T. FOUTS.

ANIMAL FEEDING DEVICE.

APPLICATION FILED MAY 24, 1916.

1,233,213

Patented July 10, 1917.

FIG. 1.

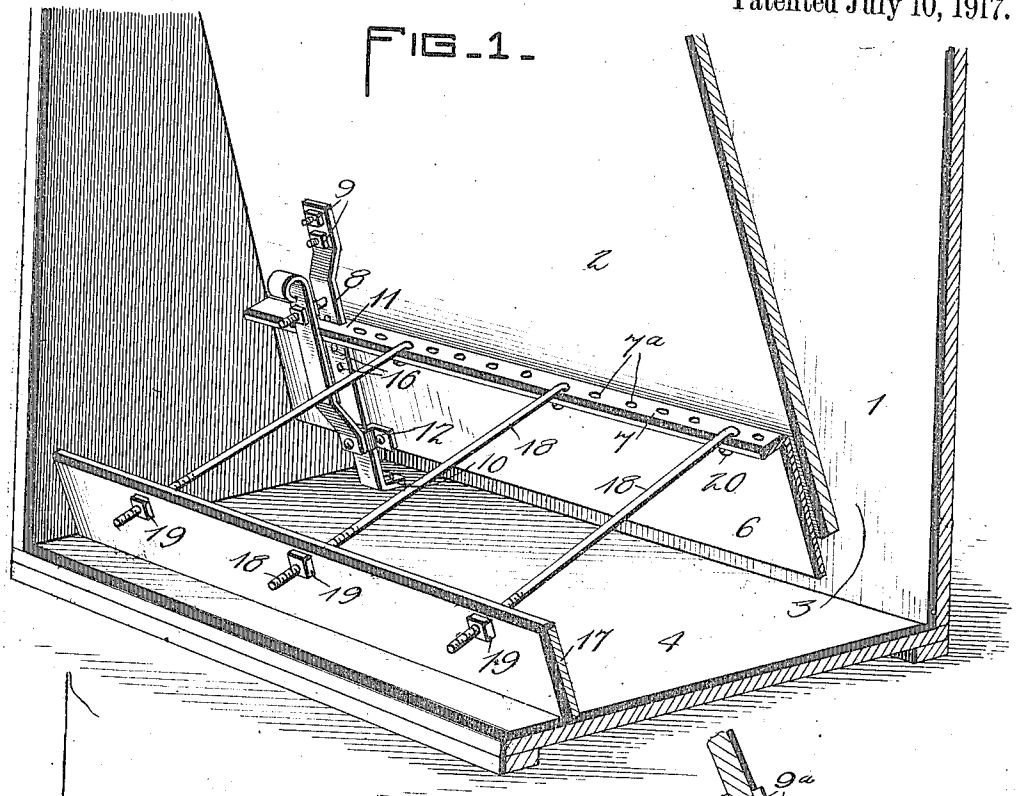


FIG. 2.

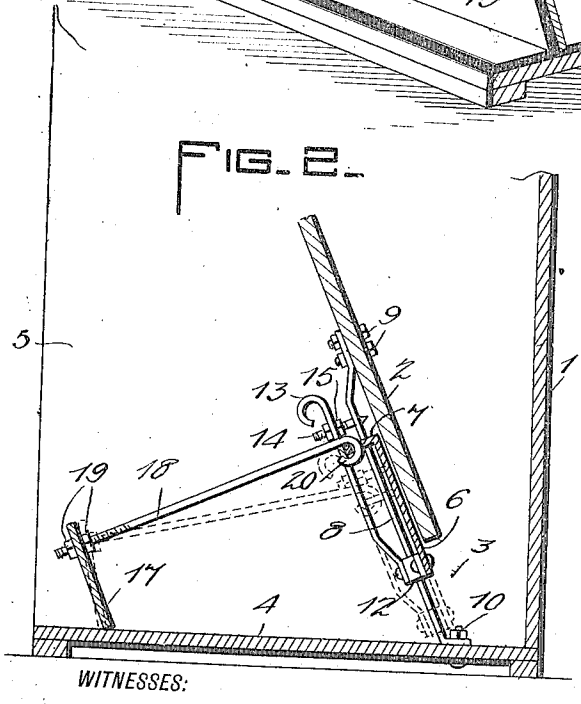
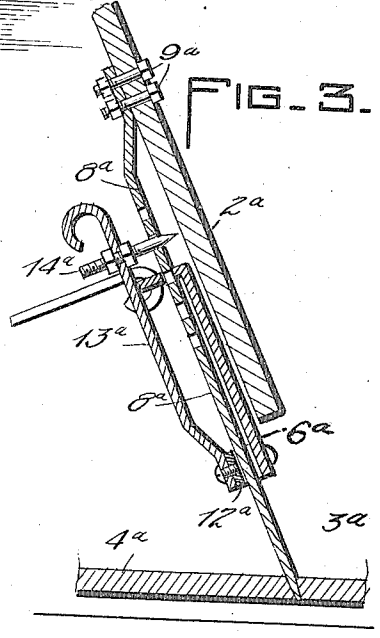


