

FENCE

PRACTICE INTRODUCTION

USDA, Natural Resources Conservation Service - Practice Code 382



FENCE

A fence is a constructed barrier to livestock, wildlife, or people

PRACTICE INFORMATION

This practice may be applied to any area where livestock and/or wildlife control is needed, or where access to people is to be regulated.

A wide variety of types of fencing has developed. However, fencing material and construction quality is always designed and installed to assure the fence will meet the intended purpose and longevity requirements of the project.

The standard fence is constructed of either barbed or smooth wire suspended by posts with support structures. Other types include woven wire for small animals, electric fence as a cost efficient alternative, and suspension fences which are designed with heavy but widely-spaced posts and support structures. Designs for most types of fences are available at the local NRCS field office.

Things to consider when planning a fence include the following:

1. For ease of maintenance, avoidance of as much irregular terrain as possible;
2. Wildlife movement needs;
3. State and local laws that may apply to boundary fences;
4. Livestock handling, watering and feeding requirements;
5. Soil erosion potential and feasibility of fence construction when planning fences on steep or irregular terrain.

COMMON ASSOCIATED PRACTICES

Fence is commonly used in a Conservation Management System with the following practices:

- Prescribed Grazing,
- Use Exclusion.

Refer to the practice standard in the local Field Office Technical Guide and associated Job Sheets for further information.

The following page identifies the effects expected to occur when this practice is applied. These effects are subjective and somewhat dependent on variables such as climate, terrain, soil, etc. All appropriate local, State, Tribal, and Federal permits and approvals are the responsibility of the landowners and are presumed to have been obtained. Users are cautioned that these effects are estimates that may or may not apply to a specific site.