

NATURAL RESOURCES CONSERVATION SERVICE CONSERVATION PRACTICE STANDARD

FENCE (FEET) CODE 382

DEFINITION

A constructed barrier to livestock, wildlife, or people.

PURPOSE

This practice may be applied as part of a conservation management system to facilitate the application of conservation practices that treat the soil, water, air, plant, animal, and human resource concern.

CONDITIONS WHERE PRACTICE APPLIES

This practice may be applied on any area where livestock and/or wildlife control is needed, or where access to people is to be regulated. Fences are not needed where natural barriers will serve the purpose.

BASIC CRITERIA

Fencing materials shall be of high quality and durability, and the construction performed to meet the intended management objectives.

Fences shall be positioned to facilitate management requirements.

Standard or conventional (barbed or smooth wire), suspension, woven wire, or electric fences shall consist of acceptable fencing designs to control the animal(s) or people of concern and meet the intended life of the practice.

Height, number, and spacing of wires will be installed to facilitate control and management of the animal(s) and people of concern.

Height, size, spacing and type of posts will be used that best provides the needs for the style of fence required and is best suited for the topography of the landscape.

CONSIDERATIONS

Consider installing fences in locations that will facilitate maintenance avoiding irregular terrain and/or water crossings.

Consider livestock management, handling, watering and feeding needs when locating fences.

Where applicable, cleared right-of-ways should be established which will facilitate fence construction and maintenance.

Consider soil erosion potential when planning construction of a fence on steep slopes.

To facilitate better management, locate fences on boundaries between ecological sites, forage suitability groups, or other significant delineations when possible.

PLANS AND SPECIFICATIONS

Plans and specifications are to be prepared for specific field sites based on the NRCS Fence Standards and appropriate state or local statutes or laws.

OPERATION AND MAINTENANCE

Regular inspection of fences should be part of an on-going management program. Inspection of fences after storm events is needed to facilitate the function of the intended use of the fence.

Maintenance and repairs will be performed as needed to facilitate the intended operation of the installed fence. This includes the prevention of growth or removal of woody vegetation in the fence.

Conservation practice standards are reviewed periodically and updated if needed. To obtain the current version of this standard, contact the Natural Resources Conservation Service

