

CONSERVATION ENHANCEMENT ACTIVITY

CONSERVATION STEWARDSHIP PROGRAM

E382A

Incorporating "wildlife friendly" fencing for connectivity of wildlife food resources

Conservation Practice 382: Fence

APPLICABLE LAND USE: Pasture; Range; Forest, Associated Ag Land

RESOURCE CONCERN: Animals

ENHANCEMENT LIFE SPAN: 20 Years

Enhancement Description

Retrofitting or constructing fences that provide a means to control movement of animals, people, and vehicles, but minimizes wildlife movement impacts.

Criteria

- The type and design of fence retrofitting or construction will meet the management objectives and site challenges.
- The fence jobsheet will specify:
 - Animal species of concern, both wildlife and domestic,
 - Wildlife movement specific modifications to be made to existing fences to meet these management objectives, or
 - Wildlife movement specific specifications that will be incorporated into newly constructed fences, and

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 Location of the "wildlife friendly" fence(s) and location of the habitat types affected by the fence.



• Examples:

- o Pronghorn antelope need to be afforded a smooth wire at the bottom of the fence with a 14" height above ground.
- Deer need a maximum height of 42" with a minimum of 12" between the top two wires.
- o Fawns and turkeys need a stranded fence to negotiate (not woven wire).
- o Fences should be retrofitted to let down and put back up for migrating herds.
- All open top pipes should be capped for songbirds.
- If bats or sage grouse/lesser prairie chicken are selected as species of concern, then fences should be marked for visibility.
- o For bats, height requirements above water sources will be honored.
- Height, size, spacing and type of materials used will provide the desired control, life expectancy, and management of people and animals of concern. New fences will be designed, located, and installed to meet appropriate local wildlife and land management needs and requirements.
- Avoid clearing of right-of-way vegetation during the nesting season for migratory birds.
- Plans and specifications are to be prepared for all fence types, installations and specific sites.



Documentation and Implementation Requirements

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	Prior to implementation, obtain an NRCS jobsheet that clearly identifies the species of concern. This document should clearly identify construction techniques for wildlife friendly modifications on existing fences, or specifications for newly constructed fences.				
	Prior to implementation, develop a map with assistance from NRCS as needed, which identifies the location of the wildlife friendly fences to be modified or constructed.				
	During implementation, consult with NRCS if there are any changes to modification or construction techniques.				
	After implementation, provide a map of the actual location of constructed or modified fences for review to verify the enhancement was implemented.				
	After implementation, provide pictures of newly constructed or modified fences depicting the specified construction techniques to benefit wildlife for review to verify the enhancement was implemented.				
NR	CS will:				
	☐ Prior to implementation, as requested, assist the participant in the development of a map identifying the location of wildlife friendly fences to be constructed or modified.				
	☐ Prior to implementation, develop a jobsheet (or specification as required in the state) for the participant that details wildlife friendly construction techniques.				
	☐ During implementation, assist the participant with modification of construction techniques to allow fences to function for both wildlife and domestic species.				
	☐ After implementation, review actual fence location map and photo documentation of constructed or modified wildlife friendly fences.				
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NRCS Documentation Review:

CONSERVATION STEWARDSHIP PROGRAM I have reviewed all required participant documentation and have determined the participant has implemented the enhancement and met all criteria and requirements.

Contract Numbe	r
Fiscal Year Completed	
Date	
	Fiscal Year Comp

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ALABAMA – E382A Supplement- Incorporating "wildlife friendly" fencing for connectivity of wildlife food resources

- Applicable where existing fences are in place that may restrict wildlife movement or where new fences are planned to be built and will incorporate "wildlife friendly" design. Exterior or perimeter fences must be included in order to provide connectivity of wildlife food or habitat resources.
- The following are considered restrictive to wildlife movement: any woven or net-wire fence, any stranded barbed, smooth, or electrified wire less than 12 inches in height above ground. Existing fences with wire strands 12 inches or higher already are ineligible for this enhancement.

Requirements:

- **1.** Written conservation plan that includes producer goals, objectives and resource concerns. Plan map will show and label all fences, feeding/watering areas, and sensitive areas. The existing fences to be retrofitted or new fences to be constructed with "wildlife friendly" design will be identified.
- 2. Strands of wire on existing fences that are less than 12 inches in height above ground must be removed or moved higher on the posts. For new construction, wire shall not be installed less than 12 inches from the ground.
- **3.** For existing woven or net-wire, the lower strands must be cut and removed to a height of 12 inches for 10 ft. out of every 100 ft. stretch of fence. This may require the addition of wood posts on either side of the removed section in order to provide a place for nailing the lower stands in order to keep the fenced stretched sufficiently.
- 4. All open-top pipes used for posts must be capped.
- **5.** Photographs of modified or newly constructed fences are required.
- **6.** Use of this enhancement is not recommended for small ruminant operations where predation by covotes or feral dogs is a problem.
- **7.** New fences should be constructed according to NRCS Conservation Practice Standard 382-Fence.

Tract/field	Livestock Type	Animal species of concern (wildlife)	Existing fence type and height of lowest strand	Date completed