

Construction Specification Barbed Wire

1. Zinc Coating shall be a minimum of Class 1 for 12 ½ gauge barbed wire and Class 3 for 15 ½ gauge barbed wire and 12 ½ gauge high tensile wire.
2. Barbed wire fence shall consist of at least 4 strands. Spacing of wire for cattle will be (from the ground to the top) 16 inches, 10 inches, 10 inches and 10 inches. Closer spacing will be required for sheep and goats and additional wires may be required for boundary fences or for small enclosures.
3. Three wire barbed wire fences are sufficient for cross fences where the purpose is rotation of cattle in an intensive grazing management system.
4. Barbed wire shall be supported by line post, spaced 12 feet apart. The general use of existing trees as line post is not recommended.
5. Wood post, braces and twitch sticks shall be black locust or pressure treated pine (0.4 pcf) or other wood of equal life and strength.
6. Corner post assemblies shall be used any time there is a curve creating an angle less than 160° in the fence line.
7. Wooden line post shall be at least 3 inches in diameter at the small end and 6 ½ feet long. Line post shall be set 2 feet in ground.
8. Steel line post shall be 6 feet long. The style shall be "T" Section 1 3/8" X 1 3/8" X 1/8".
9. Stables used to fasten wire to wood post shall be 9 gauge galvanized wire with a minimum length of 1½" for softwoods.
10. Corner and end panel pull post shall be installed as shown in Figures.
11. Corner or pull post assembly shall be installed in straight fence sections not to exceed 660 feet on level land or at other points of changes in slope and curves. Construct fence straight with as few zigzags as possible.
12. Post may be handset or set with post driver. Post that are backfilled with concrete shall have no stress applied to post until at least 24 hours after concrete is poured.
13. For the "H" brace assembly shown, the pull and brace post shall be 5" to 6" diameter post 8 feet long. Anchor posts shall be set 3 ½ feet in the ground. The horizontal brace shall be 4" to 5" diameter post 8 feet long. Six and twelve inch by ¾" diameter dowels or equivalent shall be used to attach brace to the post. Brace wire consists of 2 rounds of 12 ½ gauge (4 wires top to bottom) or 1 round of 9 gauge wire (2 wires top to bottom) with a twitch stick. ¾" diameter dowel or equal must be used at bottom and top of post to support brace wire. A single 12 ½ gauge wire with ratchet wheel may be also be used. The "H" assembly is the preferred corner.
14. A single pull post with bedlog is also shown. The single pull post with bedlog corner is preferred if corner angle is greater than 145°. The minimum diameter shall be 6" for the pull post and bedlog. The bedlog will be minimum of 4 feet long. Bedlog shall be installed perpendicular to the direction of pull. Trench for bedlog should be dug with front slope at approximately 90° angle to bottom of trench. The trench shall be 8 inches deep and the bedlog tamped tightly in place.
15. In warm weather, a stretch of 100 feet should sag 4 inches in the middle and 2 inches in cold weather.
16. The wire shall be placed on the inside of the post except on curves. Where appearance is critical, wire maybe fastened to the outside of the post.
17. The wire shall be placed on the outside of curves.
18. Stables shall not be driven so tightly as to bind the wire against the post. The wire shall be fastened to steel post with the manufacturer's special wireclip.
19. Any obstruction that would interfere with the proper construction of the fence shall be removed prior to the installation of the fence. This includes dead trees that could fall on fence.

