

Sensor Controls “Chicken Door”

Two engineers who are friends teamed up to create an automatic chicken door. Tony who is an electrical engineer and Mark who is a manufacturing engineer got tired of feeding the local wildlife because they kept forgetting to close the coop door at night.

After looking at wood sliding doors and doors that required massive assembly they decided they could come up with something better.

The guillotine doors were never reliable and always had problems with the pull string, getting off track or out of alignment. So the 2 engineers went to work and the pullet-shut door was developed based on hinge door to your home, always reliable and very low maintenance.

The Pullet-Shut door is made of aluminum so it will not rust, warp or rot. The door is hinged on brass pivots and has stainless steel hardware. It has no switches that can fail. It is programmed to open and close with a magnetic sensor.

You can choose the option to have a photo sensor installed which will open at dawn and close at dark each day. The 12 volt battery and charging systems are all offered as options.

For programming the door hold the magnet over the red circle at the time you want to open in the morning. When



programming the door you can program how far you want the door to open. And then do the same thing that evening when you want the door to close and the door will repeat that everyday afterwards.

The set times are not affected if you use the magnet to open or close the door during the day or night such as during a rain storm or to move the birds.

As a safety feature, if a chicken is outside when the door closes the door will open a second time and give the last bird one last chance to get into the coop before it closes for the night.



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

Installation is simple. Cut a rectangular hole, drill the 4 mounting holes and bolt the door on with the stainless screws provided, hook it to the battery and you're done.

Tony and Mark are building the doors in Lockhart, Texas. The door starts at \$180 plus shipping. Don't forget to check out the options and the other size doors. They make 3 sizes – A large door (for turkeys), A medium door (for chickens) and a small chicken door (for small coops).

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

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New Way To Drill Your Own Well

If you've checked the price of drilling a new well lately, you know you're looking at an expense of thousands of dollars. That's what prompted a pair of Texas inventors to come up with a new do-it-yourself method.

The heart of the system is an air-powered sander/polisher that can be picked up for about \$35. The Bursons removed the handle to fit the power tool inside a piece of pvc pipe. Then they drilled a hole in the back of the sander's housing so air could exit.

With the right selection of “bits” and a compressor that'll put out 16 cfm at 90 psi, they soon had a well drilling rig. Best of all, Burson says, it practically digs the well by itself. Here's how it works:

A small hole is dug and water is added. Then the pipe with the sander and bit inside is inserted into the hole. As air passes up the pipe, it creates a vacuum that pulls in the water and soil to the surface through a hose. After filtering out the solids, the water is returned to the hole.

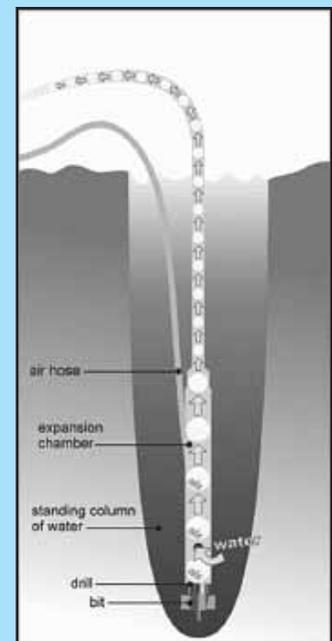
“The most revolutionary idea in the system was using the exhaust air coming out the hole in the sander's housing to remove water and dirt from the hole,” says Burson. He reports using the system to dig wells as deep as 210 feet.

Kits ship with a bit to drill a hole for 4-in. casing, but bits for 6-in casing are available.

The time needed to drill a well depends on the type of soil and the depth needed to find water. In sandy areas of Florida, drilling a well can take as little as a day, while clay and rock can stretch drilling out to a week or more.

Well-Tek sells kits for \$579.95. Plans to build your own kit and an instructional DVD are available on their website for \$29.95 plus \$4.95 S&H. The website also features free videos of the system at work.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Well-Tek, 10758 Highway 155 S., Big Sandy, Texas 75755 (ph 903 576-6800; www.howtodrillawell.com).



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