Jan. 9, 1951 H. H. VENSKE ET AL 2,537,494

RABBIT FEEDER

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Fig. 1.

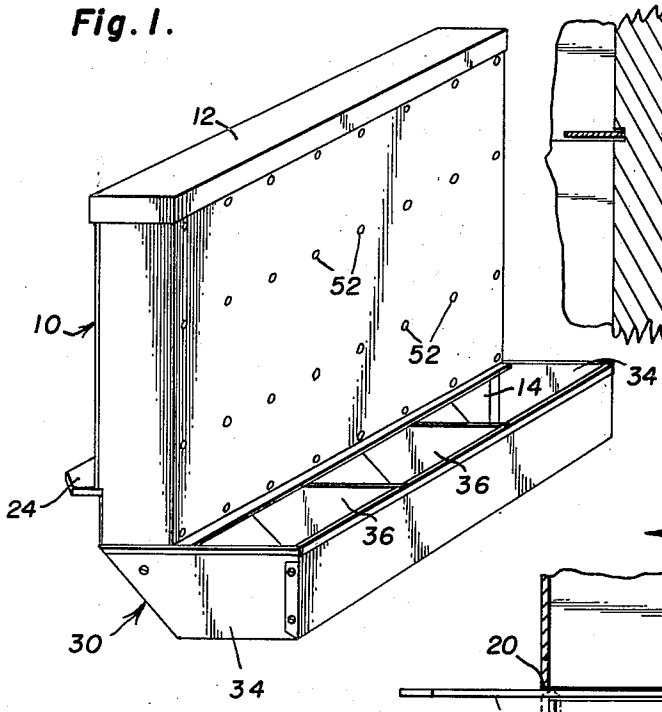
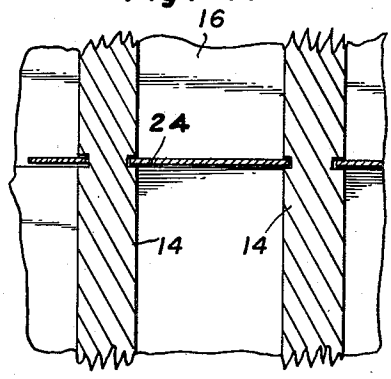


Fig. 4.



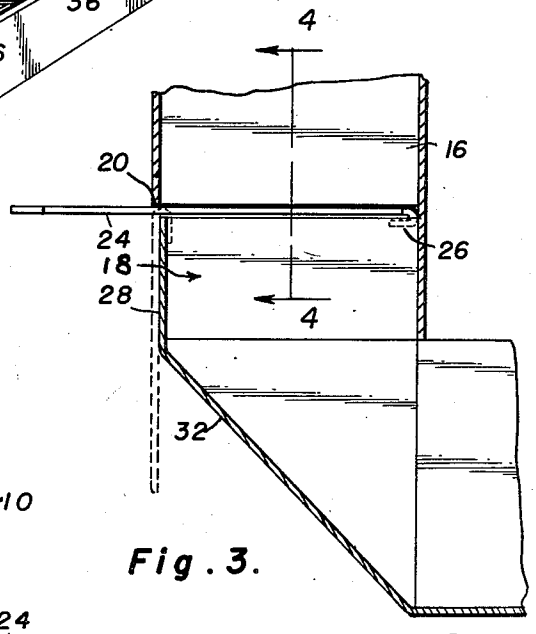


Fig. 3.

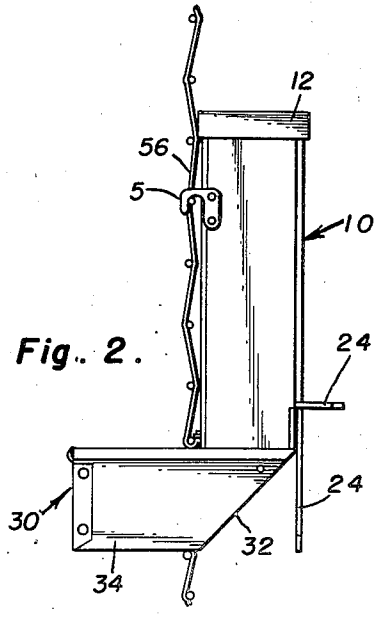


Fig. 2.

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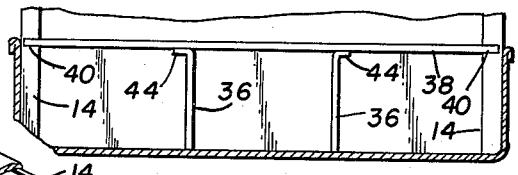


Fig. 8.

