

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.

“A 12-volt battery and charging solar panel or battery maintainer are also available. Another option is a photo sensor that automatically opens and closes at dawn and dark.

“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 circle 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 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.



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

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Pullet-Shut Automatic Door, 1401 Lovers Lane, Lockhart, Texas 78644 (ph 512 995-0058; www.chickendoors.com).

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NEW for 2015!

“Smart” Tankless Water Heaters

Early model tankless water heaters failed to impress most U.S. consumers. But the latest new “smart” tankless water heaters appear to be changing all that.

“The older ones were more like a barbecue grill where the water ran on top of it,” says Gene Sola, owner of EZ Tankless, based in Earl Park, Ind. “Newer models are more like a fuel-injected car. Units are computerized so they are smarter.”

There’s no pilot light, they self ignite, and the flame adjusts according to water volume. Models in the \$400 range can supply enough hot water for two showers running all day long.

In addition to the natural or LP gas supply, they only require 4 amps at 120V AC to run

the exhaust fan and computer. Installation is easy, too, with a dual-chamber 4-in. forced air intake and exhaust pipe.

EZ Tankless also has battery-ignited outdoor models starting at \$145 for camping, hunting cabins, or other remote areas without electricity.

To ensure the tank’s life of 20 years or more, Sola recommends filtering the water going into it. His website includes detailed information and videos of how to filter water, as well as how to install and maintain the tankless system.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, EZ Tankless, P.O. Box 111, Earl Park, Ind. 47942 (ph 219 369-4781; www.eztankless.com).

Reader Inquiry No. 59



Jim Snell says his computerized EZ Tankless water heater offers many advantages over earlier tankless models.