

# FEEDING PHEASANTS IN WINTER

During normal winters, with food plots and waste grain in crop stubble, feeding pheasants is usually not necessary. However, during severe winters some flocks can benefit from feeding if people have an interest and do it properly.

--- DO NOT place food on the side of the road.

Attracting pheasants and deer to the road is dangerous, not only to them but to the motorist as well!

--- Place food where birds are seen feeding in an open windswept area close to thick cover. A high spot with a southern exposure next to a tree grove, brushy cover or cattail marsh is ideal.

--- Feeder cribs feeders work well by keeping the corn above the snow.  
(see back of this page for ideas/plans)

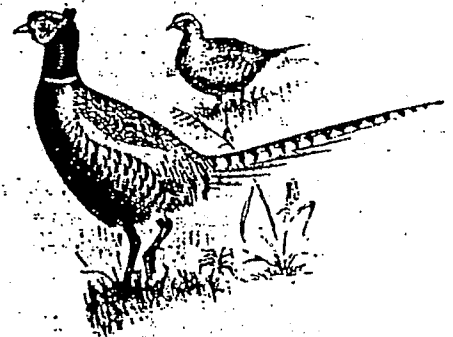
--- If you scatter corn on the ground, start out with a small amount and add to it after the birds have found it. Dumping out all of the corn at the beginning is not only wasteful but it may be buried by snow and never found by the birds.

--- If possible, try to avoid feeding in areas where there are many deer concentrated. If deer discover your feeding site, put out a smaller amount of corn each time but replenish the supply frequently. You may want to start another site in a different location and stop feeding at the first when the birds have found the new one.

--- Once you start feeding, don't stop until the snow melts and the fields are open again. The birds will become dependant on your food. Check your site once or twice a week.

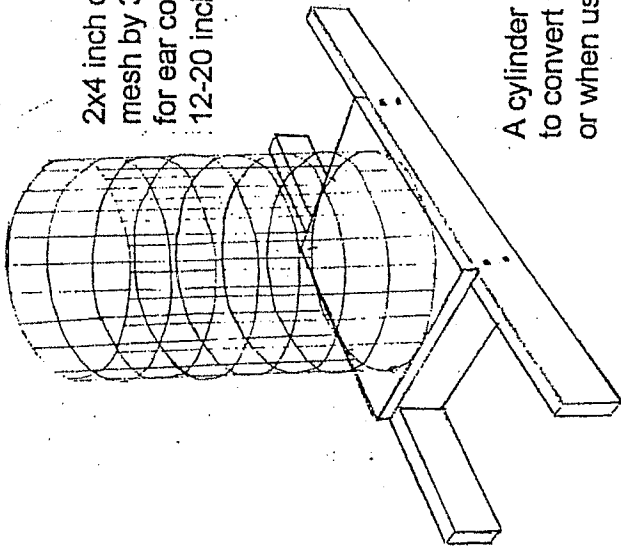
Many pheasants can die from exposure during and after severe winter storms when their cover is blown full of snow. Pheasants need adequate cover to survive harsh winters. This critical cover can be provided by tree plantings with cedar and evergreens; and by preserving wetland areas of cane, cattails and willows.

The best way to provide food is with a planned and managed food plot every year. Cost sharing is available for food plots and woody cover plantings.

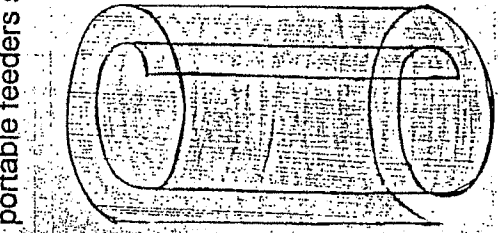


A feeder crib is basically a wire mesh cylinder attached to a stable platform to prevent it from tipping over. Smaller types are shown below with a variety of bases. If used without a platform, secure them to posts, fences or small trees.

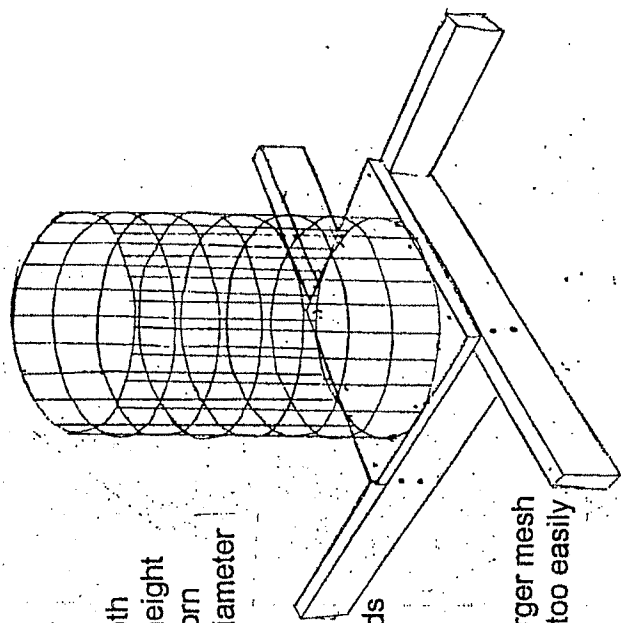
Temporary portable feeders shown below



2x4 inch or larger mesh by 3 feet in height for ear corn. 12-20 inch diameter



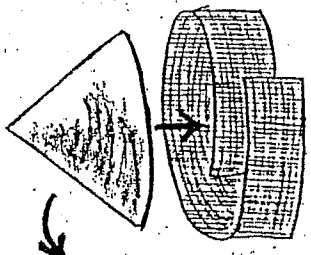
1/2x1/2 inch hardware cloth by 3 feet in height for shelled corn 12-20 inch diameter



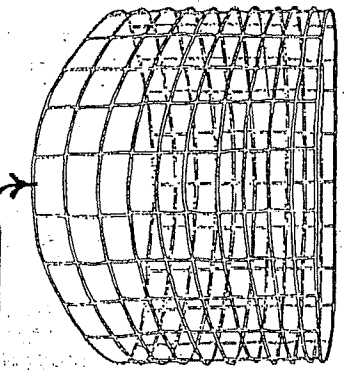
2x4 inch boards and 3/4 inch plywood.

A cylinder of 1/2 inch hardware cloth can be inserted inside larger mesh to convert to shelled corn. Double wrap if kernels flow through too easily or when using cracked corn or screenings.

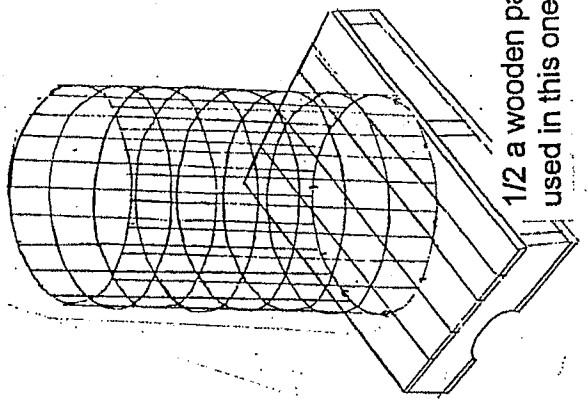
Larger more permanent feeders are shown here.



Clean, large covered barrel for shelled corn. A sheet metal cone inside to force corn outward and wire mesh behind the cut outs.



4 foot diameter cattle panel, hog wire or other woven wire fencing attached to a platform or pallet.



1/2 a wooden pallet used in this one