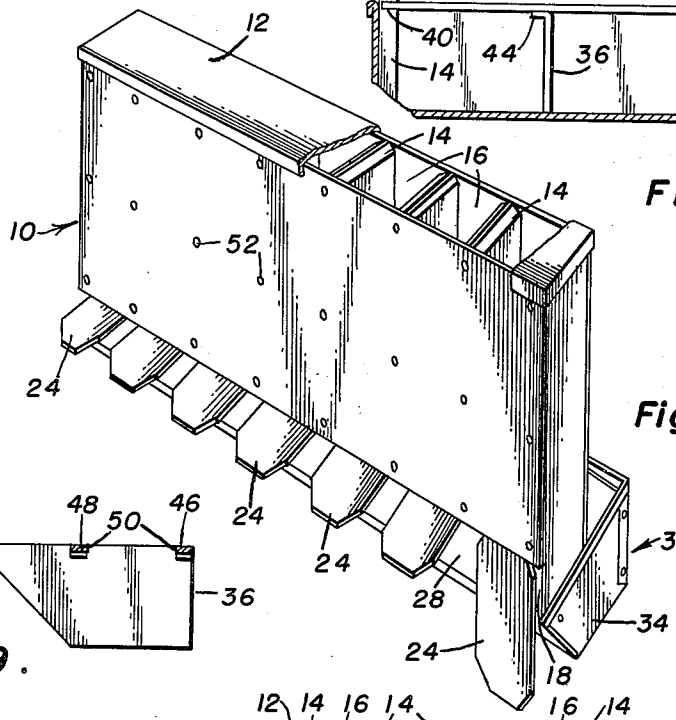


Fig. 5.

Fig. 9.

Fig. 7

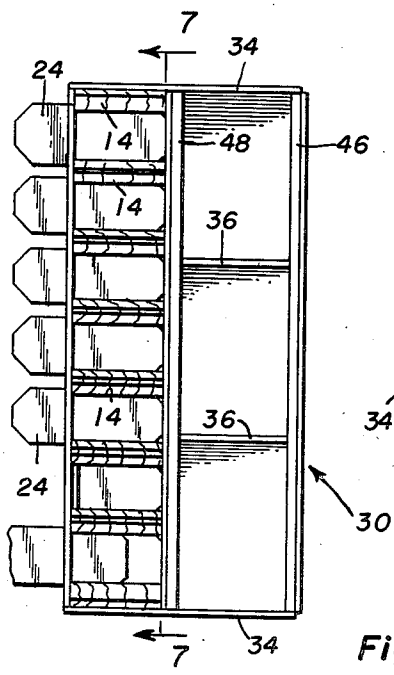
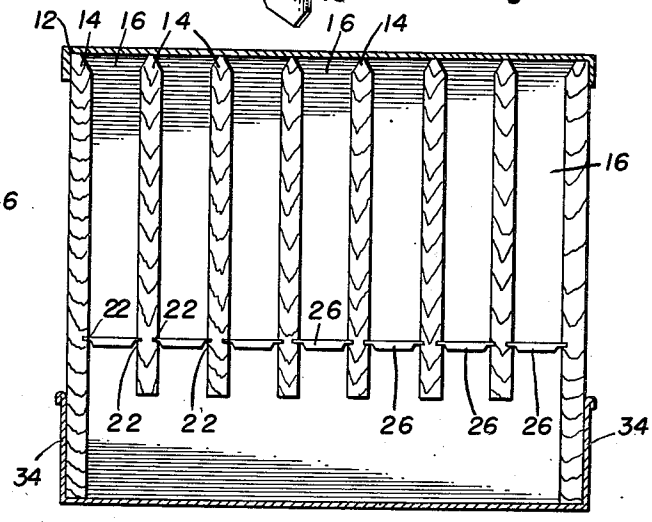


Fig. 6.



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UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE

2,537,494

RABBIT FEEDER

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Application March 31, 1947, Serial No. 738,368

3 Claims. (Cl. 119—56)

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This invention relates to novel and useful improvements in feeding devices particularly adapted for use in feeding rabbits.

An object of this invention is to provide compartmented housing means for retaining daily rations.

Another object of this invention is to provide valve means for releasing the ration in selected compartments.

A further object of this invention is to provide said valve means which might be utilized as indicating means indicative of the quantity of ration utilized.

A still further object of this invention is to provide means for retaining said valve means in an unobstrusive position under predetermined conditions of operation.

A still further object of this invention is to provide an inexpensive, versatile and satisfactorily operating device of the character described.

Ancillary objects and features of novelty, as well as those pointed out hereinabove, will become apparent to those skilled in the art in following the description of the preferred embodiments of the present invention, illustrated in the accompanying drawings, wherein:

Figure 1 is a perspective view of the preferred embodiment of the present invention;

Figure 2 is an elevational side view of the invention disclosed in Figure 1;

Figure 3 is a fragmentary enlarged sectional detail of the invention shown in Figure 1;

Figure 4 is a fragmentary sectional view of the invention disclosed in Figure 3 and taken substantially on the line 4—4 thereof and in the direction of the arrows;

Figure 5 is a perspective view of the preferred form of the present invention with parts broken away in sections in order to illustrate details of construction;

Figure 6 is a plan view of the preferred form of the present invention, with the cover removed;

Figure 7 is a longitudinal sectional view of the invention taken on line 7—7 in Figure 6;

Figure 8 is a fragmentary sectional view of the tray or pan forming part of the present invention; and

Figure 9 is a fragmentary detail of construction showing a partition used in the pan or tray and forming part of the present invention.

