

10 Minute Supervisor Trainings



July 2022

FENCE REMOVING ANIMALS FROM STREAMS, SINKHOLES, OR PONDS

This practice is considered a high priority practice for the Kentucky Soil Erosion and Water Quality Cost Share program (state cost share), based on criteria outlined in 401 KAR 1:010. The practice consists of a constructed barrier to keep animals out of streams, sinkholes, and ponds to avoid contaminating the water source.

It is an important practice because a source of abundant clean water is essential for the health and wellbeing of cattle and other animals. Cattle can drink from 3.5-25 gallons of water per day, based on the age, weight, gender, and breed of cattle. Leptospirosis, e. coli, and mastitis are the main health concerns with livestock drinking dirty water.

Which Producers Might Be Interested

Any producers in your district who have both livestock and a water source might be interested in this practice. Reaching out to these producers is one of the ways in which the conservation district board can carry out its mission of protecting the water in your community.

How to Reach Those Producers

Coming to the producers is always a great way to find them. Consider using flyers and advertising at agricultural buildings, stockyards, and farm supply stores. The district could also advertise on radio and in the newspaper. Extension and producer meetings are a great way to reach the people who might be interested in exclusionary fencing.

Social media is a great way to reach producers also. If your district doesn't already have a Facebook page, consider starting one. You can advertise the district's events and programs, and you can use pictures and video to show just how the district can help with a producer's problems.

Associated Practices

Fencing is generally installed along with other practices, such as prescribed grazing, heavy use area, livestock pipeline, and/or livestock watering facilities.

This practice is utilized to protect sensitive areas (streams, sinkholes, ponds, trees, eroded areas) from concentrated livestock. The fence practice has a 20-year practice life. This practice may also be utilized to protect newly constructed conservation practices from livestock damage.

Things Producers Should Consider

This practice is applied to any area where livestock and/or wildlife control is needed. A wide variety of fences exist; however, fencing material and construction quality is always designed and installed to assure the fence will meet the intended purpose. The standard fence is constructed of either barbed or smooth wire suspended by posts with support structures. Other types include woven wire for small animals, electric fence, and suspension fences, which are designed with heavy, but widely spaced posts and support structures.

Things to consider when planning a fence:

- Avoid irregular terrain as much as possible
- Impact on wildlife movement
- State and local laws
- Livestock handling, watering, and feeding requirements

Operation and maintenance for a fence include regular inspections after storms and other disturbance events. Maintain and repair a fence as needed, including tree and limb removal, water-gap replacement, repair or replacement of control features, and maintenance of fladry or signage.

More information online

All BMPs the Kentucky Ag Water Quality Authority has approved: <https://eec.ky.gov/Natural-Resources/Conservation/Pages/Best-Management-Practices.aspx>

Kentucky Cooperative Extension's Agriculture and Natural Resources publications: <https://anr.ca.uky.edu/anr-publications>

NRCS's Field Office Technical Guide: <https://efotg.sc.egov.usda.gov/#/>