

## Fencing and Water for Goats

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## Goat Production Philosophy

- A cull is a cull no matter what the papers say!!
- Build a goat proof fence and then add electricity.
- Good fences make good neighbors
- A falling tree always hits the newest fence
- Fix pens where goats want to go, rock around the water makes it neater
- If you would not drink the water why would your goats?

Adapted from "cow production Philosophy, Ideal beef memo, Nov. 1983.

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## Considerations When Building a Fence

- Location of Fence
  - Perimeter
  - Interior
- Type of Fence
  - Woven Wire
  - High Tensile
  - Electric
  - Temporary
  - Barb Wire

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### Construction

- Design based on the area.
- Plan for gates and future changes.
- Look at the land before starting.
- Purchase enough product.
- Have the correct tools available
- Make sure everything is done correctly the first time.

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### Fence for Goats

- Woven Wire – Many types depending on what you want. Should not be over 3 in. above ground.
- High tensile electric – not as common, can work, must start low and have 6 strands, put one below the bottom and split the lower three from what cattle use.
- Electric Standoff wire – a single electric wire around spaced a few inches off woven wire.

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### Types of Fence

- Woven Wire
  - 4in vertical stay
  - 8in vertical stay
  - 12in vertical stay
- Electric
  - 5 to 8 strand high tensile
  - 1 to 2 strand stand off/ addition
- Modified existing fences

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**Importance of Training**

- Electric fencing is a psychological barrier more than a physical barrier
- Animals tend to move forward when shocked so if contact fence may move through it
- Training will increase the success of your electric fence.

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**Issues When training**

- Animals don't see the fence until they make contact.
  - Especially a problem with temporary fences and new inter fences
- Animals do not perceive the new fence as a barrier to their movements and once through may not want to return or never respect the fence.
- Proper training increases the animal's awareness of electric fences and their respect for them

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### Training Procedure

- Use a small secure area
- Use material you will use in practice
- Place electric fence material in it
  - Set up so animals must go around to get to something
- Leave for a few days
- Animals that do not learn to respect fence should be culled

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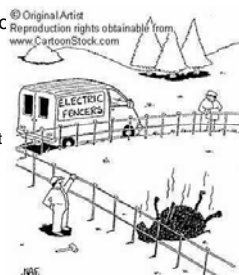
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### Increasing Psychological Effect

- Animals that approach the fence to investigate will generally retreat when shocked.
  - Place peanut butter on flags on the fence
  - Place ribbon or flagging on fence that the animals will investigate
- Make sure fence is properly installed and only use as much room as necessary when training.



"Down a few volts yet Harry!"

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## Water Systems

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## Water for Goats

- With Grazing Systems, Water is a major issue.
- Fence design can help
- Permanent water locations are important
- Temporary water can be moved as needed.
- Use small tubs, floats, and flexible pipe to get water to paddocks.

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## Ponds for Goats

- Goats will drink out of ponds and streams
- Do not like to get feet wet so have a good approach to the pond.
- Water quality is an issue with consumption
- Make a water pool in streams can help
- Recommended to have a water station fed by a pond or stream rather than direct drinking from the location.

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### Considerations for Water

- Water source needs to be easy to clean
- Permanent or portable, size needs to be adequate
- Float valve to maintain fill
- Cool water is more desirable than hot
- Water needs to be liquid
- Young stock may fall into larger tanks, provide a "way out"

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### Conclusions

- Good fences are needed for goats.
- We can modify existing fences to work with goats.
- Electric fences are effective with goats.
- Woven wire is most common for goats.
- Water is important and can be critical to success.
- Smaller tanks with float valves work best.

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