

**NATURAL RESOURCES CONSERVATION SERVICE
PRACTICE DOCUMENTATION GUIDE**

FENCE

382

382 – STEP 1. INITIAL EVALUATIONS

PURPOSE

The purpose of this step is to determine the landowner's desire to construct a fence in a predetermined location for the intended purpose(s). (See Natural Resources Conservation Service, Practice Standard and Specification 382).

The landowner must be interviewed to determine the purpose and needs for a fence. Considerations will include the landowner goals and objectives, existing condition and effects of this practice on existing soil, water, air, plant, animal and human resources. A discussion of NRCS fence standards and specifications should also take place. Role of the landowner and the person assisting with fence planning and construction should also be discussed. Additional pertinent questions should be asked on a site-specific basis.

382 – STEP 2. INVESTIGATIONS, SURVEYS, AND INVENTORIES

PURPOSE

The purpose of this step is to identify the mandatory preliminary resource inventory and operations that are required before a fence can be planned and installed. Resource inventories will include all data and information needed to make informed decisions in the planning and construction of a fence and any follow-up management needs. Appropriate resource inventories could include soils, topography, plant community, water resources, and all physical features such as existing fencing, roads, water wells, natural barriers, water gaps, ditches and irrigation systems etc that might have an effect on planning of the fence. Adjacent land uses and resources that would be affected by fence construction should also be considered.

If the fence is being installed to facilitate prescribed grazing then inventory data needed for prescribed grazing will also be needed. See Practice Standard and Specifications for Prescribed Grazing 528. Identify map resources needed such as the proper USGS 7.5 minute quadrangle sheet, soils, and road maps as well as imagery. Also include identifying all needed utility clearances, archeological clearances. Also see Natural Resources Conservation Service, Conservation Practice Job Sheet(s) 382, CPA 52 Environmental Evaluation Worksheet).

382 – STEP 3. PRACTICE DESIGN

I. PURPOSE

The purpose of this step is to develop a fence design. This practice will be designed in accordance with all federal, state and local laws and ordinances.

Fence shall consist of acceptable fencing designs to control the animal(s) or people of concern and meet the intended life of the practice. Resource inventories, local conditions and the intended use will need to be assessed for the proposed fence design and location. See Prescribed Grazing Standards and Specifications 528 for fences designed to facilitate grazing management.

A fence design will be developed with the client that meets the intended goals and objectives. Designs should include fencing materials of a high quality and durability. All appropriate job sheets, maps and reports must be developed with landowners input, review and concurrence. See Practice Standard and Specification 382 & Job Sheets 382.

II. SITING

The purpose of this step is to insure that the fence is properly located and the client fully understands where the planned fence is to be located. Care should be given to make sure the planned fence locations are known by all involved. Planned fence turn location and access locations for equipment, livestock and vehicles should also be known by all involved in construction of the fence.

III. MATERIALS/EQUIPMENT

The purpose of this item is to insure an understanding of the materials/equipment used to construct a fence. Further knowledge would include the types of fencing materials, fence installation and repair equipment. Appropriate standards, job sheets and expectations that include the types and number of each type of materials/equipment will need to be provided to the landowner and all those involved in the planning and construction of the fence.

382 – STEP 4. PLANS AND SPECIFICATIONS

PURPOSE

The purpose of this step is to document and describe each component of the fence plan, which includes step by step instructions to be used while installing a fence. This will include the documentation of all components described in Fence Job Sheet(s) 382. Additional reference material should include as needed and appropriate. The landowner must be provided with a complete fence design and plan in the Conservation Plan, Plan Map and NRCS Fence Job Sheet(s) 382 in order to document the fence design and location. Any items not described in Job Sheet(s) 382 that are essential for location and construction of the fence will be added to the Job sheet.

382 - STEP 5. MANAGEMENT AND OPERATION, MAINTENANCE

PURPOSE

The purpose of this step is to assure that proper management, operation and maintenance is completed at the fence site. (See Natural Resources Conservation Service, Practice Standard 382.

This requires a familiarity with the design and correct operation of the installed fence in order to operate the fence in a proper and safe fashion. Periodic operations and maintenance schedules should be implemented.

These measures should be discussed with and understood by the landowner.

382 – STEP 6. COMPLIANCE OR SPOT CHECKING

I. PURPOSE

The purpose of this step is to determine that all work has been completed to the standards required by the Natural Resources Conservation Service.

All completed NRCS forms should be collected from the landowner and submitted to the appropriate persons. (See Natural Resources Conservation Service Practice Standard and Specification 382 and Job Sheet 382, CPA-52 Environmental Evaluation Worksheet).

II. DOCUMENTS

Copies of all completed job sheets and associated work sheets should be submitted to the Natural Resources Conservation Service representative within 10 working days of completion of the fence. This includes the Fence Practice Requirements as outlined in Job Sheet(s) for 382 and any other job sheets that may be needed for this practice to meet the intended goals and objectives.