

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 purposes avoid as much irregular terrain as possible.
2. Wildlife movement needs should be considered.
3. State and local laws may apply to boundary fences.
4. Consider livestock handling, watering and feeding requirements when locating fences
5. Consider soil erosion potential and feasibility of fence construction when planning fences on steep or irregular terrain.

Additional information including designs and construction specifications are available in the local NRCS Field Office Technical Guide.