

NATURAL RESOURCES CONSERVATION SERVICE
CONSERVATION PRACTICE STANDARD

FENCE
(feet)
CODE 382

DEFINITION

A constructed barrier to animals or people.

PURPOSE

This practice is applied to facilitate the application of conservation practices by providing a means to control movement of animals and people.

CONDITIONS WHERE THIS PRACTICE APPLIES

This practice may be applied on any area where management of animal or people movement is needed. Fences are not needed where natural barriers will serve the purpose.

CRITERIA**General Criteria Applicable to All Purposes**

Fencing materials, type and design of fence installed shall be of a high quality and durability. The type and design of fence installed will meet the management objectives and topographic challenges of the site.

Fences shall be positioned to facilitate management requirements. The fence design and installation shall follow all federal, State and local laws and regulations.

Height, size, spacing, and type of materials used will provide the desired control and management of animal and people of concern.

CONSIDERATIONS

The fence design and location should consider: topography, soil properties, safety and management of livestock, wildlife movement, location and adequacy of water facilities, development of potential grazing systems, human access, landscape aesthetics, erosion problems, moisture conditions, flooding potential, stream crossings, and durability of materials.

Where applicable, cleared rights-of-way may be established which would facilitate fence construction and maintenance

Fences across gullies, canyons, or streams may require special bracing, designs or approaches.

Fence design and location should consider ease of access for construction, repair and maintenance.

PLANS AND SPECIFICATIONS

Plans and specifications are to be prepared for specific sites based on this standard.

Plans and specifications for installing fences shall be in keeping with this standard and shall describe the requirements for applying the practice to achieve all of its intended purposes.

Additional guidance is provided in the NRCS Hawaii Specification for Non-electric Fence (382A), Electric Fence (382B), and Game-proof Fence (382C).

Site-specific specifications are to be documented on the NRCS Hawaii Jobsheet for Non-electric Fence (382A), Electric Fence (382B), or Game-proof Fence (382C), as

appropriate and given to the client. Other documents such as worksheets, maps, and drawings may be used to plan and design the practice.

OPERATION AND MAINTENANCE

Regular inspection of fences should be part of an ongoing maintenance program. Inspection of fences after storm events is necessary to insure the continued proper function of the fence. Maintenance and repairs will be performed in a timely manner as needed.

Retain and properly discard all broken fencing material and hardware. All necessary precautions should be taken to ensure the safety of construction and maintenance crews.

Some items to be observed and/or corrected are:

- *tension of wire;*
- *broken wires;*
- *holes in woven wire,*
- *staples pulled out;*
- *missing wire clips;*
- *post alignment; especially corner, gate, and end posts;*
- *post stability, rotting wooden posts;*
- *bent or broken posts;*
- *corroding steel posts or wire;*
- *broken welds on steel posts;*
- *sagging gates;*
- *bent or broken stays; and*
- *are the requirements for the intended purpose of the fence being fulfilled by the number, size, and spacing of the components of the fence?*

For electric fences, additional items to be observed and/or corrected are:

- *proper voltage;*
- *proper and improper grounding;*
- *proper insulation;*
- *electric fence warning signs; and*
- *holes in electric netting.*

REFERENCES

USDI, Bureau of Land Management, USDA, Forest Service, Society for Range Management. 1999. Fences. 5E42D31-Range Structural Equipment.

American Association for Vocational Instructional Materials. 1974. Building Fences.

American Association for Vocational Instructional Materials. 1997. Planning Fences.

Northeast Regional Agricultural Engineering Service. 1987. High-Tensile Wire Fencing.