APPENDIX B:

Instructions for Constructing and Maintaining an Ear Corn Feeder Crib

Construction Details

Feeder cribs are very simple to construct. They consist of a 12-foot length of 39-inch woven wire fencing with six-inch stays formed into a 4-foot cylinder, which is stapled to a 4' x 4' wood platform. The platform is placed on old cement blocks, stones, fencepost legs, etc., to keep it about 10-18" off the ground (Fig. B1). With a diameter of four feet, this crib can hold about 20 bushels of ear corn, which is sufficient to feed 60 pheasants for 120 days and reduces the need for constant refills, unless there is deer use. Also, this design helps prevent the corn from being buried by snow and reduces the scattering of corn by wildlife. Remember: most farmland wildlife species are accustomed to finding their feed on the ground. Scattering some straw and corn around the base encourages use.

Filling the Crib

Cribs should be filled in the fall about the time farmers are harvesting their corn. It is important to fill the cribs before winter sets in so it is there for the wildlife to find after other food sources are eliminated by fall tillage. This will attract the wildlife to and retain them in the secure winter cover areas.

Points to Remember

1. **A managed food plot is the best way to provide a reliable food source.**
2. Feeder cribs are one way of placing a food source near an existing cover area where food is lacking. However, the greatest problems usually facing Minnesota wildlife are the loss of nesting cover (grasslands) and winter food/cover complexes.

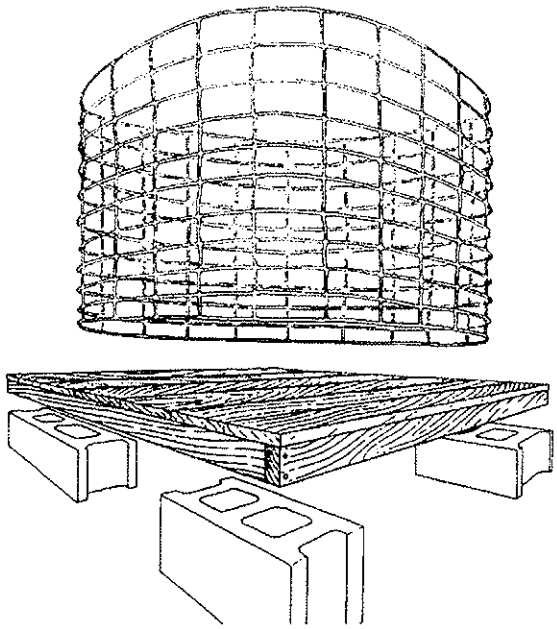

Figure B1. This feeder crib is designed to utilize ear corn as a food source for various wintering wildlife in Minnesota. The crib is designed to hold about 20 bushels of ear corn. (Materials needed: woven-wire fencing 39" high and 12' long with 6" stays, a 4' x 4' wood platform, 4 fencing staples, 4 cement blocks or 12"-posts, and a variety of nails.)

3. Place feeder cribs in open, windswept areas or areas well protected from drifting snow and adjacent to good cover such as a cattail or cane marsh or large (10+rows) shelterbelts containing a snow-catch and at least four rows of evergreens.
4. Fill feeder cribs with ear corn before winter and no later than November 15, and refill until snow melt; check the crib periodically to make sure that corn is available.
5. Deer also make use of feeder cribs and can consume a lot of corn and damage the crib. In such areas, the crib will require constant replenishment or a deer-proof exclosure (see Appendix Fig. D4), if food is to remain available to other small wildlife species.