

# THE COMPLETE FLIGHT PEN CONSTRUCTION MANUAL



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Flight pens are one of the biggest investments you will make for a game bird farm. Here at MacFarlane Pheasants we want to assist you in achieving your goal of having a successful game bird farm. That is why we have put together a set of expert tips to help you design and build flight pens for your game bird farm.

Flight pens need to keep birds in and predators out. The enclosed plans are for a pen that measures 96' x 144', but you may need to modify these dimensions based on the specific needs of your farm. For example, you will need fewer people to drive birds out of a 50' wide pen, so if labor is a concern, consider building a 50' wide pen. But if you use dogs on your farm to drive your birds in and out of their pens, build a 100' wide pen. The diagram below shows a pen that is 96' wide.



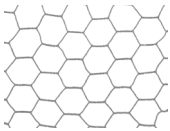
# SITE SELECTION, PREPARATION, AND PLANNING

The area where you build your pens should be well-drained. Avoid building your pens in areas with standing water and wet, heavy soil. Instead, build in an area that has a slight slope and dry, sandy soil.

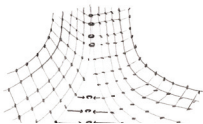
We also recommend building the pen slightly larger than what you need. Building a slightly larger pen does not cost much more and allows you to give the birds more room if they need it. But you will not have that option down the road if you do not initially build a slightly larger pen.

Before you build a pen, review your proposed building area and leave room to expand the pen in case you need to expand it in the future. Utilize the area that you do have and build efficiently. A little forethought at this stage can save you a lot time and money in the future.

## TO BUILD YOUR FLIGHT PEN, YOU WILL NEED:



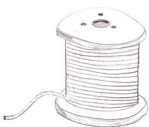
1" hex chicken wire  
(PVC coated or GAW/Galvanized After Weaving)



Heavy-duty tied poly net  
(2" holes for pheasants or 1.5" holes for partridge)



10' pressure treated posts  
(4-6" in diameter)



1/8" galvanized aircraft cable  
(3x7 strand)



2" x 4" x 10' posts  
(to support the netting)



Hog rings



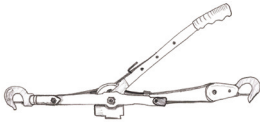
Fence staples



A hammer



Fence pliers



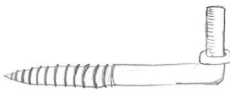
Fence stretcher bar or come-a-long tool



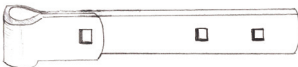
Flagging tape



1" x 6" treated wood boards



6" lag screw hinges

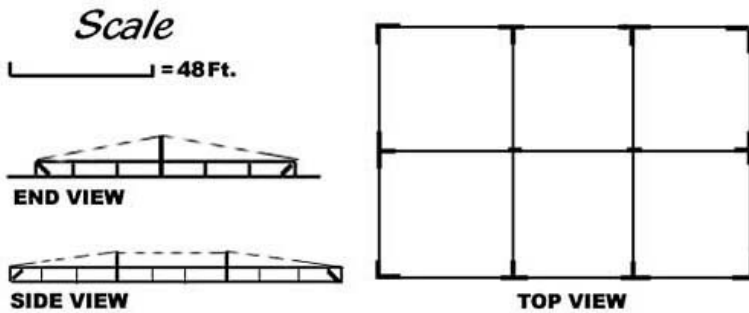


4" galvanized heavy-duty strap hinges

# BUILDING INSTRUCTIONS

## To Build Your Flight Pen, You Will Need To:

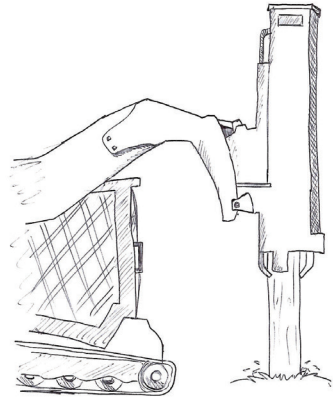
- 1 Pound and set the posts.
- 2 Run the support cable and install the support posts.
- 3 Dig the trenches for the perimeter fencing.
- 4 Hang the divider fencing.
- 5 Hang the lane fencing.
- 6 Hang the perimeter wire.
- 7 Install the netting.
- 8 Build the gates.



