

Fencing Through EQIP in Iowa

New EQIP Policy for Conservation Practice Standard 382 Fence



New Policy

Iowa NRCS is updating policy that allows participants to use Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) financial assistance for Conservation Practice Standard (CPS) 382 Fence in situations that they would not have been allowed to in the past.

Prior to 2024, participants were limited to interior fencing or fence when converting cropland to pasture.

With the new policy, financial assistance for CPS 382 Fence will now be available for new EQIP contracts to install exterior and property line fence that are part of CPS 528 Prescribed Grazing and/or CPS 472 Access Control. Fence that has surpassed the 20-year lifespan is eligible for EQIP financial assistance.

Exterior Fence

Exterior fence is allowed on EQIP financial assistance contracts when the land where fence is planned supports the 528 Prescribed Grazing practice to improve management and identified resource concerns on at least one side of the fence (i.e. grazing cover crops or stalks on crop ground).

Property Line Fence

Due to the State of Iowa's Fence law, NRCS requires that the participant will provide an agreement signed by both landowners, prior to obligation, when the contract includes property line fence.

The agreement must state that both landowners agree on installation and operation and maintenance requirements. The agreement does not need to include who is responsible for the installation, operation and maintenance of the fence.

With this requirement met, the entire property line fence would be eligible for EQIP financial assistance.



Interior Fence

EQIP financial assistance is only allowed:

- a. **When it is supporting an approved conservation practice.** The two practices that authorize interior fence are CPS 528 Prescribed Grazing and CPS 472 Access Control.
- b. **When it is necessary to exclude livestock from another practice, as included in the practice standard.**

For example, when a new or existing CPS 378 Pond or CPS 410 Grade Stabilization Structure needs a fence.

For existing grade stabilization structures or ponds, fence can be included as a supporting practice for CPS 472 Access Control.

See back page for more information about each type of fence.

Examples of Eligible Fence Practice to Address Resource Concerns

- ◆ Fence around a crop field that is being converted to pastureland to treat inadequate feed and forage availability.
- ◆ Exterior fence on crop ground to expand on soil health principles, such as aggregate instability, by incorporating livestock.
- ◆ Interior fence, such as a cross fence/paddock divide, to facilitate an improved prescribed grazing system.
- ◆ Fence to control livestock access to a creek or stream to treat streambank erosion and water quality.
- ◆ Fence to control livestock access to an existing grade stabilization structure or pond to improve water quality and wildlife habitat.





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Fence Examples



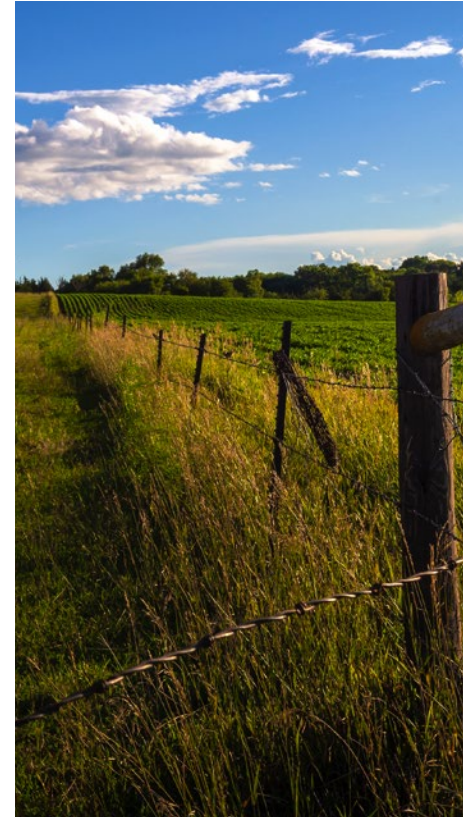
Exterior Fence

An exterior fence is a fence critical for containment of livestock within a grazing unit. If livestock get through an exterior fence, they may cause damage to areas where they are not to be grazing. A fence between a crop field and a pasture owned by the same landowner and operated by the same person is an example of an exterior fence. If the crop aftermath is grazed, then it could become an interior fence when the livestock are on the crop field.



Interior Fence

Interior fence is within (interior to) the overall grazing system, such that if it failed livestock would still be contained within the grazing unit. A paddock divided fence is a good example of an interior fence. A fence around a pond within the pasture is another example.



Property Line Fence

Property line fence is a subset of exterior fence that is shared between two landowners.

