

TECHNICAL NOTES

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

BERKELEY, CALIFORNIA

SOIL CONSERVATION SERVICE

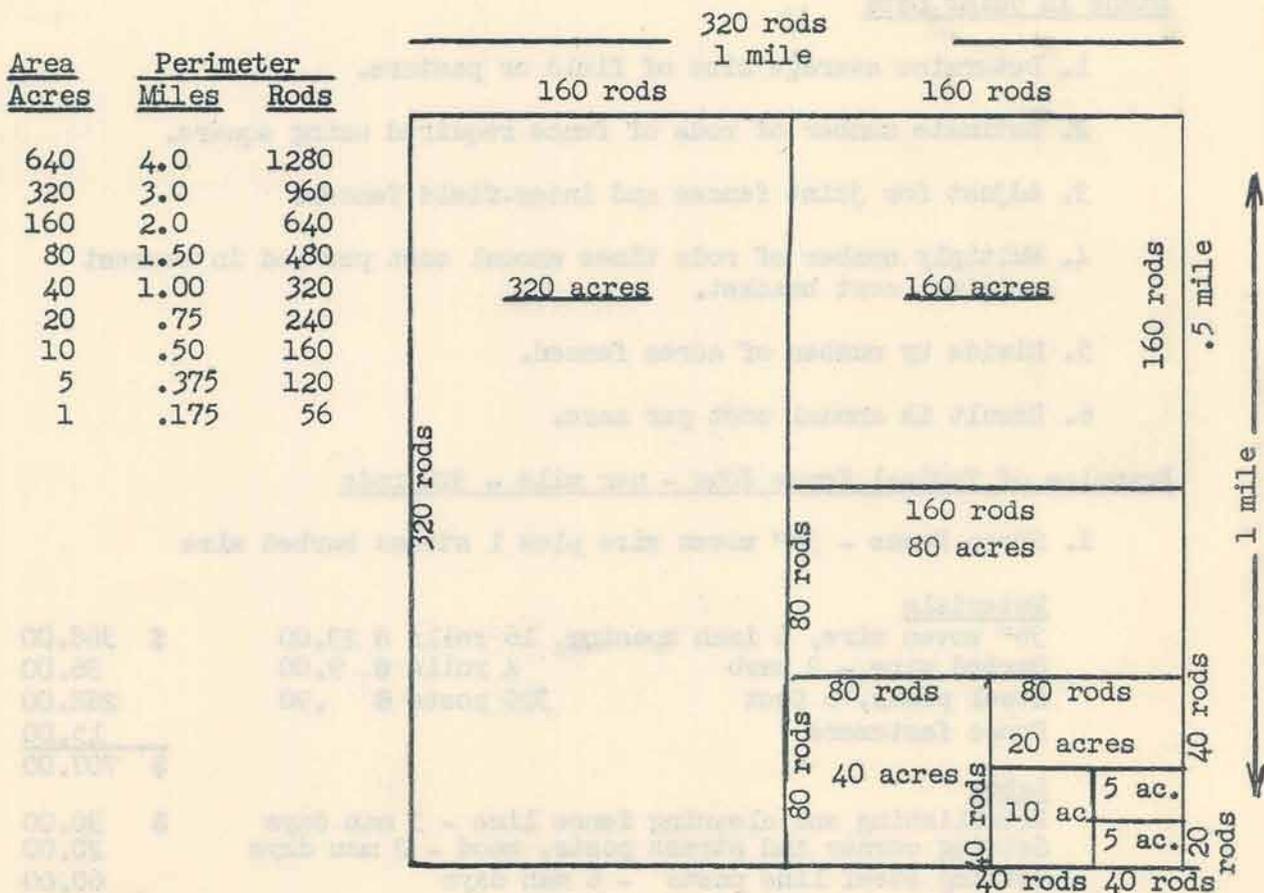
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BASIS FOR COMPUTING FENCE COSTS PER ACRE

The following was released as technical information by Oregon. It was developed by Maurice L. Jernstedt, Economist, of the Willamette River Survey. This material can serve as a valuable guide to developing cost of fencing as a part of crop budgets and other economic application on a local basis.

