

Hall's Coop Mod

Bending over or getting on one's knees to change the feed and water for the chickens every day or two was proving a pain (literally and figuratively). We decided to change that.

We created two pull-out 'drawer' or 'slider assemblies' using cabinet drawer sliders (22" long); treated 2x2's; treated 5/4 deck boards; decking screws (1.5", 2", & 3"); and some screw-in eye hooks (opened a bit with a screw driver and a pair of pliers). Once mounted under the coop's wood frame, this results in a much easier way to access the feeder and waterer and takes further advantage of the great design of the Snap Lock Coop by Formex¹.

This picture (below) shows the final slider assembly mounted with a feeder and a waterer hanging underneath as a preview (viewed through the door of the coop cage/pen). Note the feeders, hanging on hooks mounted on the wood piece mounted on the drawer pulls. The center 2x2 in each slides towards the door of the coop cage/pen.

Photo 1



¹ See: <http://snaplockchickencoops.com/>

This picture (below) shows one of the two assembled slider assemblies, each assembly is made with a set of 22” long drawer sliders widely available at home improvement stores, three pieces of treated 2x2, an eye hook, and a piece of treated 5/4 deck board. The 5/4 deck board is on the bottom in the next three photos (laying on the work surface). The three pieces of 2x2 are side by side, with a set of drawer pulls on each inside corner, and the eye hook is on the middle (slider) piece of 2x2. The 5/4 mounts on the underside of the coop frame. If you look carefully, you can see the pre-drilled mounting holes in the 5/4 deck board near the left front and the third pre-drilled hole between the drawer sliders (in Photo 4 below).

Photo 2



This picture (below) shows the same as the above, but with the slider pulled out partially.

Photo 3



This picture (below) shows the same as the above, but with the slider pulled all the way out.

Photo 4



This picture (below) shows the mounting of the slider assembly shown above. Three deck screws attach the slider assemblies to the wood coop frame (two 3” at the front—at a 45 degree angle going into the deck board and then into the coop framing wood—and one in the center rear between the drawer sliders with the slider extended to gain access (see Photo 4 above to view the rearward pre-drilled mounting hole in the 5/4). Here, he’s adjusting the eye hook height for the feeder. Our feeder bale and our water bale aren’t the same length, so we screw the eye hooks in or out a little for adjustment. Just be sure to have at least half of the eye hook screw threads in the 2x2 that slides in an out.

Photo 5



Photo 6 (same as photo 1, but with a wider field of view).



Photo 7 (blurry, but shows the feeders on the sliders pushed back underneath the coop—shielded from the weather but ready to pull out for ease of access). We plan to add some drawer pull knobs to the sliding piece to make it even easier to slide out while tending to the waterer and feeder.

