March 15, 1960 T. J. BAKER 2,928,371

ADJUSTABLE FARROWING PEN ASSEMBLY

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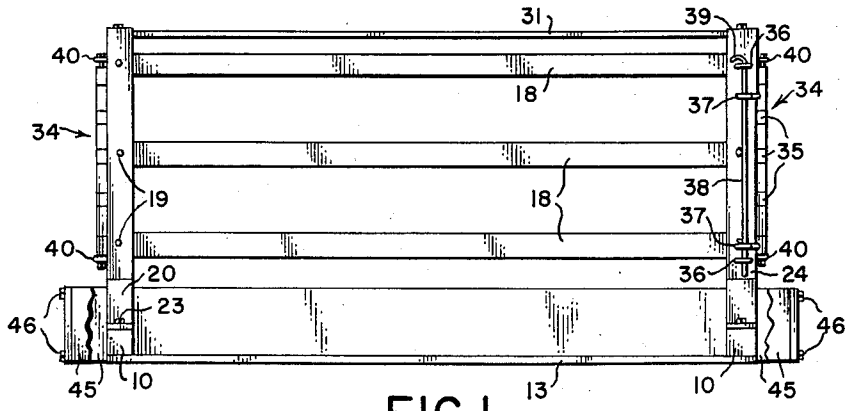


FIG. 1

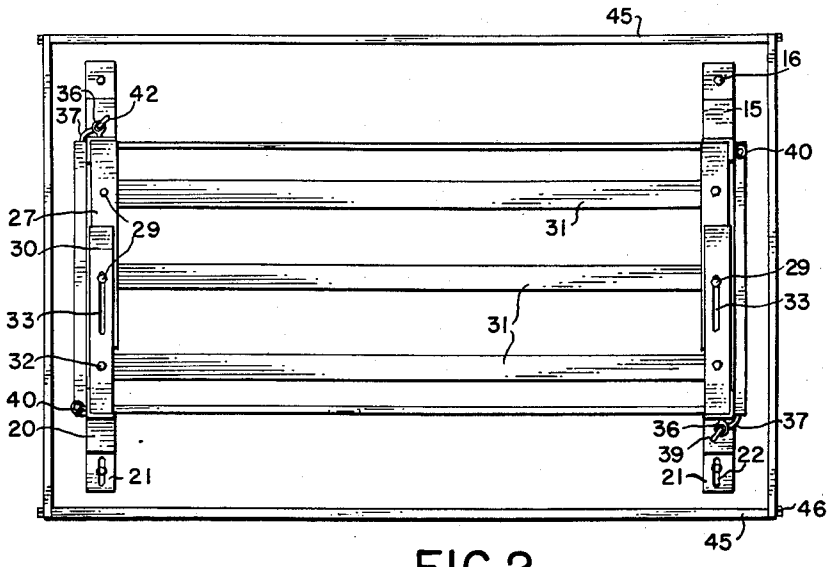


FIG. 2

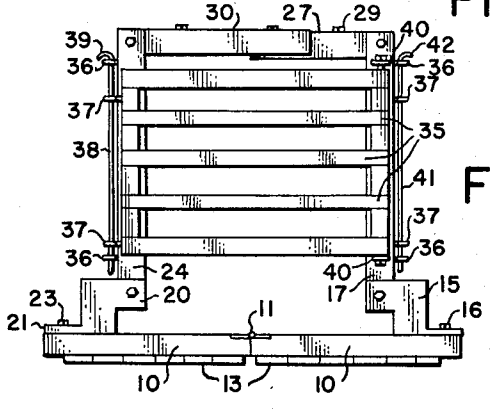


FIG. 3

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ADJUSTABLE FARROWING PEN ASSEMBLY

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2 Claims. (Cl. 119—20)

The present invention relates to the art of animal husbandry, and, more particularly has reference to a housing for a sow which is so constructed that the piglets cannot be injured by the sow.

Of course, I am well aware that housings of this general character have heretofore been provided, but, such prior housings have been rather complex structurally, somewhat difficult to clean and maintain in a sanitary condition and are not adaptable with a minimum of time and effort to be adjusted to the size of the sow to be placed therein.

