



CONSERVATION ENHANCEMENT ACTIVITY

E382B

CONSERVATION STEWARDSHIP PROGRAM

Installing electrical fence offsets and wire for cross-fencing to improve grazing management

Conservation Practice 382: Fence

APPLICABLE LAND USE: Pasture, Range

RESOURCE CONCERN: Soil

ENHANCEMENT LIFE SPAN: 20 Years

Enhancement Description

Retrofitting conventional fences such as barb wire, with new electrical offsets and electrical wire to facilitate cross-fencing for improved grazing management.

Criteria

- Electrical offsets will be attached to conventional fences to provide installation points for electrical tape, polywire, or other NRCS state approved electrical wire fence that will construct cross-fencing.
- The type and design of the fence retrofitting or construction will meet the management objectives and site challenges.
- The conventional or existing fence must meet state technical standards prior to the retrofit of the offsets.
- The offsets and electrical fence Implementation Requirement (IR) or jobsheet will specify:
 - Animal species of concern, both wildlife and domestic
 - Installation of cross-fence according to the conservation plan map
 - Installation of offsets and electric fence according to fence specifications

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Adoption Requirements

This enhancement is considered adopted when the criteria is met, documentation records are provided, and results viewed on the planned location.

Documentation and Implementation Requirements

Participant will:

- Prior to implementation, obtain NRCS Implementation Requirement (IR) or jobsheet that provides the construction specification for the offsets and electric cross-fence.
- Prior to implementation, develop a map with assistance from NRCS as needed, which identifies the location(s) of the conventional fence and the location(s) of the retrofitting with offsets and electrical cross-fencing.
- Prior to implementation, consult with NRCS on the quality of the existing conventional fence.
- During implementation, consult with NRCS if there are any changes or modifications to the material or construction techniques.
- After implementation, provide a map of the actual location(s) of construction of the offsets and electrical cross-fence(s) for review.
- After implementation, provide pictures of newly constructed offsets and cross-fence(s) showing the specified construction specifications were implemented.

NRCS will:

- Provide technical assistance as requested.
- Prior to implementation, as requested, assist the participant in the development of a map identifying the location(s) of the conventional fence and the location(s) of the retrofitting with offsets and electrical cross-fencing.
- Prior to Implementation, develop an Implementation Requirement or jobsheet with construction specifications.

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- Prior to implementation, provide technical determination of the quality of the existing conventional fence to state technical standards.
- During implementation, assist the participant with any modifications to the construction specifications when needed.
- After implementation, review offsets and electric cross-fence(s) location map.
- After implementation, certify offset and cross-fence(s) construction meets the Implementation Requirements (IR) or jobsheet design.

NRCS Documentation Review:

I have reviewed all required participant documentation and have determined the participant has implemented the enhancement and met all criteria and requirements.

Participant Name _____ Contract Number _____

Total Amount Applied _____ Fiscal Year Completed _____

NRCS Technical Adequacy Signature

Date

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ALABAMA – E382B Supplement- Installing electrical fence offsets and wire for cross-fencing to improve grazing management

- Applicable where existing non-electrified cross-fences are in place that meet NRCS standards and specifications.
- The purpose of this enhancement is to install a single wire attached with offsets to the existing fence, along with the installation of a fence charger, in order to provide a power source to facilitate further subdivisions of the existing paddocks using poly-wire to improve rotational grazing or implement strip grazing.

Requirements:

1. Written conservation plan that includes producer goals, objectives and resource concerns. Plan map will show and label all fences, feeding/watering areas, and sensitive areas. The existing cross-fences to be retrofitted will be identified.
2. Offsets must be a minimum of 5 inches from the existing posts/wire.
3. Wire shall be new 12.5-gauge high tensile steel Class III galvanized and at least 170000 psi tensile strength. Fence and charger shall be installed according to Alabama Job Sheet 382B High Tensile Electric Fence for Cattle.
4. Only the mainline cross-fence should be retrofitted, poly-wire can be connected to the retrofitted wire from either side of the fence. The wire should be placed about nose-height for the livestock type. The livestock type will be identified in the plan.
5. Average annual livestock dry matter needs will be balanced with available forage without deficiency for the yearly summary. The Forage/Animal Balance Worksheet will be completed to document.
6. Livestock will be rotated between more than 3 pastures in a particular functional-group (e.g. warm season pastures or cool season pastures) to facilitate prescribed grazing. Typically, the number of paddocks should double by subdividing the existing pastures. Starting and ending grazing periods will meet the guidelines in the table below. Pastures will be sized and stocked to facilitate meeting the requirements for grazing heights and resting periods. Additional pastures will enable additional more rest.
7. A contingency plan will be developed denoting the use of sacrifice areas for pasture management during drought or other weather-related events. These areas will be labeled on the conservation plan map.
8. Maintain grazing records to include pasture or field number, acres, forage type, animal type and number, forage height in and out-with dates. Records should be submitted quarterly along with forage analyses.

Grazing will be managed according to the Prescribed Grazing (528) Standard.

The days of rest needed for plant recovery and regrowth range from 7 to 45 days, depending on the forage species (see below table). Stocking rates and growing conditions can also affect the forage growth. Grazing systems should be designed to meet the rest requirements of a specific forage as well as the needs of the livestock. For example, by using four pastures with 14 days of grazing per pasture, the grazing cycle is 56 days and each pasture rests 75% of the time or 42 days.

FORAGE GUIDELINES FOR PRESCRIBED GRAZING SYSTEMS

Common Forages	Begin Grazing (in)	End Grazing (in)	Usual days of Rest
Alfalfa grazing types	10	4	35 - 40
Bahia grass	6	2	10 - 20
Bermudagrass common	5	2	7 - 10
Bermudagrass hybrid	6	3	7 - 10
Big Bluestem	18	10	30 - 45
Dallis grass	6	3	7 - 15
Eastern Gama grass	15	8	30 - 45
Tall Fescue	6	3	15 - 30
Indiangrass	12	6	30 - 40
Orchard grass	8	3	15 - 30
Switchgrass	18	10	30 - 45

Grazing Management Records

Keeping accurate records is a continual and critical process in effective pasture and livestock management.

Pasture ID		Pasture acres		Forage type			
Soil test date		Lime/ Fertilizer rate		Lime/ Fertilizer type		Date applied	
Livestock		Date in	Forage height	Date out	Forage height	Notes (fertilizer applied)	
Type	Number						

Pasture ID		Pasture acres		Forage type			
Soil test date		Lime/ Fertilizer rate		Lime/ Fertilizer type		Date applied	
Livestock		Date in	Forage height	Date out	Forage height	Notes (fertilizer applied)	
Type	Number						