This is a simple but useful method of threshing a small amount of grain. It is useful and quick. Setup is simple and the cost of the parts is insignificant.

First visit the hardware store and purchase a few items. You need a length of ‘all-thread’, preferably 1/4 inch in diameter. Get 4 nuts that will fit this thread. Also you will need a short length of heave chain, also found at the hardware store. Get an odd number go lengths, say 7 or 9. If you don’t have a 5 gallon bucket with a lid get one of those too.

Put the all-thread through the center link of the chain and secure it with two nuts on both sides. Tighten these well. It should look like the first photo.

Next put a hole in the center of the lid of the 5 gallon bucket. Make this hole larger than the diameter of the all-thread. This hole will get larger over time as you use this thresher. Attach the non-chain end to an electric drill motor. See the second photo.

Load your bucket with grain, about 1/2 to 3/4 full. Put the chain into the bucket, secure the lid on the bucket and start the drill. You might want to hold the bucket between your feet while standing, as the bucket can be tossed around. Move the drill motor up and down, and into the sides of the bottom of the bucket, sort of like whipping cream with a hand mixer. After giving it all a good beating (a few minutes) stop the action, remove the top and you should have dust and seed. Move on to winnowing.