

**NATURAL RESOURCES CONSERVATION SERVICE
CONSERVATION PRACTICE STANDARD
CONNECTICUT**

FENCE

(Ft.)

CODE 382

DEFINITION

A constructed barrier to animals or people.

PURPOSE

This practice facilitates the accomplishment of conservation objectives by providing a means to control movement of animals and people, including vehicles.

CONDITIONS WHERE PRACTICE APPLIES

This practice may be applied on any area where management of animal or human movement is needed. When fencing is installed to exclude wildlife from crops, refer to Connecticut NRCS Standard 472, Access Control.

CRITERIA

General Criteria Applicable to All Purposes

Laws and Regulations. All Federal, state, and local laws, rules, and regulations, including local inland wetland agency regulations, governing the construction and use of this practice as well as setbacks from wells, surface water and property boundaries shall be followed. Planned work shall comply with all federal, state, and local laws and permit conditions and requirements. The landowner shall obtain all necessary permits prior to construction or any land clearing activities.

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 site challenges. Fences may be permanent, portable, or temporary. Height, size, spacing and type of materials used will provide the desired control, life expectancy, and management objectives for the animals and/or people.

Fences shall be positioned to facilitate management requirements. Ingress/egress

features such as gates and cattle guards shall be planned. The fence design and installation should have the life expectancy appropriate for management objectives.

Use Connecticut Standard Fence Drawings (CSFDs) with standard or conventional barbed or smooth wire, suspension, woven wire, or electric fences to provide control of animals or people and meet the intended life of the practice.

For domestic livestock, the following fence criteria or equivalent shall be used:

Dairy Cows – Three or four wire

Beef – Three or four wire

Heifers / Bulls – Four or five wire

Sheep / Goats – Woven wire

Hogs – Woven wire plus one bottom wire

Pleasure horses – Woven wire plus one top board or all boards

Combination of livestock – Woven wire plus one top and one bottom wire

Stockade fencing made of wooden posts and boards or recycled materials may also be installed providing it serves the intended resource concern and meets the required lifespan of the practice.

When fencing is installed to exclude wildlife from crops or for rotational grazing, the installation may be either fixed (permanent) or portable (temporary).

The minimum acceptable standard shall be the CSFDs. If CSFDs are not available for the intended use, the State Resource Conservationist or The State Conservation Engineer shall approve designs on a case by

case basis.

The following criteria shall be used for permanent deer exclusion applications:

[Use](#) CSFDs for 8 or 10 foot Deer Fence Drawings

CONSIDERATIONS

The fence design and location should consider: topography, soil properties, frost heaving potential, livestock management and safety, livestock trailing, wildlife class and movement, location and adequacy of water facilities, development of potential grazing systems, human access and safety, landscape aesthetics, erosion problems, moisture conditions, flooding potential, stream crossings, and durability of materials. When appropriate, natural barriers should be utilized instead of fencing.

Where applicable, cleared rights-of-way may be established which would facilitate fence construction and maintenance. Avoid clearing of vegetation during the nesting season for migratory birds.

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

Fence construction requiring the removal of existing unusable fence should provide for the proper disposal of scrap materials to prevent harm to animals, people and equipment.

PLANS AND SPECIFICATIONS

Plans and specifications shall be in keeping with this standard and shall describe the requirements for applying the practice to achieve its intended purpose. Plans and specifications shall include CSFDs, plan view map showing location of fence corners, gates, dips, angle changes, height, and length. For deer fence, also note on the plan map silt, clay, or wet areas where special corner post collars are needed.

These documents shall as a minimum, specify the requirements for installing the practice and include the kind, quantity and quality of materials to be used.

To the extent practical, specifications shall conform to NRCS National Engineering Handbook Parts 642.

AS BUILT DRAWINGS

As built drawings shall be prepared showing all fence elements as actually installed and a copy shall be provided to the owner / operator upon construction completion.

OPERATION AND MAINTENANCE

Regular inspection of fences should be part of an ongoing maintenance program. At a minimum, the operation and maintenance plan should specify inspection of fences after storm events and in the spring of the year after frost has left the ground. Maintenance and repairs will be performed in a timely manner as needed.

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

REFERENCES

- Bell, H.M. 1973. Rangeland management for livestock production. University of Oklahoma Press.
- Heady, H.F. and R.D. Child. 1994. Rangeland ecology and management. Western Press.
- Holechek, J.L., R.D. Pieper, and C.H. Herbel. 2001. Range management: principles and practices. Prentice Hall.
- Stoddard, L.A., A.D. Smith, and T.W. Box. 1975. Range management. McGraw-Hill Book Company.
- United States Department of Interior, Bureau of Land Management and United States Department of Agriculture, Forest Service. 1988. Fences. Missoula Technology and Development Center.
- United States Department of Agriculture, Natural Resources Conservation Service. 2005. Electric fencing for serious graziers. Columbia, Mo.
- United States Department of Agriculture, Natural Resources Conservation Service. 2003. National range and pasture handbook, revision 1. Washington, DC.
- Vallentine, J.F. 1971. Range development and improvement. Brigham Young University Press.