Accordingly, one of the important objects of this invention is to provide a housing or "sow box" which will overcome the above and other objectionable features now present in the art.

A further object of the invention is to provide a "sow box" which is adjustable in the transverse direction in in an easy fashion to accommodate the sow in question and in which the framing members are so supported that air may circulate freely throughout the box, especially in the area of the bottom of the box to prevent the piglets from being smothered.

An additional object of the invention is to provide a "sow box" which can be at least partially dismounted to facilitate the shipment and storage of the box.

Broadly, the invention comprises a floor, a pair of sides supported by the floor and defined by a plurality of spaced apart slats with the lowermost slat of each side being located a short distance above the floor, a top consisting of spaced apart slats carried by the support for the sides and a closure at each end of the box with each closure being mounted for movement about a vertical pivot to permit access to the interior of the box, the vertical pivots being such that each closure can be removed from the box.

The supporting means for one of the sides and a part of the top of the box is so constructed that such side and part of the top may have limited transverse movement with respect to the other side and remainder of the top to permit the width dimension of the box to be adjusted to accommodate sows of different sizes.

From a study of the ensuing description, further objects and advantages of the invention will become more readily apparent, and, the invention consists in the details of construction and in the arrangement and combination of parts to be hereinafter more fully set forth and claimed.

In describing the invention in detail, reference will be had to the accompanying drawings forming part of this application wherein similar reference legends denote the same or similar parts in the several views and in which:

Figure 1 is a side elevational view of the box.

Figure 2 is a top plan view of the box, and,

Figure 3 is an end elevational view of the box.

As illustrated, the box includes a pair of spaced transverse supports **10**, each of which is pivoted at a location intermediate the ends thereof as at **11** to allow the supports to be swung upwardly into nested relation. A

floor **12** defined by interlocking boards **13** is carried by the lower face of the supports **10**, and, it will be seen that one end of each support extends a substantial distance beyond the floor as shown at **14**, the purpose of which will later become apparent.

It will be seen that an angle bracket **15**, preferably of sheet material is secured by detachable means, such as a nut and bolt **16** adjacent to one of the ends of each of the supports **10** and a vertically disposed angle piece **17** is fixed to the inner end of each horizontal leg of such bracket. A plurality of spaced apart slats **18** extend longitudinally of the floor and the ends of the slats are attached to the outer flange of each of the angle pieces **17** by bolts and nuts **19**. Obviously, other securing means may be used in lieu of the bolts and nuts. The slats **18** form one of the sides of the box, and, it will be noted that due to the angle brackets **15**, the lowermost slat is spaced a substantial distance above the floor **12**. This slat may be adjustable heightwise.

A further angle bracket **20** is provided for the other end of the supports **10** although it can be seen that each bracket **20** is formed with an outwardly directed horizontal portion **21** which overlies the area **14** of the floor support **10** projecting beyond the floor. The horizontal portion **21** is further formed with an elongated slot **22** which permits the position of the bracket **20** relative to the other bracket **15** to be varied and a bolt and nut unit **23** serves to hold the bracket **20** in its adjusted position.

A vertically disposed angle piece **24** is fixed to the inner end of the horizontal leg of the bracket **20** and the ends of a plurality of spaced slats **25** are secured to the outer flange of each of the brackets **20** as indicated at **26**. The slats **25** form the other side of the box.

In order to form the top of the box, the upper end of each angle piece **17** extends inwardly horizontally as at **27** and a horizontally disposed slat **28** is secured at each end thereof to the horizontal portion **27** by a bolt and nut **29**.

The upper end of each of the angle pieces **24** is also formed with a horizontally extending portion **30** which is of greater length than the portion **27** so that the portion **30** overlies the portion **27**. The ends of a horizontally extending slat **31** are secured to the portions **30** by bolts and nuts **32**. In addition, the portion **30** is slotted as indicated at **33** for receiving the head of the bolt of the bolt and nut unit **29**, and, it will be appreciated that this arrangement allows the top of the box to be adjusted when the position of the angle brackets **20** is changed. It is merely necessary to loosen the bolt and nut unit **29** so that the portion **30** may be moved along the portion **27** and when the required adjustment has been effected, the bolt and nut unit is tightened.

