

**NATURAL RESOURCES CONSERVATION  
SERVICE CONSTRUCTION SPECIFICATIONS  
HIGH TENSILE SMOOTH  
WIRE CODE 382**

This sheet lists the minimum requirements to meet Florida Fence Standard (FL 382) High Tensile Smooth Wire Fence. Variances may occur in fence design that varies from the following specifications. Any request for variances will be submitted to the State Rangeland Management Specialist individual with proper job approval authority for approval. All High Tensile wire fences will be installed using braces that meet NRCS specifications for braces.

**Wire and Spacing**

Use new wire that meets the following minimum specifications:

- Class 3 Galvanized
- 200,000 PSI Tensile Strength
- Use new wire strands either class 3 galvanized 12.5 or 15.5 gauge high tensile steel.

**Number of Wires-**

- Use minimum of 3 wires for interior cross fencing to manage movement of larger livestock such as cattle and horses.
- A minimum of 4 wire fences are required for boundary fences and next to highways.
- *3 Strand Boundary Fences are not acceptable*
  
- **Cattle and Horses**-Install the top wire 42-46 in. above ground level for 4 and 5 wire fence
  - Minimum of 38 in. for 3 wire fence.
  - Install the bottom wire 12-18 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 more than 12 in.
  
- **Sheep and Goats**-Install the top wire at minimum 38 in. above ground level and bottom wire 4 to 6 in. above ground level.
  - For sheep and goats it is recommended to use at least five strands of barbed wire.
  
- **When planning for wildlife**-Use a minimum of 3 strands high tensile wire.
  - Install the top wire 40-42 in. above ground.
  - Use 12 in. spacing between the top two wires.
  - It is recommended that bottom wire height should be 16-18 in. above ground
  - Make fence wire more visible by adding 2-3 in. strips of vinyl siding trim or small diameter PVC tubing to the top and middle wires.
  - Flagger is not recommended because it will need to be replaced regularly

*Line Wire Spacing Recommendations-*

| No. of line wires <span style="float: right;">→</span>                  | <u>5 Strand</u>   | <u>4 Strand</u> | <u>3 Strand</u> |
|---|-------------------|-----------------|-----------------|
| <b>Boundary Fence Top Wire Height</b>                                   | 46 inches         | 46 inches       | Not Acceptable  |
| <b>Boundary Fence Bottom Wire Height</b>                                | 6 inches          | 12 inches       | Not Acceptable  |
| <b>Recommended Inline Fence Wire Spacing (inches from ground level)</b> |                   |                 |                 |
|   | <u>5 Strand</u>   | <u>4 Strand</u> | <u>3 Strand</u> |
| <b>Cattle and Horses (in)</b>   | 6, 16, 26, 36, 46 | 16, 26, 36, 46  | 12, 22, 38      |
| <b>Goats/Sheep(in)</b>  | 5, 10, 17, 27, 38 | 10, 16, 24, 32  | Not Recommended |
| <b>To allow wildlife movement (in)</b>                                  | Not Recommended   | 18, 24, 28, 40  | 18, 26, 38      |

**Line Posts and Spacing-**

- **Steel-** Only new T or U posts. The maximum distance between steel line posts is 16 ft. without the use of stays or 100 ft. with stays at 15 ft. intervals. Drive posts at least 24 in. into the ground.
- **Wood-** Treated with 0.4 lbs/ft of chromate copper arsenate (CCA type A, B or C or equivalent) The maximum distance between wood line posts is 16 ft. without the use of stays, 100 ft. with stays placed at 15 ft. intervals.. Drive or bury wood posts at least 24 in. into the ground. If post holes are dug, backfill and tamp the soil around the post at every 4 in. depth.

*Fastening*

Attach wires to the side of the post closest receiving the most livestock pressure. Staples minimum 9 gauge, class 3 galvanized. Minimum length 1-1.5 in. for wood posts. Use manufactured clips or wire for steel line posts. Drive staple diagonally to the wood's grain and at a slight downward angle (upward if 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.