

**NATURAL RESOURCES CONSERVATION SERVICE
CONSERVATION PRACTICE STANDARD**

USE EXCLUSION

(Ac.)

CODE 472

DEFINITION

The temporary or permanent exclusion of animals, people or vehicles from an area.

Barrier type and design should minimize impacts to non-targeted wildlife, animal movement and human health.

PURPOSE

- Prevent, restrict, or control access to an area
- Maintain or improve the quantity and quality of natural resources
- Minimize liability and human health concerns.

Comply with applicable federal, state and local laws and regulations during the installation, operation and maintenance of this practice.

Where shade and shelter are needed in pastureland that adjoins woodland, construct a fence inside the wooded area 50 to 100 feet from the edge of the pasture. The wooded area that is within the pastured area should be thinned until no more than 1/3 of the area is under tree canopy. The area around the remaining trees should be seeded. Refer to Pasture and Hayland Planting – Code 512 for planting information.

CONDITIONS WHERE PRACTICE APPLIES

This practice applies on all land uses.

Livestock or other animals may be excluded by one of the following:

CRITERIA

Barriers must be adequate to prevent, restrict, or control use by targeted vehicles, animals or people and not be a safety hazard.

1. Fence – Refer to Fence – Code 382

Barrier life expectancy must be adequate for the intended purpose.

2. Living fence or hedge – Refer to Hedgerow Planting – Code 422

Timing and exclusion periods must be described to accomplish intended purposes.

3. Other impassable barriers to livestock or animals such as, stone/rock barriers and mining highwalls

Adequate warnings or markings will be displayed where there is potential danger with the use of a barrier.

4. Permanent removal of the targeted animal

Barriers may consist of either natural and/or artificial structures such as logs, vegetation, earth-fill, boulders, fences, gates, electronic and sonic devices, signs ***or removal of the targeted animal.***

Methods to exclude people include:

Minimize barriers impacts on public safety activities such as fire control.

1. Signs

2. Fence – Refer to Fence – Code 382

3. Vegetation

4. Physical barriers

CONSIDERATIONS

Public use may be an issue in areas where public right of access has previously been established by past use and law.

Consider the effects of installation of barriers and fences on the integrity of subsurface cultural resources (including compaction). Also consider the benefits installation may have on cultural resources by reducing the potential for erosion due to livestock and vehicle traffic.

Planners should take into consideration the species makeup of the existing pasture and the landowner's future pasture management plans when recommending seed mixtures. For example, tall fescue is shade tolerant, but its management requirements may be different from the existing grasses.

Consider the aesthetics of the barrier in areas of high visibility and public access.

Assess potential landowner and user liability before installing barriers.

See Field Office Technical Guide References – Real Property: Landowner Rights and Responsibilities in West Virginia and Real Property: Rural Landowner's Liability and Posting of Land.

PLANS AND SPECIFICATIONS

Specifications for applying this practice shall be prepared for each site and recorded using approved specification sheets, job sheets, technical notes, and narrative statements in the conservation plan, or other acceptable documentation.

The following will be identified (as appropriate):

Method of exclusion

Purpose of exclusion

Timing of exclusion

Wording of any warning signs or markings on the barrier

Dimension of the barrier

Size and description of the area being protected

Area of exclusion indicated on the conservation plan map

Any associated component practices necessary to complete this practice

Operation and maintenance plan

WVCPA-052 or similar environmental documentation

OPERATION AND MAINTENANCE

An operation and management plan shall be developed for this practice. Items that should be addressed in the plan as applicable are:

Periodic inspection of barriers (at least annually and after storm events) and repairs performed as needed.

Follow any operation and maintenance plans for individual practice components designed and installed under the provisions of other WV standards.

REFERENCES

Patric, J.H., Helvey, J.D., "Some Effects of Grazing on Soil and Water in the Eastern Forest", USDA Forest Service, Northeastern Forest Experiment Station, NE-GTR-115.

Selders, Arthur W., McAninch, Jay B., "High-Tensile Wire Fencing", Northeast Regional Agricultural Engineering Service.

Bold italics indicate state information added to the national standard.