

Produce your own eggs (Part 2)

Once you know which chickens you want to purchase, the first thing to do is to build a cage for your hens. There are many benefits to a chicken cage. A cage is easy to keep clean and your hens will remain together. It is also easier to collect eggs.

Hens that are kept in a cage have less chance of contracting diseases from other chickens and there is less chance of them being stolen. With a cage, you can see when your hens' drinking water is finished. Feed is not wasted as much as outside. You can also keep good record of your hens' egg production.

Build your own hen cage


To build your own cage you will need: A wire cutter, measuring tape, hammer, hacksaw, pliers, small spanner and marking pen. To house between nine and 12 hens, you will need to build a cage 120 cm long, 70 cm wide and 45 cm high.

The materials needed are galvanised welded mesh (the 25 x 50 mm type), a metal frame to keep the mesh in place, a 140 cm long gutter that you can buy from the cooperative or make yourself. You will also need some plastic 2-litre cold drink bottles, an old hosepipe and some old feed bags. Also buy three drinking nipples from the cooperative.

Start making the cage

- Cut the mesh to the right length of 180 x 120 cm. Bend it until it is flat
- Attach the mesh to the frame with pieces of wire
- Bend the mesh around the frame and use a hammer to keep the edges and corners flat
- Measure and cut the four side panels, two for inside and two for outside. They should each be 55 x 45 cm big
- Cut the second tip of wire off on the two inside panels and also cut three corners off
- Cut every second tip of wire off on the two outside panels
- Fasten the panels to the mesh frame with pliers to form three compartments
- Fasten the outside two panels and cut off the sharp points and edges
- Make a small hole on each end of the gutter and attach it to the cage with wire
- Punch holes into the plastic bottle caps of the 2-litre cold drink bottles and screw in the nipples
- Cut holes in the bottom of the bottles, using a knife
- Pour water into the bottles through the holes at the bottom
- Attach the bottles to the cage in the centre of each of the three compartments with wire
- Cut two lengths of old hosepipe, 200 x 120 cm each, and split the pipes along the end
- Attach the pipes to the cage with wire or cable ties. One pipe must fit over the back edge of the gutter and the other over the top of the cage opening. The pipes will prevent the hens from hurting themselves against the wires.

Your cage is ready and you can house approximately nine hens. Remember when placing down the cage, to slant it slightly forward so that the eggs will gently roll down the slope into an egg tray once they are laid.

In the next edition of *Ubisi Mail*, we will look at how to care for your hens and their eggs. 

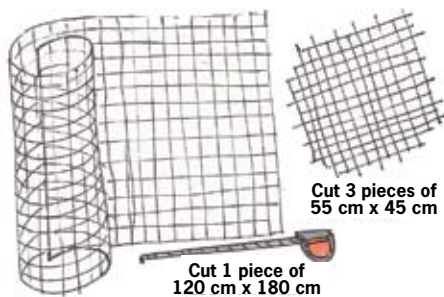


Build a chicken cage

1. Cut the mesh. Cut every second tip of wire off the four panels. Cut three corners off the two inside panels.
2. Bend the mesh around the frame and attach with wire. Fasten the panels to form three compartments.
3. Attach the gutter to the cage.
4. Punch holes into the plastic bottle caps and screw in the nipples. Cut holes in the bottom of the bottles and attach to the cage.
5. Cut the hosepipe and split along the length. Attach to the edge of the gutter and the top of the cage opening.

