



## Fencing

When we think of livestock farms, we envision lines and lines of wood board fencing atop green pastures, with horses or cattle grazing within their confines. While wood board is esthetically pleasing, it's not always the best option for all types of livestock and operations. Proper fencing will not only protect your animals and your livelihood, but can also protect the public and reduce potential accidents and ensuing lawsuits. Below are some guidelines to help you choose the correct fencing for your business.

### 1. Always check your local laws first

States will typically have their own regulations regarding livestock fencing. Always be sure to check your local restrictions before you start putting up your fence.

### 2. Look at your land and weather patterns

Be sure to take into account the type of soil, flat or hilly topography, and any natural barriers that you'll come across.

### 3. Size and type of operations

A small horse farm will have very different needs from a large beef cattle farm. Keep in mind the following:

- Budgetary restrictions
- Type of animals (i.e., dairy cows are typically more docile than beef cattle), and if they have any aggressive tendencies such as livestock used for breeding
- Who is coming on the property? A private farm with little to no public interaction can get away with electrified fencing or even barbed wire



#### 4. Map out where you're going to have your fencing, walking lanes, and gateways

Now let's look at a few different types of fencing available:

##### Barbed wire

This type of fencing is an old standby for cattle ranchers. While it will certainly keep livestock in and predators out, you also run the risk of injury if an animal gets too close to it and injury to humans who could get hurt while working with and around it.

##### Rail Fencing

This can be made of wood, PVC or vinyl coated wood, and is common to a lot of horse farms. Rail fencing is aesthetically pleasing and will keep most animals confined, but if predators are an issue in your area, this fencing will do little to deter them. Rail fencing can also be costly if you have a large amount of land to fence.

##### Electric

Electric wire fencing is also a popular choice, because it is easy to put up and relatively inexpensive. Most animals will respect the electric fence, although they may need some training at first. It should be noted that these fences can give a pretty good "shock" when touched, so it may not be a good option if the public is coming on the property. They can also be expensive to maintain as the electricity needs to be run 24/7.

##### Wire-Fence

There are also multiple types of non-electric wire fencing. These are wallet friendly options that are easy to install and most animals will respect.

**Always remember to perform weekly checks of fence lines to ensure no holes, gaps, or weaknesses where an animal can escape or get injured.**



#### For More Information:



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