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Sheep and Goat Fencing Systems

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Well designed fences.....

- Animal Control
- Allows for Adaptive Grazing
- Reduced Predation

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Planning

- Aerial Photos/maps
 - Extension
 - NRCS
- Consider all options
 - Transparencies may help



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Permanent Fencing

- Woven Wire (Page wire)
- Alternatives sizes 16/60/2
 - 16 horizontal lines
 - 60" height
 - 2" x 4" spacing





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Woven Wire Options

<http://www.corralpanels.org/corralpanels/field-fence.html>


- Hinged Knot
 - 10 foot post spacing
 - Can stretch 12%
 - Cost/foot: \$1.47
- Fixed Knot
 - 20 foot post spacing
 - Can stretch 4%
 - Cost/foot: \$1.25

<http://www.fieldfence.org/fieldfence/fieldfencedescription.html>

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Protecting Woven Wire Fence



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High-tensile Electric

- Durable
- Easy to construct
- Low cost (\$0.60/foot)
- 12.5 gauge wire
- Control vs protection?
 - 5-7 wires exterior fence
 - 2-3 wire interior fence
- Brace assemblies are critical



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Source: Jason Tower, IN

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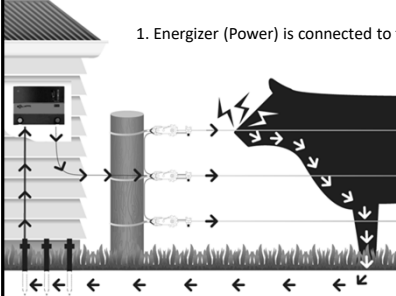
3 Components To A Power Fence System

1. Energizer
2. Fence
3. Grounding System

All have to work properly or the system fails!

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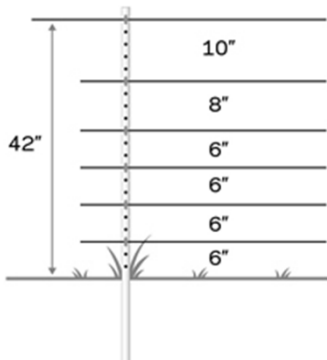
How Electric Fencing Works



1. Energizer (Power) is connected to the fence & to the ground.
2. Power is sent along the fence wires in pulses.
3. Animal receives a shock when it touches the fence.

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High-tensile Electric Spacing



Source: Gallagher

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Strong Brace Assemblies

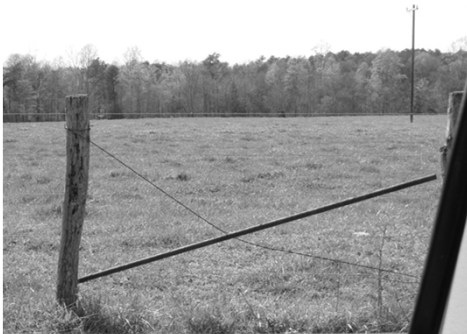


H-Brace

Floating brace

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Questionable Brace Assemblies



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Other Options (not recommended)

- Mesh wire – corrals?
- Barbed Wire – not an effective predator deterrent
- Rail Fence
 - Wood or vinyl
 - Aesthetics
 - Minimal predator and/or animal control



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Temporary Fence

- Grazing management
 - Forage quality/utilization
 - Protection of the forage resource
- Parasite issues with small ruminants (sheep/goats)
- Protect the livestock from ground predators
- Landscape Management/Vegetation Control (sheep/goats)



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Terminology

- Temporary fence: moved daily or weekly
- Semi-permanent fence: moved once per season
 - With reels
 - Without reels
- Permanent fence
- Mental vs. Physical barrier?



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Temporary Fence Basics

- How will you energize the fence?
- Animals will need to be trained.
- Under normal conditions (limited vegetation on the fence)
 - Cattle = 5,000 volts (5Kv)
 - Sheep/goats = 7,000 volts (7Kv)
- Wet conditions and vegetation will load the fence and reduce shocking power.



