

**NATURAL RESOURCES CONSERVATION SERVICE  
NEW JERSEY 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**

The minimum fence specifications to be planned and implemented are found in the New Jersey Fence (382) Technical Reference.

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 objectives, 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.

Manufacturer's guidelines shall be adhered to during installation and meet the minimum construction specifications of each type of fence to ensure proper component assembly.

**CONSIDERATIONS**

The fence design and location should consider: topography, soil properties, livestock management, animal safety, livestock trailing, access to water facilities, development of potential grazing systems, human access and safety, landscape aesthetics, erosion problems, soil moisture conditions, flooding potential, stream crossings, and durability of materials. When appropriate, natural barriers should be utilized instead of fencing.

Consider soil erosion potential when planning and constructing a fence on steep slopes.

Wire should be attached to the side of the posts that will receive the greatest pressure from animals. Wire will be placed on the outside of posts on curves.

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.

Where applicable, fences should be marked to enhance visibility as a safety measure for animals or people. Place warning signs on electric fences every 150 to 200 feet, or wherever the public is expected to encounter the fence.

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

Consider installing fences in locations that will facilitate maintenance, avoiding when possible

highly irregular terrain and/or water crossings.

Consider installing fence across slopes to improve grazing distribution, rainfall infiltration, and reduce soil erosion.

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

Fence construction requiring the removal of existing fencing materials should provide for proper disposal to prevent harm to animals, people and equipment.

### **PLANS AND SPECIFICATIONS**

Plans and specifications are to be prepared for all fence types, installations and specific sites. Requirements for applying the practice to achieve all of its intended purposes shall be described.

Plans and specifications are to be prepared for specific sites based on the NJ Fence (382) Technical Reference #1.

Plans and specifications for installing fences shall be in keeping with the standard and shall describe the requirements for applying the practice to achieve all of its intended purposes.

The following specifications will be documented in the fencing design, conservation plan, or supporting narrative:

- Type of fence
- Number of strands on the fence
- Type and size of fence posts
- Spacing of fence posts
- Length of fence
- Operation and Maintenance practices

### **OPERATION AND MAINTENANCE**

Regular inspection of fences should be part of an ongoing maintenance program to ensure continuing proper function of the fence. Operation and Maintenance (O&M) includes the following:

- Complete regular inspections of the fence as well as after all major storm and disturbance events
- Repair or replacement of loose or broken material, gates and other forms of ingress/egress

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- 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.

Electric fences need to be regularly checked to determine the voltage on the fence. Clear brush, weeds, and other debris from the fence lines to maintain voltage.

### **REFERENCES**

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