To close the open ends of the box, I provide closure members **34** which may be formed of spaced slats **35** or the closure may be solid. Furthermore, one closure may be solid and the other slatted. As previously mentioned, the closure members are pivotally mounted, and, to achieve this end, it will be seen that the outer flange of one of the angle pieces **17** carries a pair of spaced apart eyes **36** and one of the vertical framing elements of the closure **34** is provided with spaced apart eyes **37** adapted to be brought into registry with the eyes **36**. When such eyes are in alignment, a pivot pin **38** is threaded through the eyes and the upper end of the pin is formed with a hook-like element **39** which can engage the uppermost slat **18** to anchor the pin. It is clear that this arrangement allows the closure to swing toward and away from the open end of the box. In order to lock the closure in the closed position, the inner flange of the angle piece **24** at the same end of the box is provided with two ver-

tically spaced eyes 40 and a pivot pin 41 having a hook 42 at the upper end is dropped into the eyes with the hook in engagement with the top slat of the closure member. This holds the closure member closed, and, to permit the closure member to swing, the hook 42 is merely disengaged from the closure slat.

The locking can be effected by having the eyes 40 of such length as to project beyond the outer face of the closure in the closed position whereupon the pin 41 can be threaded through the eyes on the outside of the closure and the hook by contacting the upper eye will maintain the closure in such position. To release the closure, the hook is grasped and the pin withdrawn from the eyes thus allowing the closure to swing about its pivot.

The other end closure may be mounted in a similar fashion, but, I prefer that the pivot for the closure member be carried by the angle piece 24 so that the closure will swing in the opposite direction. Also, the pivot pins 38 can be of such length that the hook-like element engages the uppermost eye rather than the top slat. Hence, it is deemed apparent that the closure members can be quickly and easily mounted on or detached from the ends of the box and the pivotal connections as well as the locking means are simple structurally and can be repaired or replaced without the necessity of employing skilled workmen.

One skilled in the art will see that the box will prevent the sow from placing undue weight on the piglets so as to kill or seriously injure any or all of the piglets and by virtue of the slatted arrangement of the side and top walls of the box, air can readily circulate therethrough and this is particularly true of the bottom of the box. This means that there is little danger that the piglets will smother since the entire area of the box adjacent to the floor 12 is spaced above the floor.

To prevent the piglets from straying from the mother, a railing of substantial height 45 extends about the entire perimeter of the box. The ends of the railing are secured together by bolts and nuts and other suitable means 46 so that the railing can be removed when necessary.

While the floor, slats and closure members are wood, and the supports for the slats, sheet metal, other materials may be used.

The invention is not to be confined to any strict conformity with the showings in the drawings but may be changed or modified so long as such changes or modifications mark no material departure from the salient features of the invention as expressed in the appended claims.

I claim:

1. A sow box comprising a floor having side edges and end edges, a pair of brackets carried by the floor in proximity to each end edge, with each bracket at one edge being in alignment with each bracket at the other end edge, a vertical support secured to each bracket, with each support being spaced above the floor, parallel spaced slats extending between and secured to each pair of aligned vertical supports, with the lowermost slat being spaced above the floor and said supports and slats defining the side walls of the box, one pair of aligned brackets being each provided with an elongated slot therein and a nut and bolt unit cooperable with the slot whereby the vertical supports and slats secured thereto can be moved toward and away from the other brackets, vertical supports and slats to adjust the distance between the side walls, horizontal supports on the top of the vertical supports, a plurality of rails extending between and secured to the horizontal supports and constituting the top of the box, the horizontal support on the top of the vertical supports carried by the bracket having the elongated slot being movable transversely with the movement of the vertical supports and the slats toward and away from the other side wall, means to secure such horizontal support in its adjusted position, and a pivoted closure means for each end of the box.

2. A sow box as claimed in claim 1 wherein the pivoted closure means includes a wall, spaced eyes on one of the vertical supports, spaced eyes on the wall adapted to be brought into registry with the eyes on the vertical support and a pin lodged in the eyes having a hook thereon preventing the displacement of the pin from the eyes.

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