

Poultry

for small farms
& backyards



Pasture poultry ark

Over the past few years there has been a renewed interest in home poultry production. As the interest in keeping small flocks of chickens has grown, so has the need for small portable chicken coops that allow chickens to have daily access to fresh grass.

One answer to the demand for coops is the pasture poultry ark (Figure 1), a combination of an A-frame shed and the traditional chicken tractor, which is a floorless coop/pen that is moved daily.

The pasture poultry ark is 10' x 4' x 3 1/2' and accommodates 4 to 6 standard-sized chickens or 8 to 12 bantam-sized chickens (Figure 2).

Adam A. Hady



Figure 1. Chicken ark with a breeding trio of standard dark Cornish



Figure 2. A group of Bantam cockerels in the ark, along with a hanging feeder, tucked under the extended area of siding

POULTRY FOR SMALL FARMS & BACKYARDS

The structure features a small coop area with a 4' x 4' floor and a 6' x 4' coop run. The ark is designed with a full door that folds to the ground to make for easy cleaning and access to the bird area (Figure 3). The design features a partial floor, which offers the birds some protection during inclement weather. In addition, both the floor and the solid sides provide extra protection from predators.

If you think the pasture poultry ark is right for your chickens, Figure 4 shows the frame mid-construction, and Figure 5 provides a list of materials you will need and instructions on how to build the pen yourself.

For more information on raising chickens and other poultry, see the **Resources** section on page 4.



Figure 3. The back door folds down, revealing a floor nest, with holes on both sides for easy access to eggs and a portable roost

Figure 4. The ark frame before the wire and siding are added



Resources

The American Pastured Poultry Producers Association (APPPA)
www.apppa.org

Guide to Raising Healthy Chickens (A3858-01) UW-Extension, Cooperative Extension Publishing
learningstore.uwex.edu

Producing Poultry on Pasture (A3908-01) UW-Extension, Cooperative Extension Publishing
learningstore.uwex.edu

Range Poultry Housing
National Sustainable Agriculture Information Service (ATTRA)
attra.ncat.org/publication.html#livestock

Richland County poultry and rabbit page
UW-Extension, Cooperative Extension
Richland.uwex.edu/ag/Poultrylinks.html

UW-Extension, Cooperative Extension and University of Wisconsin Poultry–Animal Sciences page
www.uwex.edu/ces/animalscience/poultry/

Educational Resources page
www.uwex.edu/ces/animalscience/poultry/resources.cfm



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