Fencing Options for Your Grazing System

Georgia Grazing School

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Fencing Systems

- Plan the system before building
- Choose the right materials
- Use the right construction techniques
- Don’t let a “temporary fence” turn into a high maintenance permanent fence

Types of Fences

- **Field Fence** (Page wire, hog wire, woven wire) w/ barbed wire at top
  - Perimeter and baby calf areas

- **Barbed wire**
  - Where electric doesn’t work well

- **Electric** (Note vinyl coated wire)

Wire Types

- **Steel** (Standard and **High Tensile**)
  - Single, barbed, woven
- **Galvanizing (Class I and Class III)**
- **Vinyl Coated** (including conductive)
- **Electric Tapes and Ropes**
  - Temporary
  - Permanent
Post Types

- Wood
  - Treated (at least 0.6 lb/ft³)
  - CCA replaced by ACQ
  - Untreated (Landscape Timbers are untreated pine)
- Steel (Painted and Galvanized)
- Plastic (Temporary electric)
- Fiberglass
  - Sucker Rod (High Density FG)

Components with Similar Lives

- Painted Posts with Class III galvanized wire

How Long Will It Last?

- Painted Posts with Class III galvanized wire
- Galvanized Posts with Class I galvanized wire
- Painted Posts, Class I woven wire, Class III barbed wire
Fasteners
- **Staples**
  - Long (1 3/4") (for pine posts)
  - Class III galvanizing
- **Nails**
  - Galvanized
  - Ring-shanked

Electric Fence Materials
- Use high-quality insulators or fiberglass posts
- Use high-tensile wire (Class III galv.) if permanent
- Rope, tape, or vinyl coated wire adds visibility

Fence Chargers
(Controllers, Energizers)
- Mile rating is not necessarily a good indicator
- Look for ratings at different loads (ohms)
  - 50,000 ohms (fence in good condition)
  - 5,000 ohms
  - 500 ohms
  - 100 ohms (fence in poor condition)
- At least 1000 volts @100 ohms

Cost per Mile
- Woven Wire
- Barbed Wire
- Electric
BRACES and INSTALLATION

H Brace
- Strongest Brace
- Top member 2 to 2 1/2 x height of fence

Pinning Braces
- Min. 8 ft.
- Min. 3 ft.
- 3/8" Galvanized Rod

Installing Brace Wire
- Allow wires to slip
- Tensioning the wire brace
Dead-Man Brace
- Need Larger Post
- Not as Strong
- Easier to Build

Stapling Technique
- Leave Wire Loose
- Only Horizontal Wires
- Rotate from Vertical (Rotate away from slashes)
  - Right for right-handed staples
  - Left for left-handed
- 1 3/4" Galvanized Staples

Post Installation
- Driven wooden posts are stronger
- Drive Small End Down

Post Installation
- Proper Tamping Procedure

Electric Fence Grounding
- Proper grounding of charger is vital
  - 3 or more 8-ft rods
  - 10 ft apart
  - Separate from other electrical grounds
  - Drive and attach underground to prevent mower damage
  - Never Concrete Over
- Ground Alternate Wires

Lightning Protection
- Good grounding is essential
- Nothing is "Lightning Proof"
- Use devices sold by charger manufacturer to maintain warranty
Lightning Protection

- "Choke" and "Lightning Arrestor"
- Separate (Better) Grounding System
- Protect Source side as well as fence side

Protection at Power Source

At least 50 ft

10-ft apart

8-ft Rods

QUESTIONS?

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