

## Wooden Board Fence

### Conservation Practice Job Sheet

RI- 382(e)



#### Definition

A constructed barrier to livestock, wildlife or people.

#### Purpose

This job sheet is provided as a component of a resource conservation plan. This practice may be applied to contain and control livestock and wildlife movement, facilitate a prescribed grazing system, protect sensitive areas from grazing livestock, and to eliminate access to unsafe areas.

#### Conditions where practice applies

This practice may be used on any area where a fence is needed to control access, movement and containment of livestock and wildlife and where people safety and movement is of concern. This job sheet is provided as a component of a resource conservation plan. Conservation plan maps showing the approximate fence location, complementary conservation practices, grazing schedule, other relevant information, and additional specifications may be included.

**General Criteria and Specifications** All fence construction shall comply with federal, state, and local fencing codes.  
**Practice Lifespan is 20 years.**

#### Fence line clearing

Fence lines will be cleared of brush and trees; gullies and steep banks may require grading. Clearing along stream banks will be held to a minimum and no vegetation may be removed within the buffer area, except as required for stream crossings.

#### Fencing materials

Fencing Materials shall be of a quality and durability that meets the intended management objectives. Construction shall be performed in a manner that meets the intended management objective. Wire and hardware will be new, galvanized material.

### Line post

Maximum spacing between posts is 8 feet. All wooden line posts shall be 8 feet in length and set at least 30 inches into the ground. Suitable line posts shall be 3½" in diameter wooden posts of black locust, red cedar (mostly heartwood), redwood, and pressure treated pine or other wood of equal life and strength. Pressure treatment shall meet the requirements for ground contact.

For board fencing, spacing of line posts will be as needed up to a maximum of 8 feet apart to accommodate rail lengths of a maximum of 16 feet.

### Boards (rails)

Boards (rails) shall be a minimum of 1" x 6" (nominal) x at least 8' long. A wooden board fence shall have a minimum of 4 rails with 5", 6", 8" and 10" spacing. Rails will not come into contact with the ground. Each board shall be attached to each post with two 16d galvanized or cadmium coated nails at a minimum (three nails are recommended).

### Corner, Gate and Pull Posts

Brace post shall be set and maintained in a vertical position. All wooden brace posts are to be 5" minimum diameter and set 2.5 feet into the ground.

### Other Considerations

Fences across gullies or streams require special braces and design. Breakaway fences or swinging water gaps allow debris and water to flow past the fence line without destroying the adjacent fence.

Any permanent fencing for grazing livestock should allow flexibility to facilitate implementation of the grazing plan and permit land management activities such as nutrient application, pest control, forage harvest, and other appropriate practices.

Follow all manufacturers' safety precautions for handling and installing fencing materials.

Locate fences to facilitate maintenance. Where applicable, clear right of ways should be established and maintained to facilitate fence construction and maintenance.

When possible, install fences across slopes to improve grazing distribution, rainfall infiltration, and reduce soil erosion.

Locate fences to facilitate livestock management, handling, watering, and feeding.

Consider placing permanent riparian stream fencing at the edge of the protected buffer or at least 2 times the active channel width from the top of the stream bank but never less than 10 feet. It is recommended that the stream fence have a maintenance gate installed.

Approved alternative fence systems include "Common Sense Fence" or equivalent. Other fencing systems may be pre-approved by an NRCS Resource Conservationist (RC), and installed to manufacturer's recommendation as approved by NRCS Resource Conservationist (RC).

Alternative fencing and bracing systems: Alternative fencing and bracing systems must be pre-approved by an NRCS Resource Conservationist (RC), and must be installed according to manufacturer's recommendations as approved by NRCS Resource Conservationist (RC).