

### **West Door Support**

The gray barn had begun its career working to shelter cattle, and so the barn's big west door at twelve feet high and fourteen wide must have made sense. But then the barn interior was remade with three dozen ten-by-twelve box stalls for horses. And then a second barn, the blue barn, was thrown up, and, so, then, too, the gray barn's west door must be opened more often, for horses from it, and, critically, given direct-from-the-west thirty and forty miles-per-hour winter winds, the west door needed to open in all weathers. That first winter of 1994 the right-hand (from the inside) corner of that door deflected, twisted, more than four feet inwards, bent inwards under the weight of the wind.



A doorway twelve high, fourteen wide. Swamped by west winds. So.

I nailed a very good southern yellow pine two-by-eight vertically on the door (itself, made of horizontal two-by-sixes and vertical two-by-fours), and nailed a similarly good southern yellow pine two-by-eight across the doorway about ninety inches above grade (nailing with pole-barn sixty-pennies with washers), parallel to the door's roller-track (illus. 1). I mounted a roller on the new vertical board to support the door against west winds, and also placed a keeper-bracket to generally secure the door against other winds (illus. 2).

Nowadays, in the winter, you'd still better wait for a slight pause in the west wind's pressure to open it, but the door's not self-destructing, as it had been.



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