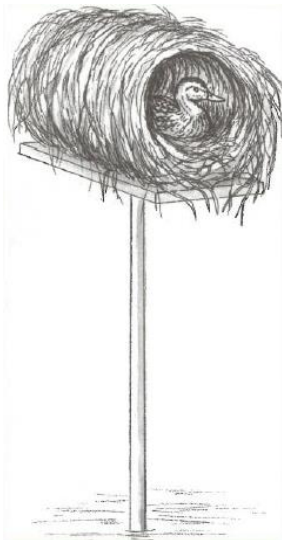
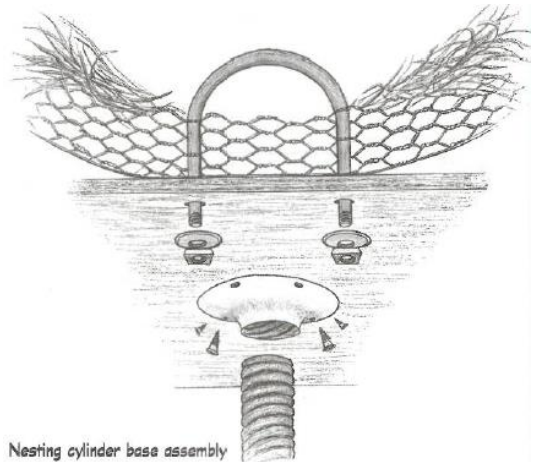


Keep the Waterfowl Comeback on Track

Providing nesting cylinders has proven to be enormously successful with mallards, pintails, and teal in open wetland areas, such as the Prairie pothole region. The materials needed for this project are sold in imperial measures, so the following instructions use feet and inches. Let's get "quacking"!

1. Start with a 3' x 7' length of chicken wire or galvanized stucco wire.
2. Roll the first 38" length of wire into a cylinder (approximately 1' in diameter) and fasten.
3. Continue to roll the remaining 47' length of wire, lining the 1 1/2' space between the inner and outer layers with a generous amount of straw (preferably flax).
4. Attach the cylinder to a 1" x 8" x 3" wooden board, using heavy wire or two 4" U-bolts.
5. Screw a floor flange onto the bottom of the board. The final assembly (mounting the structure onto a support pole) takes place in the field.
6. Choose a site in a marsh fringed by cattails and bulrushes, on the edge of open water 1' to 4' deep. The water should remain until at least mid-summer.
7. Install the nesting cylinder by April 1, preferably in winter, when you can easily bore a hole through the ice to drive the support pole into place.



8. Pound a 2" diameter galvanized support pole, approximately 6' to 8' long, at least 2' into the marsh bottom. The nesting cylinder should be at least 3' above the water's surface, so the required length of the pole will depend on the depth of the water. The pole should be threaded for easy connection to the floor flange at the bottom of the structure. Protect the threading by temporarily screwing a coupling onto the pole before driving it into the marsh bottom.
9. Attach the structure by screwing the floor flange onto the support pole, positioning the nesting cylinder crosswind to prevent drafts entering.
10. Place additional straw in the cylinder, fluffed so the hen can arrange it.
11. Check the structure for damage each spring and supply new nesting material.

For additional resources visit:

CanadianWildlifeFederation.ca/Education