In carrying out the prime purpose of the present invention, to provide an improved small animal feeding device, a housing 10 is provided of substantially rectangular configuration and of

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any suitable material such as plastics, metal, and/or wood. A friction fit cover 12 may be removably applied to the upper, open portion of the said housing 10. A plurality of partitions 14 are received in parallel relation to each other within said housing. Any number of partitions may be provided, however, this invention preferably employs 8 in order that seven chambers 16 may be provided. By this construction, a single chamber may be utilized per day and the feeder need only be filled every week.

A longitudinal recess 18 is provided at the lower rear portion of said housing. Immediately above said recess is a slot 20 adapted to receive valve means therein. It is noted from an inspection of Figure 7 that each of the partitions 14 is provided with an opposed groove 22 wherein slides valve means 24. Comparing Figures 5 and 7 it is seen that this valve means comprises a plurality of slider valves which are received in said slot 18 and in the groove 22. A single valve 24 is provided for each of said chambers 16. Charging the housing 10 by means of lifting the cover 12 and filling each compartment 16 with any suitable ration is permitted. The valves 24 extend within said compartment 16 and may be pulled outwardly relative to said housing thereby opening each of or selected chambers 16, permitting the feed therein to be selectively dropped from said compartment.

Referring now to Figure 3, it will be noted that an arcuate continuation 26 of the valve means 24 is provided. The phantom showing on this figure discloses that said arcuate hook-like portion is adapted to abut the wall 28 of said longitudinal recess 18. By this construction, the valve means 24 may be hangingly received in the recess 18 after a selective chamber 16 has emptied of its contents. Further, the empty compartments of the housing 10 may be ascertained by noting which of said valves 24 are hanging by the arcuate portion 26.

The tray or pan means, generally indicated by the numeral 30 is provided at the outlet portion of each of said partitions 14. The preferred configuration of said pan means is substantially rectangular having an inclined back portion 32 provided as an extension of the back member of the longitudinal recess 18. This member 32 provides a baffle means for directing the feed from the chamber 16 to the tray means 30. The construction of the said tray means 30 is preferably screw-assembled with the end member 34 frictionally engaging the outermost partition 14. The said pan means may be easily removed.

A plurality of spacers 36 may be removably secured within said tray means 34 for the purpose of partitioning.

Any suitable securing means may be provided for retaining said partitions 36 in the desired locations. There is shown in Figure 8 a rod 38 extending longitudinally of said tray means 30, said rod 38 being received in suitable detents 40 provided in the end members or partitions 14. Guides 44 may be provided for the purpose of directing the partitions 36 therein. A friction bind is contemplated in this use of partitions. However, if it is found preferable, there may be a second strip and a third strip 46 and 48 respectively extending across the top of said partitions 36 and depending therein by the medium of suitable notches 50 provided in each of said partitions 36. Small animals feeding from the invention will be forced to employ a selective portion of the feeding tray 30. Two of said trays will be aired while the single tray is being employed. This tends to keep said portions fresh.

The partitions 14 may be secured between the front and back walls of the housing 10 by suitable conventional means such as screws or the nails 52. This securing means will be dictated by the type of material used in the construction thereof.

A pair of arcuate clips 5 are provided on said housing 10 and are adapted to engage the usual screen or wire net 56 for suspending the invention. The loading portions 10, 12 of the invention may be secured exteriorly of the animal abode while the feeding portion is provided therein. By this arrangement, the person feeding the animals need never enter the animal habitat.

Having thus described the instant invention what is claimed as novel and improved is as follows:

1. An animal feeder comprising a housing having an open bottom, sides, a front and a back wall, partitions in said housing forming compartments, said back wall having a horizontal slot therein, said partitions having horizontal grooves therein, valve plates slidably disposed in said grooves and extending through said slot, said back wall having a recess below said horizontal slot, hooks at the ends of said valve plates engaging the material of said back wall immediately below said slot, and said valve plates disposed in said recess when the valves are in the open position to support the valve plates and to indicate the absence of feed in the compartments.

2. An animal feeder comprising a housing having an open bottom, sides, a front and a back wall, partitions in said housing forming compartments, said back wall having a horizontal slot therein, said partitions having grooves therein, valve plates slidably disposed in said grooves and extending through said slot, hooks at the ends of said valve plates engaging the material of said back wall immediately below said slot when the valves are in the open position to support the valve plates and to indicate the absence of feed in the compartments, a tray fixed to said housing and having an angularly inclined back wall disposed beneath said open bottom to direct feed forwardly of the tray, and clamps secured to said sides and projecting forwardly of said front wall of said housing to fasten said housing to a stationary member so that said tray may be passed through an opening in the stationary member and disposed on one side of the stationary member while said housing is disposed on the other side of said stationary member.

3. The combination of claim 2 and tray partitions removably mounted in said tray to section said tray.

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