The pen schematic above will give you an idea of what it will look like upon completion.

## 1. POUND AND SET THE POSTS.

Space the pen's perimeter posts 10'-12' apart and space the lane and divider posts 12'-15' apart. Measure carefully in setting the four corner posts to ensure the pen layout is square. Run a wire between each post and make a mark on the ground where the posts will be placed. Use aircraft cable between the posts as your marking wire. You can use that same cable on the top of posts for construction.

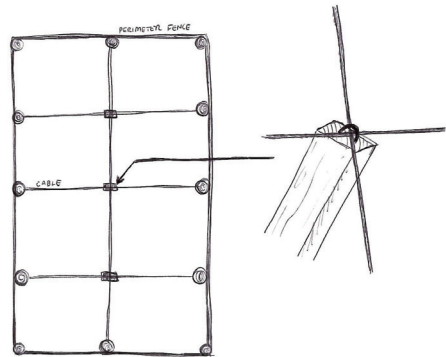


Use a post pounder to drive and set the posts between 3'-4" feet into the ground. If you use a post digger instead, remember to tamp the posts to secure them into the ground.

All posts should be at the same height. Use a stick to ensure all posts are the same height. Top off the posts with a chainsaw as needed.

## 2. RUN THE SUPPORT CABLE AND INSTALL THE SUPPORT POSTS.

Run the support cable across the center of the pen to each side. Install 2" x 4" x 10' support posts at the points where the lines of cable intersect. The pen schematic above indicates where the cable and support posts will be placed.



Use fence staples to secure the cable to the each of the 2" x 4" x 10' support posts. Stand the 2" x 4" x 10' support posts upright until the cable is hand tight. Tighten the cable with fencing pliers until there are no sags in the cable. Do not use a fence puller or come along to tighten the cable. Too much will cause the 2" x 4" x 10' support posts to break.

Run the support cable for the divider and perimeter fences. Run the cable along the tops of the posts and attach with fencing staples. Tighten the cable with the fence pliers in the same way the other support cables were tightened. Too much tension here will cause the end posts to pull in.

### **3. DIG THE TRENCHES FOR THE PERIMETER FENCING.**

Dig trenches 4"- 6" deep in a straight line as close to the perimeter fence as possible. These trenches will be used to bury the wire.

### **4. HANG THE DIVIDER FENCING.**

Place the wire on the same side of the posts as the door is on to aid in herding the birds.

Hang a 4' section of 1" hex chicken wire on each post and secure to the support cable with one hog ring every 10'. Afterwards, attach a 4' section of 1" hex chicken wire to the bottom edge of each 4' section piece of top hanging 1" hex chicken wire to create one 8' section of 1" hex chicken wire fencing between each post.

Use a fence stretcher bar or come-a-long or tool to tighten the 1" hex chicken wire between each post. Secure the 1" hex chicken wire to each post with fence staples. Use a hog ring to secure the top of the 8' section of 1" hex chicken wire the overhead support cables about every 3"- 4". Set the bottom of 8' section the wire straight down into the trench and bury it.

### **5. HANG THE LANE FENCING.**

Follow the same process for hanging the divider fencing.

### **6. HANG THE PERIMETER WIRE.**

Follow the same process hanging the divider fencing EXCEPT bury and flare the perimeter wire towards the outside of the pen.

## 7. INSTALL THE NETTING.

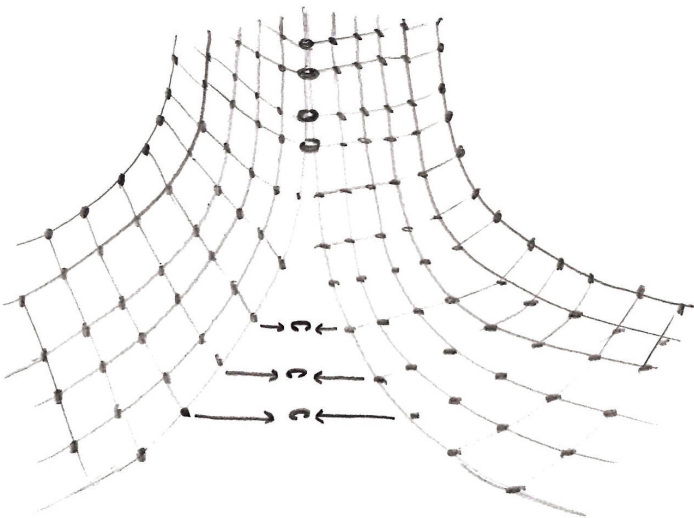
Fasten two pieces of netting together with a hog ring at every hole.