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on State Program Staff



<u>Original Cost of Fence</u>	<u>Amortized 5% 20 yrs. (.08024)</u>	<u>3% Maintenance (on original cost)</u>	<u>Annual Cost</u>	
			<u>per Mile</u>	<u>Rod</u>
\$ 600	48.14	18.00	66.14	.22
\$ 700	56.17	21.00	77.17	.24
\$ 800	64.19	24.00	88.19	.28
\$ 900	72.22	27.00	99.22	.31
\$ 1,000	80.24	30.00	110.24	.34
\$ 1,100	88.26	33.00	121.26	.38
\$ 1,200	96.29	36.00	132.29	.41

NOTE: In estimating field fence distances, don't double count fences between fields or on property lines that belong to others.

Steps in Using Data

1. Determine average size of field or pasture.
2. Estimate number of rods of fence required using square.
3. Adjust for joint fences and inter-field fences.
4. Multiply number of rods times annual cost per rod in nearest original cost bracket.
5. Divide by number of acres fenced.
6. Result is annual cost per acre.

Examples of Typical Fence Jobs - per mile - 320 rods

- I. Sheep Fence - 36" woven wire plus 1 strand barbed wire

Materials

36" woven wire, 6 inch spacing, 16 rolls @ 23.00	\$ 368.00
Barbed wire - 2 barb 4 rolls @ 9.00	36.00
Steel posts, 6 foot 320 posts @ .90	288.00
Fence fasteners	15.00
	<u>\$ 707.00</u>

Labor

Establishing and cleaning fence line - 3 man days	\$ 30.00
Setting corner and stress posts, wood - 2 man days	20.00
Setting steel line posts - 6 man days	60.00
Hauling materials and spreading them - 1 man day	10.00
Stretching and building fence - 2 men, 6 days	120.00
Tractor use - 50 hours @ 1.70	85.00
	<u>\$ 325.00</u>
Total cost of fence	<u>\$1,032.00</u>

II. Cattle Fence - 4-strand barbed wire - per mile - 320 rods

Materials

Barbed wire - 2 barbed - 16 rolls @ 9.00	\$ 144.00
Steel posts - 6-foot - 320 posts @ .90	288.00
Fence fasteners	12.00
	<u>\$ 444.00</u>

Labor

Establishing and clearing fence line - 3 man days	\$ 30.00
Setting corner and stress posts - 2 man days	20.00
Setting steel line posts - 6 man days	60.00
Hauling and locating materials - 1/2 man day	5.00
Stretching and building fence - 2 men, 3 days	60.00
Tractor use, 25 hours @ 1.70	42.00
	<u>\$ 217.00</u>

Total Cost of Fence \$ 661.00

III. For the basin study, these estimates are considered reasonable for the type of fencing encountered. They are average for a larger area, and if abnormal conditions are encountered on specific work areas, adjustments can readily be made.

IV. Largest variable is the labor required to construct the fence. Estimates varied 50 to 100% on both sides of the data shown.

V. Cross fencing. Per acre costs of a semi-permanent electric fence such as that used in rotational grazing systems.

20-acre rectangular field - divided with 3 fences

Materials

16 gauge smooth wire -- 240 rods	\$ 10.12
Steel posts - 140 or 7 bundles @ \$7.10	49.70
Plastic insulators - 6 packages @ \$1.13	6.78
Electric fence unit	25.00
Gate handles - tester, corner insulator, etc.	5.00
	<u>\$ 96.60</u>

Labor

Establish fence location - string out wire & posts, 4 man hours	\$ 5.00
Fasten insulators to posts and wire to insulators, 3 man hours	3.75
Install and hook up power unit, 1 man hour	1.25
	<u>\$ 10.00</u>

