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Portable Hog Cots

Michigan State University Extension Service

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PORTABLE HOG COTS

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Portable hog cots offer many advantages as compared to the large, stationary hog houses. Experience at the Michigan State College have proved the following advantages for the portable cot:

1. Better sanitation. The portable cots can be moved to new pastures that are free from worm 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.

Portable hog cots when used to house growing shoats in winter, give as good results as the larger, central houses. Average results of tests conducted over a period of two years at Michigan State College, comparing the portable cots with the central houses, are shown in the following table:

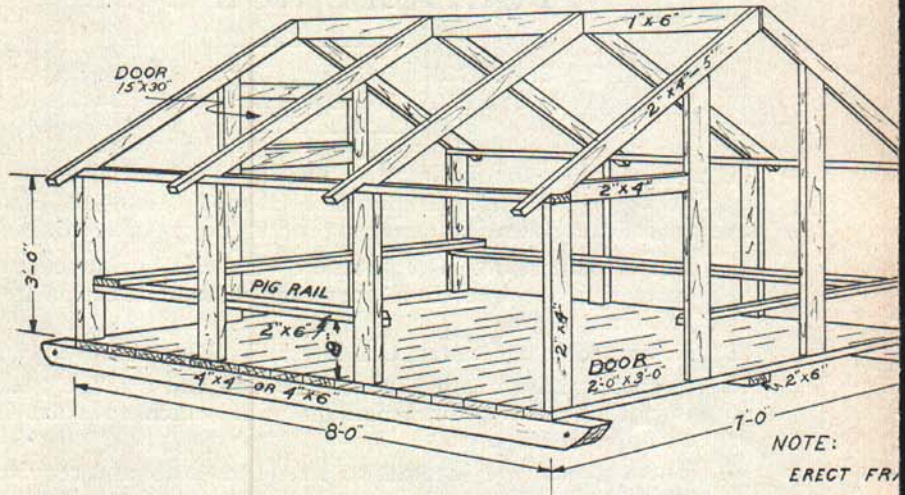
	Average daily gains	Feed for 100 lbs. gain
Pigs housed and fed in a central house	1.31	413.4
Pigs housed in a portable cot and fed in the open	1.39	404.2

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.

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

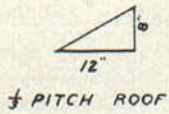
MICHIGAN STATE COLLEGE
Of Agriculture and Applied Science
EXTENSION DIVISION
R. J. Baldwin, Director

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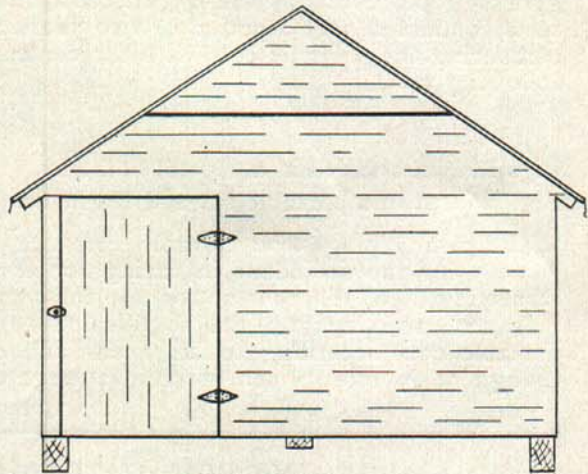


PERSPECTIVE of FRAMING

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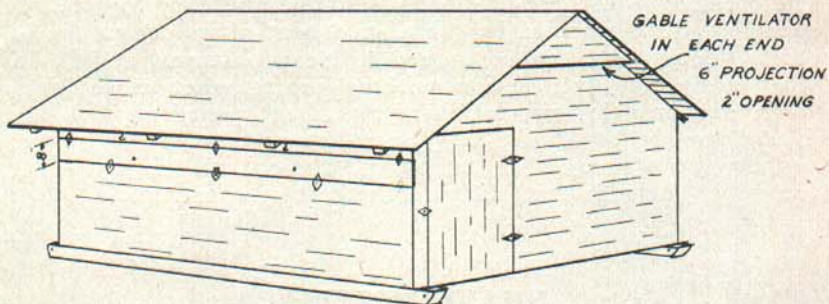


$\frac{1}{2}$ PITCH ROOF



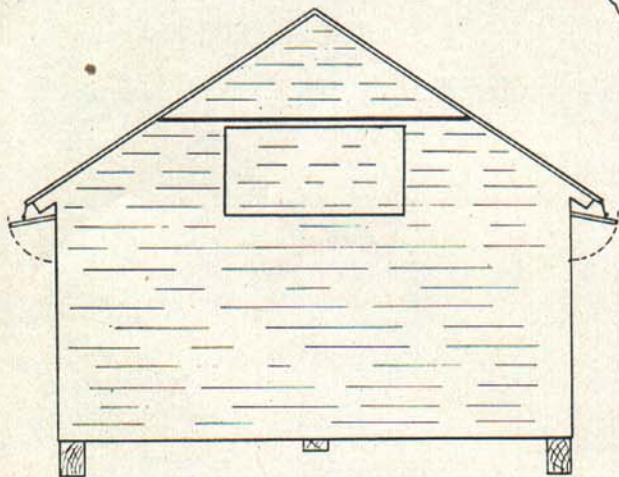
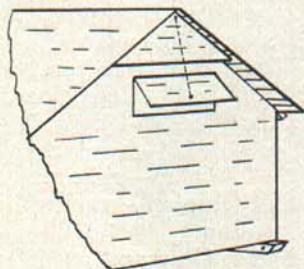
FRONT END ELEVATION

$\frac{1}{2}$ PITCH ROOF



PERSPECTIVES

NAME AFTER THE
RE SPIKED TO



VENTILATOR HINGED
1-EACH SIDE

REAR END ELEVATION

large herd the most convenient housing system consists of a central house for farrowing, and winter feeding of shoats. A small central house supplemented by portable cots to which the sows and young pigs can be transferred will care for a large number of sows.

The cot shown in these drawings is simple and easy to construct, is low enough to be warmed by the animal heat of its occupants, is dry, protects young pigs, can be moved to clean pastures, and is flexible in that it provides ventilation without drafts when closed for cold weather and provides circulation of air when opened for hot weather and used for shade. It is a very satisfactory type of cot for general use where the hogs are to be fed outside the cot. More sunlight would be desirable but adds materially to the cost of construction.

BILL OF MATERIAL

- 2 pcs. 4" x 4" x 10' or 4" x 6" x 10'—runners.
- 140 bd. ft. 2" plank, 14' long—floor.
- 4 pcs. 2" x 4" x 12'—studs.
- 1 pc. 2" x 4" x 16'—plates.
- 4 pcs. 2" x 4" x 10'—rafters.
- 1 pc. 1" x 6" x 8'—ridge board.
- 2 pcs. 2" x 6" x 14'—pig rail.
- 1 pc. 2" x 4" x 12'—headers.
- 130 bd. ft. 8" shiplap—siding.
- 120 bd. ft. 8" shiplap—roofing boards.
- 2 rolls roofing.
- 5 pr. hinges, 4" strap.
- 8 hook and eye latches.
- 5 lbs. 20d, 3 lbs. 16d, 5 lbs. 8d common nails.
- 1 gallon paint.