To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, LEROY C. SHEPARD, a citizen of the United States, residing at
Irwin, in the county of Shelby and State of
Iowa, have invented a new and useful Breeding-Crate, of which the following is a speci-

fication.

The object of my invention is to provide a
breeding crate of simple, durable and inex-

pensive construction, which is especially de-
 signed for use in breeding hogs, but may, by
variations in size, be adapted for other an-

imals.

A further object is to provide improved
means by which sows of different sizes may be
firmly held in proper position with rela-
tion to the platform upon which the boar
stands, and may be moved up or down as de-
sired.

A further object is to provide a platform
for a boar, which platform is capable of up
and down movement to support the boar in
any position of elevation which may be most
desirable.

My invention consists in the construc-

tion, arrangement and combination of the various
parts of the device, whereby the objects con-
templated are attained, as hereinafter more
fully set forth, pointed out in my claims and
illustrated in the accompanying drawings, in

which—

Figure 1 shows a plan view of the com-
plete breeding crate. Fig. 2 shows a side
elevation of the same with the adjacent slat-
ted side removed to show the interior con-

struction. Fig. 3 shows a detail view of the
slide bolt for adjustably connecting the piv-

oted arms with the frame, and Fig. 4 shows a
detail perspective view of the rear belt and

its supporting devices.

Referring to the accompanying drawings,
I have used the reference numeral 10 to indi-
cate the base of the crate upon which is a
floor 11. The frame 12 is erected on the
base and slatted sides 13 and a slatted end 14
are fixed to said frame. The rear end of the
frame is open, and, adjacent to the rear up-

rights are the uprights 15 parallel with the
rear uprights and spaced apart slightly from
them. Mounted in the space between these
uprights at each side is a sliding block 16, the
lower ends of said blocks being fixed to a
platform 17 which is supported in position
by braces 18 so that the platform moves up
and down with the blocks 16. Mounted in

the upper end of the uprights 15 is a crank

shaft 19 having a crank arm 20 on one end
and a ratchet wheel 21 adjacent thereto. A
pawl 22 is provided to engage said ratchet
wheel. Fixed to and wound upon the shaft 20
19 are two ropes 23, with their lower ends at-
tached to the sliding blocks 16. By this ar-

rangement it is obvious that this platform
may be readily, quickly and easily raised or
lowered and supported in any position throughout its path of travel.

A short distance in front of the platform
17 is a shaft 24 rotatably mounted in the top
of the frame and provided with a crank 25
and a ratchet wheel 26. A pawl 27 is also

provided to engage said ratchet wheel. Fixed
to and wound upon this shaft 24 are two
ropes 28. Their lower ends are extended
downwardly and connected to a wide belt 29
designed to be passed around a sow's body.

Fixed to this belt 29 is a number of straps 30
which are designed to be passed around a
sow's rear legs when the belt is passed around
the animal's body.

Some distance in advance of the belt 29 30
is a similar belt 31 designed to be passed
around a sow's body and provided with
straps 32 to pass around the animal's front
legs. This belt is supported by two ropes
33 which are fixed to and wound upon a 35
shaft 34. This shaft is supported by means
of two arms 35 pivoted to the base of the
frame and extended upwardly to a point
above the base, the said shaft having its
bearings in the ends of said arms. This

shaft is provided with a crank 36 and a

ratchet wheel 37. A pawl 38 is provided to
engage said ratchet wheel. I have provided
means for adjustably supporting the arms 38
to thereby increase or diminish the dis-
tance between the two belts as follows: Fixed
to the sides of the frame near its top are two
segmental racks 39, and mounted on the
arms 35 adjacent thereto are the slide bolts
40 designed to engage said rack. These

slide bolts are clearly illustrated in Fig. 3.

When the arms are in the position shown by
solid lines in Fig. 2, the belts are relatively
close together, or if said arms are swung for-
wardly as shown by dotted lines in said fig-

ure, the belts will, of course, be further spaced
apart. In this way the device is adapted
for animals of different lengths as it is desir-
able that the belts be passed around the an-

imal's body immediately in front of its hind
legs and in the rear of its front legs. These belts provide means for retaining and supporting an animal within the crate.

In front of the forward belt is an adjustable partition 40 fitted into the notches 41 formed by the blocks 42 at the top and bottom portions of the frame. This partition may be adjusted longitudinally of the frame by raising it out of said notches and then lowering it at the desired point in the notches.

In practical use, the sow is first driven into the crate and the crate is adjusted to the length of the animal by moving the partition 40 so that the rear end of the animal will be at the proper distance from the platform 17. Then the rear belt is fastened to the animal as before described, and the crank 25 turned until the supporting ropes of the belt are stretched tight and the animal firmly held. Then the forward belt is adjusted to position, and during such adjustment the arms 35 may be tilted forwardly or rearwardly as required to bring the belt immediately in the rear of the animal’s front legs. Then the crank 36 is manipulated to tighten the forward belt, whereupon the animal is firmly and immovably held and is prevented from lying down. Then the boar is permitted to stand upon the rear platform 17, and if when attempting to serve the sow, it is found that the animals are not in the proper position of elevation with relation to each other, the platform 17 may be raised or lowered to suit the requirements, or the sow may be raised or lowered, by raising or lowering the belts which support her.

Having thus described my invention, what I claim and desire to secure by Letters Patent of the United States, therefor is:

1. A breeding crate, comprising a frame, an animal retaining and supporting belt therein and a vertically adjustable platform at the rear of the frame.
2. In a breeding crate, the combination of a frame, an animal retaining and supporting belt therein, a partition at the forward end of the frame adjustable longitudinally of the frame, and a vertically adjustable platform at the rear of the frame.
3. In a breeding crate, the combination of a frame, two animal retaining belts therein, means for suspending said belts, and means for moving one of them toward or from the other.
4. In a breeding crate, the combination of a frame, two animal retaining belts therein, means for suspending said belts, means for moving one of them toward or from the other, and an adjustable platform adjacent to the rear belt.
5. In a breeding crate, the combination of a frame, a rear animal supporting belt, means for raising and lowering said belt and for supporting it in different positions of elevation, a forward animal supporting belt, means for raising and lowering it and supporting it in different positions of elevation, and means for moving the forward belt forwardly and rearwardly within the frame and for securing it in different positions.
6. In a breeding crate, the combination of a frame, a rear animal supporting belt, means for raising and lowering said belt and for supporting it in different positions of elevation, a forward animal supporting belt, means for raising and lowering it and supporting it in different positions of elevation, means for moving the forward belt forwardly and rearwardly within the frame and for securing it in different positions, and an adjustable platform at the rear of the frame.
7. In a breeding crate, the combination of a frame, sides connected therewith, a partition adjustably mounted in the forward portion of the frame and capable of movement longitudinally of the frame, arms secured to the base of the frame and extended upwardly, a rope winding and supporting device carried by said arms, ropes connected therewith, an animal supporting belt supported by said arms, ropes means for securing the upper ends of said arms in different positions of adjustment longitudinally of the frame, a rear animal supporting belt, ropes connected therewith, a rope winding and supporting device connected with said ropes, a vertically movable platform in the rear of the rear belt, a rope winding and supporting device above it, and ropes connected therewith and with the rear platform.

Witnesses:

JASPER GROAT,
HARRY McMULLEN.