In Virginia, people often use metal-framed mobile units/trailers as chicken houses or for moving beehives around. Electrifying the trailer is a simple solution to protect your property from black bear damage.

You will need:
1. High voltage fence charger with minimum rating of 0.7 joules.
2. 10-12 gauge wire.
3. Rubber or plastic insulating material for under jack stand.
4. Wood block for under jack stand.
5. Metal ground rod – 3 feet minimum.
6. Rubber tires on trailer.

- Attach the fence charger securely to the mobile unit.
- Drive the ground rod into soil at least 2 ½ - 3 feet. Keep soil around rod moist for maximum effectiveness
- Attach a wire from the positive terminal to the metal frame of the trailer body.
- Attach a wire from the negative terminal to the ground rod.

Simultaneous contact with the adjacent ground (soil) and trailer is necessary to complete the circuit resulting in a shock.

For a mobile chicken house, the ramp that the chickens use to go in and out of the house needs to be made of a non-conductive material.

Option: If you can not electrify the frame of the trailer, you can attach posts to the frame and run electric wires around the perimeter. For more details on electric fence design and specifications for bears see VDGIF publication “Electric Fencing for Bears”.

KEEP BEARS WILD www.dgif.virginia.gov/wildlife/bear/  
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