

NE NRCS STATE OFFICE NATURAL RESOURCES CONSERVATION SERVICE
CONSERVATION PRACTICE STANDARD
FENCE
(Ft.)
CODE 382

DEFINITION

A constructed barrier to animals or people.

PURPOSE

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**

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

Fences shall be positioned to facilitate management requirements. Ingress/egress features such as gates and cattle guards shall be planned. The fence design and installation should have the life expectancy appropriate for management objectives and shall follow all federal, state and local laws and regulations.

Height, size, spacing and type of materials used will provide the desired control, life expectancy, and management of animals and people of concern.

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

Criteria for Wildlife-Friendly Fence:

Avoid using woven wire fencing materials when not needed to restrict livestock class due to severe impact on passage of pronghorn and juvenile deer, elk, and bighorn sheep and the

increased risk of entanglement when big game jump the fence.

Identify travel corridors for big game and install modified fence segments in those locations including gates to be left open when livestock are not present or "let-down" fences, adjustable wires, or top rails. Additional information can be found with the Nebraska Biology Technical Note 82.

Prevent the installation of fence in common flight patterns for select bird species. Examples include: across stream channels and wetlands due to impacts to herons and near leks or breeding grounds for grouse.

Additional Criteria to Provide Big Game Wildlife Passage

Fences shall be constructed to prevent leg entanglement as big game jump the fence. Additionally, adequate ground clearance should be available to allow pronghorn and juvenile big game to crawl under the fence. See Conservation Practice Specification NE-S-382a or NE_S-382c for design specifications.

CONSIDERATIONS**General 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.

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

Conservation practice standards are reviewed periodically, and updated if needed. To obtain the current version of this standard, contact your Natural Resources Conservation Service [State Office](#), or visit the [Field Office Technical Guide](#).

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Where applicable, fences should be marked to enhance visibility as a safety measure for animals or people. Use adaptations to increase visibility of wires, especially with electric fences. These techniques include high-visibility, white poly-tape, flagging, and other methods. Refer to Nebraska Biology Technical Note 82 for more information on using PVC pipe, "clips" made from vinyl siding, and other materials.

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.

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.

Considerations for Organic Transition-Livestock Fence:

Avoid using treated lumber in the construction of the fence. Wood fence posts and braces shall be osage orange (Bois d'Arc), Black or Honey Locust, Catalpa, mulberry, pitch pine, juniper, or red cedar.

PLANS AND SPECIFICATIONS

Plans and specifications are to be prepared, using the Conservation Practice Specification S-382 and NE-CPA-1 (Job Sheet for Fence Construction Plan) with drawings or NE-CPA-382w, for all fence types, installations and specific sites. Requirements for applying the practice to achieve all of its intended purposes shall be described.

The following 12 page size drawings are included in file at this link.

[PAGE SIZE FENCE DRAWINGS \(FOTG 382\)](#)

NE500-10-001 3 Strand Standard Post and Wire Fence

NE500-10-002 4 Strand Standard Post and Wire Fence

NE500-10-003 Woven Wire Fence

NE500-20-001 Suspension Fence

NE500-30-001 Permanent Electric Fence

NE500-40-001 Wire Fence Braces

NE500-40-002 Wire Fence Braces

NE500-40-003 Wire Fence Braces

NE500-50-001 Barbed Wire Fence Crossings

NE500-60-001 Staples and Wire Attachment

NE500-60-002 Metal Gate Closer

NE500-60-003 Metal Gate Closer

OPERATION AND MAINTENANCE

Regular inspection of fences should be part of an ongoing maintenance program. Inspection of fences after storms and other disturbance events is necessary to insure the continued proper function of the fence. Maintenance and repairs will be performed in a timely manner as needed, including tree/limb removal and water gap replacement.

Remove and properly discard all broken fencing material and hardware. All necessary precautions should be taken to ensure the safety of construction and maintenance crews.

REFERENCES

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