

**NATURAL RESOURCES CONSERVATION SERVICE
BARBWIRE CONSTRUCTION SPECIFICATIONS
CODE 382**

This sheet lists the minimum requirements to meet Florida Fence Standard (FL 382) for barbwire fence. Variances in fence design may be allowed if requested. All variances requests shall be submitted to the State Rangeland Management Specialist or an individual with proper job approval authority for approval. All barbed wire fences will be installed using braces that meet Florida NRCS specifications for braces.

Wire and Spacing

Use only new wire composed of two twisted strands of minimum class 3 galvanized 15.5 gauge high tensile steel barbwire.

Number of Wires-

Interior cross fence - 3 wires (minimum) to manage movement of larger livestock such as cattle and horses.

Boundary fence - 4 wire (minimum) are required for boundary fences and next to highways. 3 Strand fences are not acceptable boundary fences.

Fence and Wire Height and Placement-

Cattle and Horses-

- The minimum top wire height for 4 and 5 wire fences is 42 inches above ground level.
- The minimum top wire height for 3 wire fences is 38 inches above ground level.
- Install wires with a minimum of 10-12 inches spacing between the top 2 wires.

Sheep and Goats-

- Top wire at minimum 38 in. above ground level.
- Bottom wire 4 to 6 in. above ground level.
- When more than 4 wires are used, it is not necessary to maintain equal spacing as long as top and bottom wire positions are as above and no spacing is > 12 inches.
- For sheep and goats it is recommended to use at least five strands of barbed wire.

Refer to table below for additional information. **Note:** The inline fence wire spacing shown below are recommendations and are not minimum specifications.

WIRE HEIGHT AND SPACING			
Number of line wires →	<u>5 Strand</u>	<u>4 Strand</u>	<u>3 Strand</u>
Boundary Fence Top Wire Height (minimum)	46 inches	46 inches	Not Acceptable
Boundary Fence Bottom Wire Height (minimum)	6 inches	12 inches	Not Acceptable
<i>Recommended</i> Inline Fence Wire Spacing (inches)			
- Cattle and horses	6, 16, 26, 36, 46	16, 26, 32, 44	16, 26, 38
- Goats and Sheep	6, 14, 22, 30, 38	10, 16, 24, 32	Not Recommended
- To allow for wildlife movement	Not Recommended	18, 24, 30, 42	18, 26, 38

LINE POSTS MATERIALS, POST SPACING AND INSTALATION DEPTH

- **Steel-** Use only new, painted or galvanized T or U posts.
- **Wood-**Treated with 0.4 lbs/ft³ of chromate copper arsenate (CCA type A, B or C or equivalent)
 - Minimum 3in.x6.5ft.
- **Post Spacing-**The maximum distance between line posts is 16 ft. without the use of stays, or 30 ft. with a minimum of 1 stay between the posts.
- **Installation-** Drive or bury wood posts at least 24 inches into the ground in sandy or loamy soils. Install posts to a 42 inch depth in muck soils. If post holes are dug, backfill by tamping the soil around the post at every 4 in. depth.

Fastening- Attach wires to the side of the post receiving the most livestock pressure. Drive staple diagonally to the wood's grain and at a slight downward angle (upward if the pull is up) such as in low places to avoid splitting posts and loosening of staples. Space should be left between staple and post to permit free movement of wire.

- **Wood posts-** Use 1.5 inch (minimum), 9 gauge (minimum), class 3 galvanized staples.
- **Steel posts-** Use manufactured clips or wire posts.

Figure 1 Recommended inline wire spacing for cattle and horses