Count 60 holes from the corner of the netting and tie a piece of flag tape to that hole (this denotes a 10' increment). Continue counting holes and marking every 60th hole (10') until you reach the end of the net. Put pieces of flag tape at 10' increments on the fencing in both directions from the corner of each section. Match up the pieces of flag tape on the netting and fencing and secure the netting to the support cables with hog rings.

Stand the 2" x 4" x 10' support posts upright and evenly pull the netting tight to keep it straight and square. Make sure that the lines formed by the knots in netting are straight.

After the netting is stretched, use hog rings to secure the netting to the perimeter posts every 3-4". Cut the excess net from the perimeter and leave 18" of overhang. Use hog rings to secure the overhang to the perimeter fencing every 12".

Attach the netting to the support cables of the divider fencing with hog rings every 3".



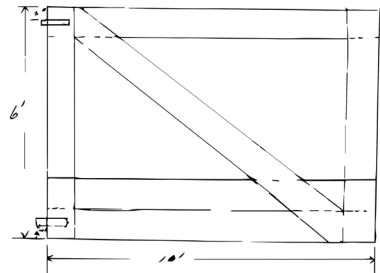
## 8. BUILD THE GATES

Use 1"x 6" treated wood boards to build the gates of your pen. Cover the gates with the same 1" hex chicken wire that you used for your divider, lane, and perimeter fences.

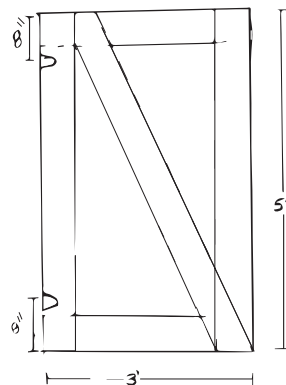
Build two gates instead of only one gate on the perimeter of the pen. Having two gates before being able to access the birds serves as an added layer of security if a gate is ever accidentally left open.

If your game bird farm is located in a region that gets snow during the winter, hang the gates 6" to 12" above the ground to account for snow accumulation. Place a "kicker" at the bottom of the gate that can be removed when needed. The kicker should fit tight with the gate.

This gate measures 6' high by 10' long. Use 6" lag screw hinges to attach the gate to the posts. Use a safety latch to keep the door closed and prevent the birds from hitting the latch and opening the gate accidentally.



This gate measure 5' high by 3' long. Use 4" galvanized strap hinges to attach the gate to the posts. Again, use a safety latch to keep the door closed and to prevent your game birds from forcing the gate open.



## **WHERE TO FIND PRODUCTS:**

MacFarlane Pheasants is a dealer for some of the materials needed. Feel free to call if there is a special order product that you need. Otherwise, standard products can be found from the vendor list below.

### **3T Products – wire/net/rings/ringers**

E mail: [sales@3tproducts.com](mailto:sales@3tproducts.com)

Phone: 866-439-4660

### **Louis E. Page - wire**

E mail: [sales@LouisPage.com](mailto:sales@LouisPage.com)

Phone: 800-225-0508

### **Pinnacle Chain and Cable – aircraft cable and fencing supplies**

E mail: [pincable@yahoo.com](mailto:pincable@yahoo.com)

Phone: 877-288-0149

### **Endurance Net – netting**

E mail: [info@endurancenetinc.com](mailto:info@endurancenetinc.com)

Phone: 800-808-6387

### **J.A. Cisel Mfg. Co. – netting**

E mail: [tim@staneknetting.com](mailto:tim@staneknetting.com)

Phone: 800-631-2234

### **King Hughes Fasteners – ringers and rings**

E mail: [sales@hogrings.com](mailto:sales@hogrings.com)

Phone: 800-779-3762