

PORTABLE HOG COTS

By C. H. Jefferson and V. A. Freeman

FILE COPY
DO NOT REMOVE

PORTABLE HOG COTS offer many advantages as compared to the large, stationary hog houses. Experience at the Michigan State College has proved the following advantages:

1. **Better sanitation.** The portable cots can be moved to new pastures that are free from worms and disease infection so dangerous to young pigs.
2. **Lower cost of construction per animal housed.**
3. **Portable units can be built as needed and a large outlay of cash is not necessary for buildings with which to start in the hog raising business.**
4. **The cots can be located so that the sows are required to take exercise in winter.**
5. **Pigs squealing in one nest do not disturb the other sows as they would in a central farrowing house.**

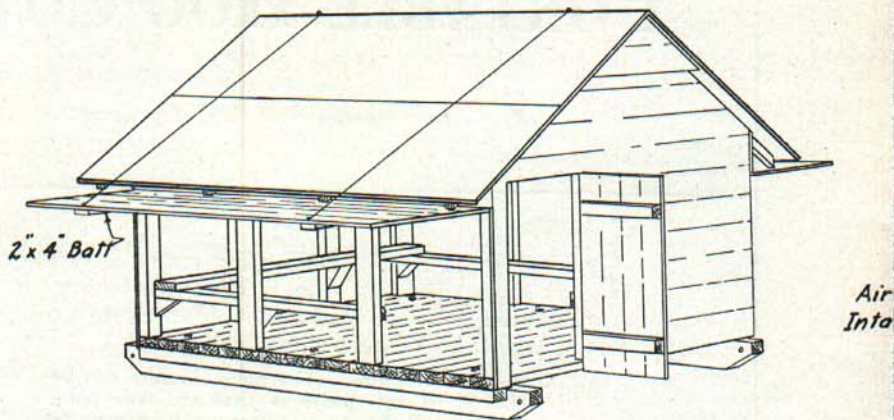
Average results of tests with growing shoats in winter conducted at Michigan State College, comparing the portable cots with the central houses, are shown in the following table:

	Ave. Daily Gains	Feed for 100 lb. Gain
Pigs housed and fed in a central house	1.31	413.4
Pigs housed in a portable cot and fed in the open	1.39	404.2

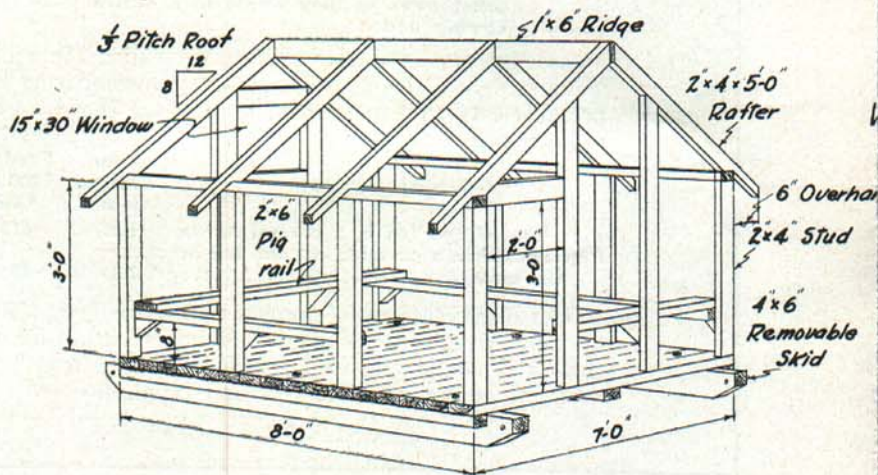
The disadvantages of movable cots are few. They are less convenient for the attendant in caring for the sows and young pigs at farrowing time. There is no room in the cots to store feed and supplies.

MICHIGAN STATE COLLEGE :: EXTENSION DIVISION

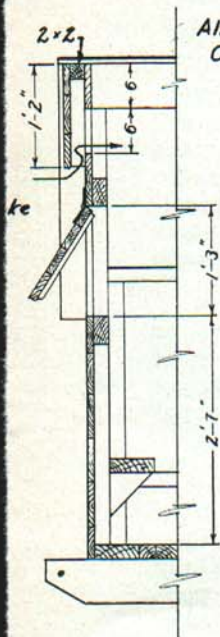
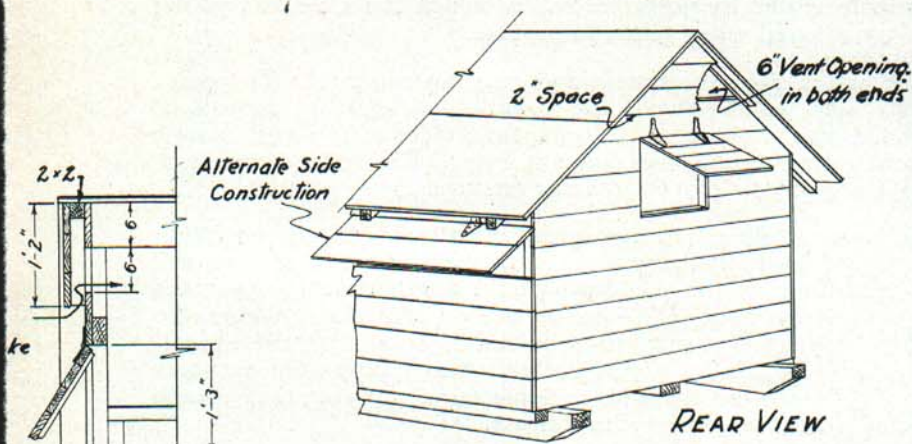
EAST LANSING



