



Practical Biosecurity Programs
Standard Biosecurity Protocol (SBP)
SBP 30

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Fencing

1. **Purpose:** To ensure livestock remain in a designated area safe from injury and limit contact with other livestock, people, and animal species.
2. **Responsibility:** Farm Manager/Owner
3. **Frequency:** Ongoing
4. **Biosecurity Protocols**
 - 4.1 Fences should be designed, built and maintained to ensure that the livestock remain in the defined area (i.e. pasture, yard, or compound).
 - 4.2 Fence design will be determined by the species of livestock, or combination of livestock being contained. It will also vary with requirements of the farm. For instance you may need a better fence to keep predators out of an area than to fence in the livestock.



Picture 30.1, Perennia, 2010 Picture 30.2

- 4.3 Fences in an area where there is greater livestock pressure will need to be stronger. For example: Handling areas need to be stronger than pasture areas.



Picture 30.3, Perennia, 2010

- 4.4 For minimum fencing requirements see NSDA document 'Livestock Fencing Guidelines 2013'
- 4.5 Fence layout and design is critical to efficacy. Understanding livestock habits and movement will help ensure proper fence design.
- 4.6 Leaving a buffer zone outside the fence acts as a visual barrier to wildlife approaching the fence that allows them to react before they contact the fence. This zone along the outside of the fence in woodland interface areas will reduce fence maintenance requirements by reducing tree branch contact and damage from tree and limb-fall from trees. (This buffer zone will require some form of monitoring and maintenance like mowing.)
- 4.7 The fence is only as effective as its weakest point. Gates must be secure and kept closed and locked where necessary. When locking a remote gate, post signage indicating a contact phone number.
- 4.8 Design gates so that you can enter and exit freely without livestock escaping while you are using the gates. Consider a double gate system and locate the gate(s) far enough off the highway to allow enough room for vehicles to pull off the road.
- 4.9 Fence maintenance is critical to ensure the efficacy of the fence; routine inspection and repair is required to ensure the fence is in good condition and remains an effective barrier for livestock. Carry out fence maintenance before livestock are placed in the pasture or before the containment area is required.
- 4.10 Inspect the fences when you perform your monitoring of the livestock. Traveling the fence line is the only way to ensure that it is in good condition and working effectively.
- 4.11 Inspect fencing following storms to ensure any damage is identified and repaired.
- 4.12 Electric fences require constant observation to ensure that there is adequate power in the fence to be effective. Locate the fence power unit in an area where you travel daily.
- 4.13 Using a fence tester will indicate whether the fencer is working properly.



Picture 30.4, Perennia, 2012

- 4.14 Keep tools and materials on hand at all times to repair any fence problems.
 - 4.15 **When fence problems are identified repair the problems immediately. The livestock may have to be relocated to a secure area until repairs are completed.**
 - 4.16 Post biosecurity signage on gates and fences to remind people not to compromise the farms Biosecurity Program that protects the farm's livestock health.
5. **Biosecurity Deviation Protocols**
- 5.1 When fence monitoring and/or maintenance have been overlooked, an immediate fence, gate and electrical fencer inspection is required.
6. **Biosecurity Records**
- 6.1 Keep a record of fence monitoring and maintenance in the farms Daily Activity Log.
 - 6.2 Keep electric fencer information on file and the date of installation and repairs.