

Conservation Practice Fact Sheet



An H-brace is required for all barbed wire fences and electric fences with more than two wires. Since barbed wire fences need to be tight to be effective, a well-built H-brace is very important. This is in contrast to electric fence where the control is by animal fear of the electric fence and the fact that high tensile wire, especially single strand, should not be very tight.

All wooden posts (except red cedar, Osage orange, or black locust) will be commercially treated and have a minimum top diameter of 5 inches. All metal pipe posts will be in good sound condition and have a minimum of 2 3/8 inches diameter. Used utility poles are acceptable for use if they are exceptional in quality. No used cross ties are allowed.

Wooden posts will be set to a minimum of 36" deep and tamped or set in concrete 24" deep with concrete 6" thick on all sides of the post

Cross members will be 6-10 feet long. Wooden cross members will be a minimum diameter of 3" and the metal cross members will be a minimum 1 7/8" in diameter. No landscape timbers will be allowed. The cross member will be placed in the unit between the top two strands of wire.

Wooden H-brace assemblies are required to have a tension wire consisting of two complete loops of 12-1/2 gauge or larger wire. An in-line wire tightener, rebar, sucker rod, or treated twitch stick will be used to tighten the twitch wire and remain in the wire after tightening is complete. The twitch wire will run from the top of the fence side post to the bottom of the pull side post and will be nailed to the post. For corner assemblies, **do not use** two diagonal twitch wires. For H braces within a fence, two diagonal wires would be required as each upright post is a pull post. An H-brace is required for a change in direction of the fence of 20 degrees or more (shown in picture on right).

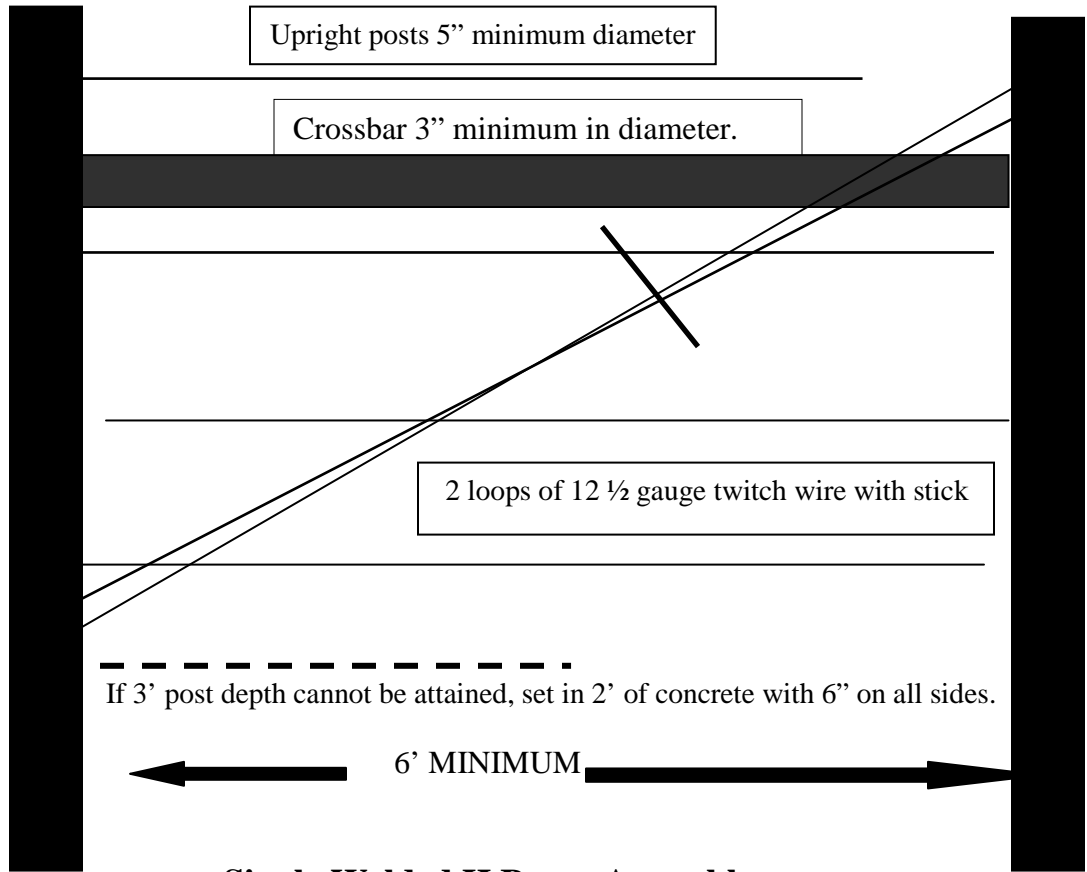
Welded metal H-brace units will be 6-10 feet long. The top of the pipes will be capped and painting of the pipe is recommended. The cross member will be welded between the top two wires. A twitch wire is not required for a metal H-brace unit.

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Single Wooden H-Brace Assembly

Wires must be tied off at the corner post as this is a pull post. The twitch wire goes from the lower part of the pull post to the top of the line post. **DO NOT USE TWO** diagonal twitch wires as the other wire pulls against the top of the pull post, defeating the purpose of the twitch wire. However, an H-brace in the middle of a fence would need two twitch wires.



Single Welded H Brace Assembly

Wires must be tied off at the corner post as this is a pull post.

