

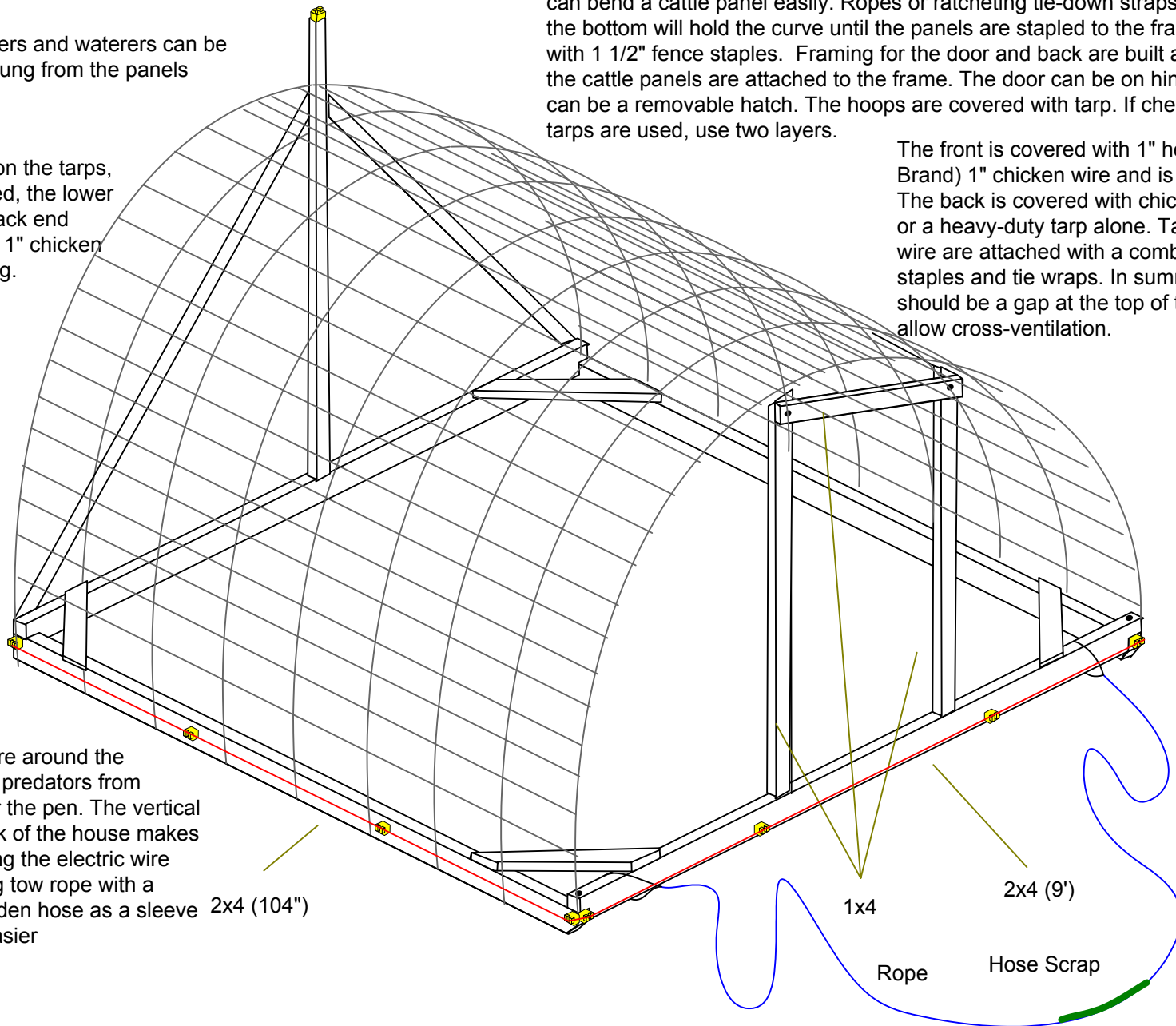
A hoophouse with a ceiling height of about 6' can be built from two lightweight cattle panels. The bottom frame is built first. Corners are attached with lag bolts and braced with 1x4 diagonal braces. Two people can bend a cattle panel easily. Ropes or ratcheting tie-down straps across the bottom will hold the curve until the panels are stapled to the frame with 1 1/2" fence staples. Framing for the door and back are built after the cattle panels are attached to the frame. The door can be on hinges or can be a removable hatch. The hoops are covered with tarp. If cheap tarps are used, use two layers.

The front is covered with 1" heavy-duty (Red Brand) 1" chicken wire and is otherwise left open. The back is covered with chicken wire plus a tarp, or a heavy-duty tarp alone. Tarps and chicken wire are attached with a combination of poultry staples and tie wraps. In summertime, there should be a gap at the top of the back tarp to allow cross-ventilation.

Feeders and waterers can be hung from the panels

Turkeys are very hard on the tarps, so if turkeys are brooded, the lower 24" of the hoops and back end should be covered with 1" chicken wire to prevent escaping.

Electric fence wire around the perimeter keeps predators from squeezing under the pen. The vertical brace at the back of the house makes a mast for running the electric wire overhead. A long tow rope with a length of old garden hose as a sleeve 2x4 (104") makes pulling easier



1x4

2x4 (9')

Rope

Hose Scrap