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Temporary Fence Basics

- Poly fence products add resistance to existing fence systems.
- Thus a larger energizer may be needed when adding temporary fence.
- Monitor fence voltage during variable conditions to determine performance.
- Energizer size Rule of Thumb: 1 output joule per 10 to 40 acres.
- At least three grounds rods will be need for adequate grounding of most energizers.



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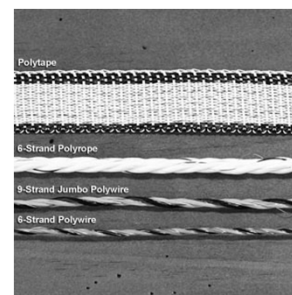
Temporary Fence Equipment



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Types of Poly-Fence Products

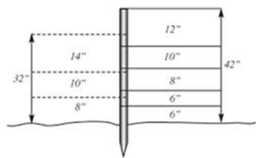

- Polywire (a.k.a. polytwine)
- Polyrope
- Polytape
- 9-strand stainless polywire works very well.
- Avoid the 5-strand economy polywire.
- Polytape is generally less conductive than polywire.



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Multi-Strand Polywire


- Temporary or semi-permanent
- Grazing management:
 - Residual forage?
 - Temptation?
- Spacing options: 8"; 18" and 32"
 - Ewes and lambs
 - Mature goats
 - Pastured pigs
 - Livestock Guardian Dogs
- Additional wires for goats/kids
- Lower cost: \$0.18/foot
- Offers minimal predator protection


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Multi-Strand Polywire

Advantages	Disadvantages
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Easy to install and remove <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Long distances – Wooded areas • Works well with <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Strip grazing – Pasture raised pork • Easier to control vegetation • Lower cost: \$0.18/foot 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • May not contain livestock • Offers minimal predator protection




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Net Fence:

Polywire version of woven wire/field fence

- Name: ElectroNet® 9/35/12
 - 9 horizontal strands
 - 35 in. tall
 - 12 in. between vertical strands
- Numerous options
 - Length (50 or 100 feet and 82 or 164 feet)
 - Height (30 – 48 inches)
 - Horizontal strands (number and spacing)
 - Vertical strand spacing
 - Post size/spacing
 - Drivable posts



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Net Fence Experience

- Easy to use **if you follow directions**
- Tall forage should be mowed or ridden down
- Wooded areas will challenge your patience, but it is possible.
- Excellent ground predator control
- Entanglement issues with lambs/kids
- Always keep the net electrified



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Net Fence Experience

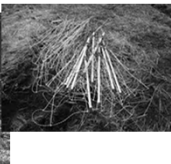
- Poultry netting is heavier than sheep/goat netting.
- Consider using two short sections rather than one long section.
- Energizer requirements
 - Poultry net: 0.5 joules/2-100 foot nets
 - Sheep/goat net: 0.5 joules/ 4-164 feet nets



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Installation/Storage

- <http://www.premier1supplies.com/img/product/pdf/401.pdf>
- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=g-zEHPNqEQw>
- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ADpXenWfPuk>



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Net Fence Experience



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Net Fence Experience



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Net Fence Costs

Sheep/Goats

- Premier Supply ElectroNet®
9/35/12
 - 164 feet = 13 lbs.
 - 82 feet = 7 lbs.
 - \$0.70/foot

Poultry

- Temporary Poultry Net®
12/42/3
 - 164 feet = 26 lbs.
 - 82 feet = 14 lbs.
 - \$0.94/foot



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Summary

- Develop a plan that fits your needs today and allows for future flexibility.
- Deterring predators must be considered (or containing LGD).
- Using temporary fence first can help producers decide if a permanent fence is needed and proper placement.

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Summary

- For large projects hiring a fencing contractor for all or a portion of the job could be a good idea.
- Buy quality products. Cutting corners with fence materials can lead to frustration down the road.
- Purchase a larger energizer than you need today.
- Use temporary fence to improve grazing management.

