

Water Quality Enhancement Activity – WQL23 – Protection of sensitive areas on winter grazing land



Enhancement Description

This enhancement is for the protection of riparian and other identified sensitive areas that are susceptible to degradation when used for wind protection by livestock.

Land Use Applicability

Pastureland and rangeland

Benefits

Properly placing a wind shelter (away from riparian and sensitive areas) protects livestock

from the weather, while protecting water resources from degradation that results when livestock concentrate in an area. Alternative wind shelters minimize adverse impacts around riparian areas that offer natural protection by reducing the potential to concentrate nutrients around water sources, and reducing bank disturbance, soil compaction and excessive trampling of riparian or sensitive area vegetation. The proper placement of these alternative shelters results in improvements to water quality and animal health.

Criteria

1. Producers are required to use one type of alternative shelter to provide livestock with protection from wind
2. Alternative shelter design criteria and placement must follow state Land Grant University guidelines or NRCS design criteria
3. Fabricated shelter designs will meet the need of the entire herd
4. Supplemental feeding or mineral supplements will not be permitted within ¼ mile (1,320 ft) of riparian areas, water courses or water bodies

Documentation Requirements

1. A map showing the planned location(s) of fabricated shelter(s) in each pasture
2. An approved fabricated shelter design
3. Photographs showing shelters in the field

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Livestock shall be removed in the winter from riparian and other identified sensitive areas (i.e. woodlots, wetlands, etc).

Acceptable design is 80% solid fence with up to 2" spaces between the boards or a solid fence. Boards should be 6"-10" wide. Minimum height of fence is 10 feet for slotted fence and 8 feet for solid fence. See attached figure from Beef Housing and Equipment Handbook - Midwest Plan Service pub. number MWPS-6. 1987 pp 2.5-2.7.

Round or Large Square haybales may also be used to create a wind shelter. Bales shall be stacked to a height of 8-10 feet, and shall be protected from livestock grazing.

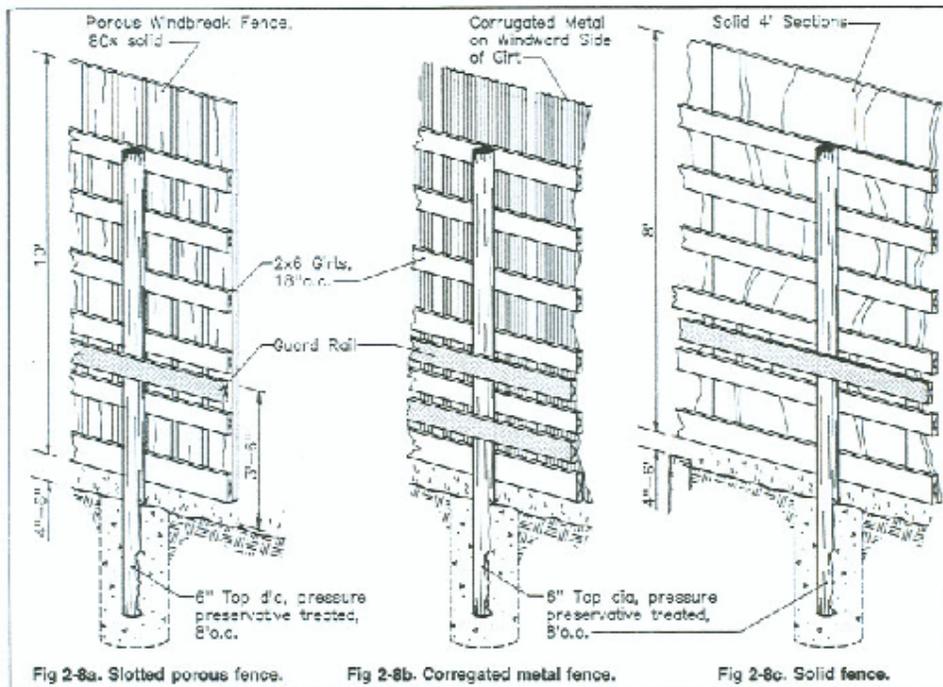


Fig 2-8. Windbreak fences.
Attach boards on the cattle side. If cattle have access to both sides, add guard rails. Slot or frame planks on alternate posts.

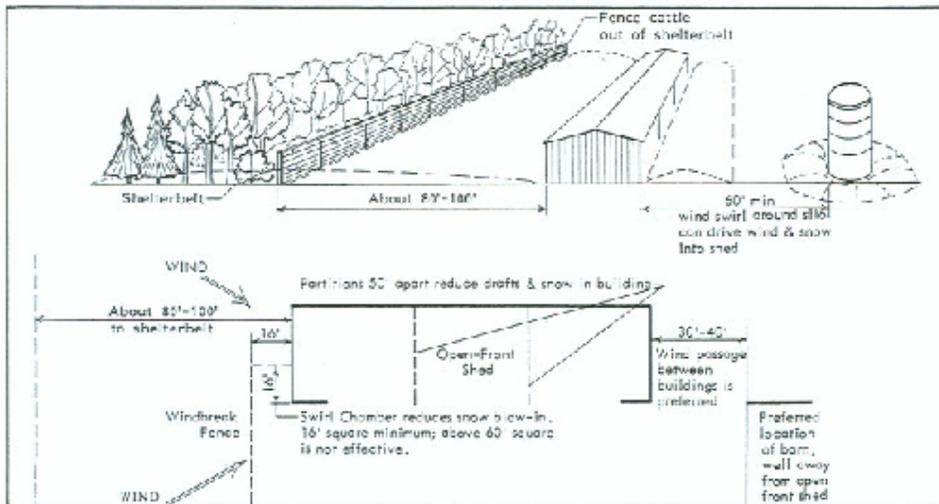


Fig 2-9. Wind and snow protection of open-front buildings.