



TIPS FOR LIVESTOCK FENCING

The importance of livestock fencing is to ensure livestock remain in a designated area where they are safe from injury and limit contact with other livestock, people, and animal species.

Consider the following when setting up or maintaining livestock fencing.

- **Fence design should be determined by the species of livestock, or a combination of livestock, being contained**
 - » Consider what you want to keep in versus what you want to keep out – the presence of predators or wildlife may result in the need for a stronger fence than required by the livestock herd
 - » Fences in areas where there is greater livestock pressure will need to be stronger (ex. handling areas)
 - » Understanding livestock habits and movement will contribute to fencing design
- **Leave a buffer zone outside the fence**
 - » This acts as a visual barrier for wildlife before they hit the fence
 - » It can help reduce maintenance requirements from damage caused by wildlife, tree branches, etc.
- **Electrify fences before livestock turnout to discourage wildlife entry to the pasture, reducing potential contact with wildlife**
- **Gates are closed and secured or locked where necessary**
 - » In remote areas, post contact phone number on locked gates
- **Design gates so that you can enter and exit freely (with vehicle or equipment if necessary), without livestock escaping**
 - » Consider a double gate system
 - » Locate gates far enough off the road so that vehicles can pull fully off the road and still be able to open the gates
- **Maintain fences to ensure they stay in good condition and remain effective barriers**
 - » Carry out maintenance before livestock are put in
 - » Inspect fences each time you monitor livestock to ensure damage is identified and repaired promptly
 - » Inspect fences following storms to identify potential damage or weakening
 - » Use a fence tester to make sure electric fences are working properly
 - » Keep fencing materials and tools on hand to facilitate prompt repairs
- **Livestock may need to be relocated when repairs are being made**
- **Post biosecurity signage on gates and fences to remind people to protect the health of the livestock**
- **Keep a record of fence maintenance and monitoring in the Daily Activity Log**

General livestock fencing guidelines can be found in the following guide published by the Nova Scotia Department of Agriculture in 2013: <https://novascotia.ca/thinkfarm/documents/fencing-guidelines-2013.pdf>

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