to fit around many different cross members.

Schroeder says some states have already passed laws that make it illegal to drive with a ball assembly protruding from behind a vehicle. The Hitch Hermit sells for \$29.95 plus S&H.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup,



Hitch Hermit lets you store ball hitches under your rear pickup bumper, where they’re out of the way yet always accessible.

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Reader Inquiry No. 28

Sensor Controls “Chicken Door”

A machinist and an electrical engineer teamed up to create an automatic door to let chickens go in and out of a hen house after they “got tired of feeding the wildlife” when they forgot to shut the door at night.

After looking at wood sliding doors on the market, they decided they could come up with something better.

The Pullet-Shut Automatic Door is made of aluminum so it won’t rot or rust. The door moves on a hinge avoiding the problem of binding slides. It has no switches that can fail – it’s programmed to open and close with a magnetic sensor or an optional photo sensor.

The system runs off a 12-volt battery and programming is simple.

“Hold the magnet over the red circle at the time you want it to open in the morning,” Tony Andric, co-inventor, explains. “That evening hold the magnet over the red circled again when you want it to close, and it’s done. It will open and close every day at those times. Or with the photo sensor, just connect power and it’s done!”

The set times won’t be affected if you use the magnet to open or shut the door anytime such as during a storm. To reset open and close times, simply put the magnet in the red circle for 20 seconds.

The door can be adjusted to open as wide as you want, Andric adds. As a safety feature, if a chicken is in the way when the door is set to close, the door will close a minute later.

Installation is simple. Cut an 11 by



Automatic door is programmed to close at night and open in the morning.

15-in. hole, attach the door with screws through pre-drilled holes in the frame, and hook it up to a battery.

Andric and his business partner, Mark George, are building the door completely from aluminum and sell them for \$180 plus shipping through their website, which includes YouTube video of the door in operation.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Pullet-Shut Automatic Door, 769 Lovers Lane, Lockhart, Texas 78644 (ph 512 995-0058; www.chickendoors.com).

Reader Inquiry No. 29



Barrier Keeps Cattle Out Of Tank

“I wanted to do my best to keep it a clean water source,” says Joel Vaad of the tank he installed on the cattle ranch he manages for the Colorado State University Research Foundation.

The 300-cattle herd was used to drinking out of waterholes, but in one pasture, Vaad needed to set up a tank fed from a spring. To keep cattle from climbing into the tank, he built a triangular-shaped barrier.

He drove two treated round posts on the outside of the tank next to the inlet, which also helped protect the plumbing. He drove in two more posts to create a triangle and then set rough-cut 2 by 10’s on edge on the tank and spiked the boards to the posts.

The simple barrier works well, Vaad says. The water stays clean, and cattle have plenty of room to drink.

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