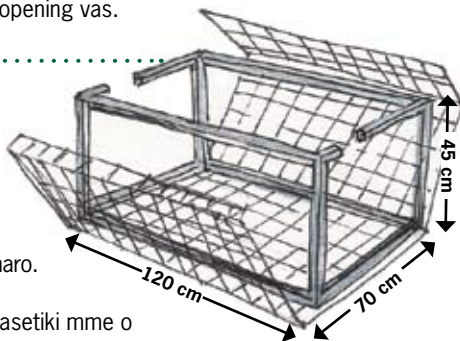
Bou 'n hoenderhok

1. Knip die ogiesdraad. Knip elke tweede draadpunt op die vier panele af. Knip drie hoeke van die twee binnepanele af.
2. Buig die ogiesdraad om die raam en maak dit met draad vas. Maak die panele vas sodat dit drie kompartemente vorm.
3. Sit die geut aan die hok vas.
4. Maak gaatjies in die plastiese bottelproppies en draai die plastiek-tepel in. Sny gate in die onderkant van die bottels en maak dit aan die hok vas.
5. Sny die tuinslang en maak 'n spleet in die lengte. Sit dit aan die geut en aan die bokant van die hok se opening vas.



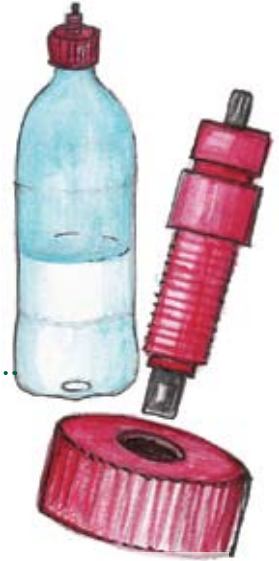
Aha hoko ya dikgoho

1. Kgaola sefe ya letanta. Kgaola ntlha enngwe le enngwe ya bobedi ho tswa dikarolong tse 4 tsa sefe. Kgaola dihuku tse 3 tse ka hare ho dikarolo tsa sefe.
2. Kobella sefe ho potoloha le foreimi mme o e tlamelle ka terata. Tlamella dikarolo hore di etse diphaposi tse tharo.
3. Kenya phaephe hokong.
4. Phunya masoba dikwahelwaneng tsa dibotlolo tsa polasetiki mme o kenye matswele. Phunya masoba ka tlase ho dibotlolo mme o di kgomaretse hokong.
5. Kgaola peipi ya metsi mme o arole pento ya yona. E kgomaretse pentong ya phaephe le bokahodimong bo bulehileng ba hoko.



Ukwakha ihhoko lezinkukhu

1. Sika inethi. Sika ichopho lesibili locingo uwasuse kumaphaneli ama-4. Sika amakhona amathathu uwasuse kumaphaneli amabili angaphakathi.
2. Igobe inethi izungeze ifreyimu bese uyihlanganisa ngocingo. Abophe amaphaneli wenze izindlwana ezintathu.
3. Faka i-gutter (umaligade) ehokweni.
4. Yenza izimbobo ezivalweni zamabhodlela zepulasitiki bese uzikrufela emapayipini anezindawo zokukrufela. Vula izimbobo ezinqeni zamabhodlela bese uzinamathisela ehokweni.
5. Sika i-hosepipe bese uyihlukanisa emachosheni. Inamathisele onqenqemeni lukamaligade nephezulu lomnyango wehhoko.



Yakha indlwana yeenkuku

1. Sika ucingo oluyinethi. Sika ususa incopho yesibini ngasinye socingo kwiiphaneli ezine (4). Sika ususe iikona ezintathu zeeppaneli ezimbini ezingaphakathi.
2. Goba le nethi ujikeleza olu phahla uze uludibanise nocingo. Qhobosha iiphaneli ukuze wenze amacandelo amathathu.
3. Dibanisa indawo yokuhamba amanzi kule ndlwana.
4. Gqobhoza imingxuma kwiziciko zeebhotile zeplastikhi uze ujije kwezi ndawo zijijwayo zezi ziciko. Yenza imingxuma kumazantsi eebhotile uze uzidibanise kule ndlwana.
5. Sika ithumbu lamanzi uze ulikrazule apha ngasekugqibeleni. Dibanisa iziphelo zale ndawo yokuhamba amanzi aphuma kule ndlwana kunye nendawo evulekayo yayo. **UM**