FIG. 3.



WITNESSES:

John K. Phelps Jr.

C. E. Sprinkle

INVENTOR

TAYLOR FOUTS

BY Munn & Co.

ATTORNEYS

UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

TAYLOR FOUTS, OF CAMDEN, INDIANA.

ANIMAL-FEEDING DEVICE.

1,233,213. Specification of Letters Patent. Patented July 10, 1917.

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To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, TAYLOR FOUTS, a citizen of the United States, and a resident of Camden, in the county of Carroll and State of Indiana, have invented a new and useful Improvement in Animal-Feeding Devices, of which the following is a specification.

My invention is an improvement in animal feeding devices, and has for its object to provide a device of the character specified for permitting the self feeding of animals, wherein a feed regulating plate is provided for connection with a bin or the like having a lateral opening and connected to the bin in such manner that the width of the feed opening may be varied, together with a retaining plate for preventing wasting of the feed and the entrance of foreign bodies, the plate being adjustably connected to rods which are hinged to the feed regulating plate in such manner that the retaining plate will be normally held in approximately vertical position and in spaced relation with respect to the feed regulating plate and which may be swung upward out of the way to permit cleaning or the like of the feed table.

In the drawings:—

Figure 1 is a perspective view of the improved device,

Fig. 2 is a transverse vertical section, and

Fig. 3 is a detail sectional view of a modified construction of connecting bracket.

The present embodiment of the invention is shown in connection with a bin consisting of a vertical wall 1, and an inclined wall 2 opposite the vertical wall and spaced apart from the bottom 4 of the bin which serves as a feed board to provide a feed opening 3 for permitting the feed to pass from the bin on to the feed board.

A feed regulating plate 6 is provided, the said plate having at its upper edge a laterally extending flange or rib 7, which is provided with spaced openings 7^a. The board 6 is adjustably connected with the side 2 by means of the brackets shown. Each of these brackets comprises a body portion 8 having its upper end offset inwardly into contact with the wall 2 of the bin, and secured thereto by means of bolts and nuts 9.

The lower end of the bracket 8 is provided with a lateral lug which fits upon the upper face of the feed board 4 and is secured thereto by a bolt and nut 10. The brackets 8 are arranged in inclined position, one at each end of the wall 2, and the flange 7 of the feed regulating plate is provided with slots 11 through which the bodies of the brackets 8 extend. The feed regulating plate is thus mounted for vertical adjustment on the brackets.

A substantially U-shaped bearing clip 12 is secured to the feed regulating plate at each bracket at the lower end of the plate and each bracket slides through the adjacent clip. The clip and the slot 11 thus hold the feed regulating plate in proper position with respect to the bracket.

A latch plate 13 is secured at its lower end to each clip, the said lower end of the latch plate being offset inwardly to fit against the body of the clip, and the upper end of each plate 13 is bent to form a handle as shown. Each plate has a threaded pin 14 at its upper end which is passed transversely of the plate and is held in place by lock nuts 15 on opposite sides of the plate, and threaded on to the pin, and this pin 14 is adapted to engage one of a series of openings 16 in the adjacent bracket to hold the feed regulating plate in adjusted position.

The feed regulating plate 6 is of a length to extend from one end wall 5 to the other, and the feed retaining plate 17 is of approximately the same length. This retaining plate 17 has adjustably connected therewith a series of rods 18, each rod being threaded at one end and passed through an opening in the plate 17 and lock nuts 19 are threaded on to each rod to hold the plate 17 in adjusted position.