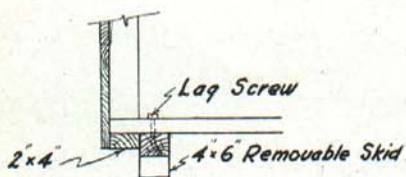
ASSEMBLED HOG COT



FRAMING DETAILS



VENTILATOR & DOOR
Scale 1"=1'-0"



REMOVABLE SKID
Scale 1"=1'-0"

BILL OF MATERIALS			
USE	PCS.	SIZE	MATERIALS
Runners	2	4x6x10-0	
Floor Girts	2	2x4x8-0	
Floor "	1	2x6x8-0	
Floor	17	2x6x7-0	
Studs	4	2x4x12-0	
Plates	1	2x4x16-0	
Rafters	4	2x4x10-0	
Ridge	1	1x6x8-0	
Pig Rails	2	2x6x16-0	
Headers	1	2x4x12-0	
Siding	140bdft	8'	
Roof Boards	80bdft	8'	
Roofing	90 a'		
Hinges	5 pr	4" Strap	
Hook & Eyes	4 Sets		
Nails	5#	20 d	Common
"	3#	16 d	"
"	5#	8 d	"
Paint	1	Gal	Color
MICHIGAN STATE COLLEGE AN. HUSB. AND AG ENGR. DEPTS. EAST LANSING, MICH.			
MOVABLE HOG COT			
Planned	C.H.J.	App By	SKM
Drawn	H.S.O.	Date	3-22-39
Traced	H.S.O.		Sheet 1 of 1
Checked	V.A.F.	Scale	Noted
			No. 72611-13

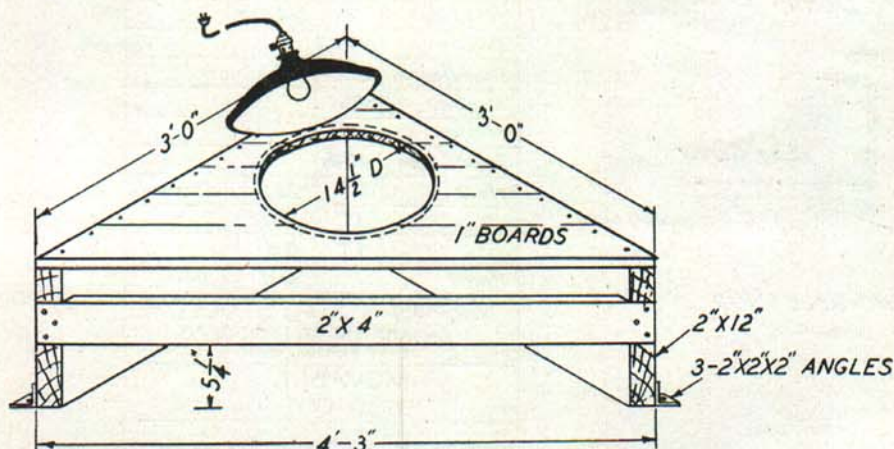
Anyone starting into the hog business on a small scale can build portable cots according to his needs and expect as good results as though he invested much more in a large central hog house. For a large herd the most convenient housing system includes a central house for farrowing, and winter feeding of shoats. The central house should be supplemented by portable cots to which the sows and young pigs can be transferred when taken to pasture.

The cot shown in Fig. 1 is simple and easy to construct. The gable roof and low side walls reduces the volume so that the cot can be warmed by the animal heat of its occupants. Yet it is large enough to accommodate comfortably one sow and litter. The cot weighs about one ton but can easily be moved to clean pasture.

When the house is closed during severe weather, ventilation without drafts is provided by baffled openings near the ridge and at each end of the cot. Additional ventilation during mild weather may be provided by hinging a 6" board under the eave on one or both sides. Where no other shade is available, it may be provided as shown on the accompanying plan with both sides of the cot raised and supported by wires from the roof. To prevent these large doors from warping, they should be constructed with two-inch nailing cleats.

Experience with movable hog cots has shown that the skids or runners must be replaced several times. The plan shown here was designed to simplify this operation. The runners are fastened to the floor of the cot by means of three lag screws on each runner which can easily be removed to install new runners.

If litters are farrowed during cold weather where electricity is available, a pig brooder (Fig. 2) can easily be placed in a corner of the cot, supporting a 14-inch light reflector about 12 inches from the floor. A 100- or 125-watt light bulb supplies enough heat to prevent chilling and attracts the pigs, helping to keep them from being laid on or stepped on by the sow. Two or three boards should be nailed across the corner to prevent the sow from destroying the brooder.



PIG BROODER Fig. 2