

NATURAL RESOURCES CONSERVATION SERVICE
CONSERVATION PRACTICE STANDARD

FENCE

(Feet)

CODE 382

DEFINITION

A constructed barrier to animals or people.

PURPOSES

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.

CRITERIA

General Criteria Applicable to All Purposes

Use of this standard will comply with all applicable federal, state, and local laws and regulations.

Manufacturer's guidelines will be followed during installation of each type of fence to assure that all components are assembled properly.

Safety guidelines for each type of fence will be strictly adhered to.

Fencing materials, type and design of fence will be of a high quality and durability. The type and design of fence will meet the management objectives and site challenges. Based on objectives, fences may be permanent, portable, or temporary.

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

features such as gates and cattle guards will be planned.

Fence design, including height, size, spacing and type of materials used will provide the desired control, life expectancy, and management of animals and people to address the resource concern.

Fences will be designed based on the design sheets and specifications in the Fence Tool located in the Indiana (IN) Field Office Technical Guide (FOTG) Section IV with Standard (382) Fence.

Fences will be designed, located, and installed to meet appropriate local wildlife and land management needs and requirements.

Vinyl fence will only be used in conjunction with two offset strands of electric fence.

Used wood or metal materials do not meet the criteria of this standard for installation of new fence components.

CONSIDERATIONS

The fence design and location should consider: topography, soil properties, 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.

Conservation practice standards are reviewed periodically, and updated if needed. To obtain the current version of this standard, contact the Natural Resources Conservation Service State Office, or download it from the Field Office Technical Guide for your State.

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

Fences across gullies, canyons or streams may require special bracing, designs or approaches.

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

Consider using non-barbed wire fence for greater wildlife and human safety.

Where applicable, fences should be marked to enhance visibility as a safety measure for animals or people.

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.

Consider livestock management, handling, watering and feeding when locating fences.

Consider installing a hot wire on the livestock side of the post if the exterior fence is installed on the non-livestock side of the post.

Fences can frequently be arranged to provide for one livestock water facility to serve two or more fields.

Consider high visibility fence for use with horses.

Fence posts may need to be set deeper in soils subject to serious frost heave.

PLANS AND SPECIFICATIONS

Plans and specifications will be prepared for the practice site. Plans will include a map

indicating location of fence and gates as appropriate, drawing of planned fence type, purpose, estimate of materials needed, specifications and operation and maintenance. These plans and specifications will be consistent with this standard and will describe the requirement for applying the practice to achieve its intended purpose.

OPERATION AND MAINTENANCE

Regular inspection of fences will be part of an on-going maintenance program to ensure continuing proper function of the fence.

Operation and Maintenance (O&M) includes the following:

- Repair or replacement of loose or broken material, gates and other forms of ingress/egress
- Removal of trees/limbs
- Replacement of water gaps as necessary
- Repair of eroded areas as necessary
- Repair or replacement of markers or other safety and control features as required
- Control of vegetative and/or woody growth as applicable to ensure integrity of the intended purpose

Fence lines and adjacent areas will not be burned.

Fence repairs will be made with materials that equal or exceed the quality of the original materials.

REFERENCES

Indiana Fence Law; Indiana Code, Article 26 of Title 32 (IC 32-26-9)