Each rod 18 is provided at its opposite end with a hook 20, which is adapted to engage one of the openings 7^a of the rib or flange 7. Thus the feed retaining plate is hinged to the feed regulating plate by means of the rods in such manner that normally the plate 17 will stand in the position of Figs 1 and 2, that is, spaced apart from the feed regulating plate and approximately vertical, while at the same time it may be swung upward against the inclined wall of the pin to permit the feed board 4 to be cleaned.

The distance between the feed regulating plate and the feed retaining plate may be varied by means of the lock nuts 19, and when in adjusted position these nuts will hold the parts in such position. The rods 18 are separated far enough to permit the animals free access to the feed on the board 4.

In Fig. 3 a modified form of bracket is shown. In this form the bracket 8^a is se-

cured to the inclined wall 2^a of the bin by the bolts and nuts 9^a, and the said bracket passes through the slot or passage in the flange or rib of the feed regulating plate 6^a. This plate has the clip 12^a and the latch plate 13^a, and the latch plate is provided with a pin 14^a for engaging the openings in the bracket.

The lower end of the bracket is however, pointed as shown, and is inserted into the material of the feed board 4^a. The lower end of the bracket is thus held against movement in either direction by its engagement with the feed board. In either construction the extent of the opening 3 of Fig. 1 or 3^a of Fig. 3, may be varied by moving the feed plate upward or downward. In order to move the feed plate it is only necessary to disengage the pin 14 or 14^a from the bracket to raise or lower the board.

It will be understood that the improved device is a unitary structure and may be applied to any bin without changing the bin. The device will be made in proper sizes for different animals, and the device is also for chickens as well as for horses, cattle and sheep. The plate 17 not only prevents escape of the feed but prevents the entrance of foreign matters.

It will be understood that the feed device may be attached to a vertical wall as well as to an inclined wall and with equal facility. The feed regulating plate when the device is attached to a vertical wall will be vertical. The brackets 8 are arranged in a plane parallel with the wall to which they are connected. The rods 18 are arranged near enough together to support the plate 17 and effectually interfere with the animals working feed outward and wasting the same.

If desired, the plate 6 and attached parts may be marketed independently of the plates 17 and the rods 18, since the said plate 6 is a complete working device within itself. The brackets 8 not only support the feed plate 6 but brace as well the bin walls. When the feed plate 6 is used alone it is obvious that the opening of the bin may be nicely regulated. When the upper ends of the latch plates 13 are pulled outward to release the pins 14 the outward pull tends to lessen the pressure of the feed against the lower edge of the plate 6, thus making it easier to move the said plate into another position. The latch spring overcomes the handicap of rusty bolts and thumb screws and unworkable parts of other devices.

I claim:—

1. An automatic feed regulator for use with a container having a lateral opening, and comprising a feed regulating plate for connection with the container, means for adjustably connecting the plate to the container for permitting the extent of the feed opening to be varied, said plate having a lateral flange near its top provided with spaced perforations, a feed retaining plate, rods adjustably connected with the plate and extending laterally therefrom and having hooks for engaging the perforations of the flange, said rods being spaced apart from each other.

2. An automatic feeder for use with containers having lateral openings, and comprising a plate, means for connecting the plate to the container at the opening, a retaining plate, a series of rods hinged onto and flexible with respect to the first plate and rigid with the retaining plate and normally holding the retaining plate in approximate parallelism with the first-named plate, said last-named plate being adjustable with respect to the connecting rods.

3. An automatic feeder for use with containers having lateral openings, and comprising a plate, means for connecting the plate to the container at the opening, said plate being adjustable with respect to the said means to vary the extent of the opening, and a retaining plate connected with the first-named plate and supported thereby in spaced relation.

4. An automatic feeder for use with containers having lateral openings and comprising a plate, means for connecting the plate to the container at the opening, a retaining plate, a series of rods hinged to the first plate and rigid with the retaining plate and normally holding the retaining plate in approximate parallelism with the first-named plate.

TAYLOR FOUTS.

Witnesses:
A. A. Cook,
Albert G. Martin.