

# FORTY YEARS GATHERINGS IN 40 MINUTES

Putting grazing infrastructure to work  
for you.

You can learn a lot in the school  
of hard knocks but the tuition  
sure is high.

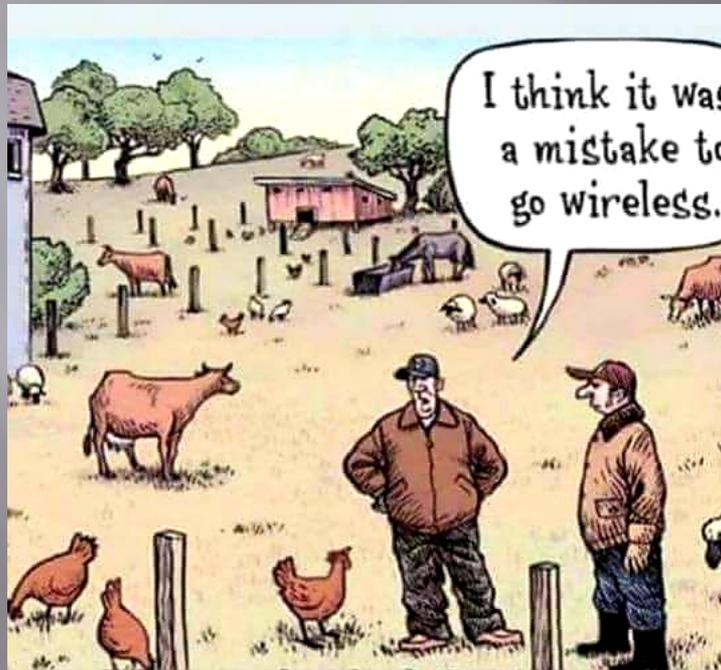
FENCE ISSUES



MAYBE THIS WAS NOT  
THE RIGHT THING TO DO.



Don't just plan to build a fence  
plan too build a system.



# Consider all of your options.

1. Lay out the area you wish to fence on graph paper.
2. Include gates, bracing, line post (wood or steel)
3. Consider water sources, feeding and working facilities, catch pens and lanes.
4. What type of fence and where should it be used (fixed knot, electric, barb wire, board or combination of all.
5. What kind of animals do you have now or will have at some point.
6. Do I need predator control or do I need to be wildlife friendly.
7. Incorporate electric fence in your plan for offsets, permanent cross fence or polywires. Make sure you use correct energizer for consistent power supply. 110V vs. battery

# Part of planning is knowing your property.



Different obstacles can be overcome.



# Containment or Exclusion.



Use surveying flags and paint gun to lay out fence before you set the first post.



# The fence is your hired hand but must be laid out and built properly.

FIXED KNOT FOR PERIMETER AND PERMANENT LANES GOING TO WORKING FACILITIES OR CATCH PENS.

OFFSETS ATTACHED TO RUN POWER AROUND PERIMETER USING POWER SOURCE FOR TEMPORARY CROSS FENCING.



# Once you have a plan decide on your materials.

WOOD POST ARE THE MOST COMMON USED IN SOUTHEAST

PIPE ALSO MAKES A NICE SYSTEM.



Driven post are 9X tighter than ones dug by hand or augered with tractor.



Line post can be placed on 10' to 25' centers depending on layout and terrain covered.



# Landscape timbers and “perfect” post not recommended for fencing systems.



# Decorative timbers not suitable.



H braces are the foundation of any fence and are critical to life of your system.



# Select proper fence fabric.

- ▣ What are you trying to keep in or out ?
- ▣ Will the fence be used for multiple species.
- ▣ Perimeter fence, cross fence or catch pens ?
- ▣ Pens need tighter weave and closer post spacing's because of pressure.
- ▣ For perimeter fences use a more open weave and wider post spacing's depending on terrain and winter conditions for your area.
- ▣ Proper energizer selection is important if you incorporate offsets, cross fence whether permanent or temporary.

# Use only Hi tensile wire if possible.

- ▣ Lower installation cost with fewer post.
- ▣ Class 3 or better galvanization.
- ▣ Wire has greater memory.
- ▣ Will stretch less than 1%.
- ▣ Greater breaking strength.
- ▣ Acts as vertical trampoline on impact.

# Horse high, bull strong and pig tight !



**New Braunfels Police Department**

3 hours ago · 🌐

Report Photo



**Maegan Krueger Blaschke**  
**Kyle Bading** great Staytuff fence!

6 mins Like Reply More



Adjust easier to topography changes.



# Fixed knot and electric makes a great combination.



# Electric fence tips.

- ▣ Select proper energizer. 110 volt, battery, solar.
- ▣ Ground properly using a minimum of three ground rods spaced 10' apart. Could be more.
- ▣ Use offset system to carry power around property for use in all areas of layout.
- ▣ If building hi tensile cross fence never go above 10" spacing or go below 6". Fence for animals to be contained. Sheep, goats, cattle, horses all different.
- ▣ Make wires in this country ALL HOT !

# Continued

- ▣ Tie all the wires together when you come to end. This creates a big water pipe.
- ▣ Use good quality insulators for long life.
- ▣ Stay away from steel T post if possible.
- ▣ Use heavy duty underground lead-out cable designed for power fence.
- ▣ Use mixed metal polywire or tape for better conductivity. 50X more conductive than regular or stainless steel product.

# Almost done !

- ▣ Don't tie polywire together. Burn the poly back and splice or twist the strands together then tie.
- ▣ Use cutoff switches at gates or paddocks for easier maintenance or to find faults.
- ▣ Get a volt meter or fault finder if you don't have one. It's the only maintenance tool you have.
- ▣ Make sure animals are trained before you kick them out into open pastures. Train in small controlled catch pens. You'll be glad you did.

Adapt when your thrown a curve ball.



# Lanes, water crossing, gates, fence all coming together.



# Types of Grazing Systems

## GRAZING SYSTEMS

1. Continuous Grazing: Single pasture.
2. Slow rotational grazing: Two or more pastures with moves every two weeks to every few months.
3. Planned rotational grazing: Strategic moves every three to ten days.

## THREE PARTS OF SYSTEM

1. Forage: All types and varieties for different seasons and species from alfalfa to brome grass to crabgrass. Lots of resources available through VFGC.
2. CLEAN WATER !
3. Fence: Permanent and Portable. Combination of both is the best.

Make what you have work for  
you.



What we have just sometimes  
needs upgrading.



# Polywire for sub-division and sacrifice areas.



Use portable as long as you can until you figure out permanent.



# Water is the most essential nutrient in a livestock grazing system.

POOR QUALITY CAN REDUCE PERFORMANCE, IMPAIR REPRODUCTION AND CAUSE DEATH.



BEST OPTIONS ARE FROST FREE TANKS WHICH INSURE A CLEAN CONSISTENT SUPPLY OF WATER.



Best if installed in middle of grazing paddocks or pasture layout.



# Different tank design.



To close to gate area and corner of fence.



# Continuous grazing needing sub-division.



# Paddocks don't have to be the same size.



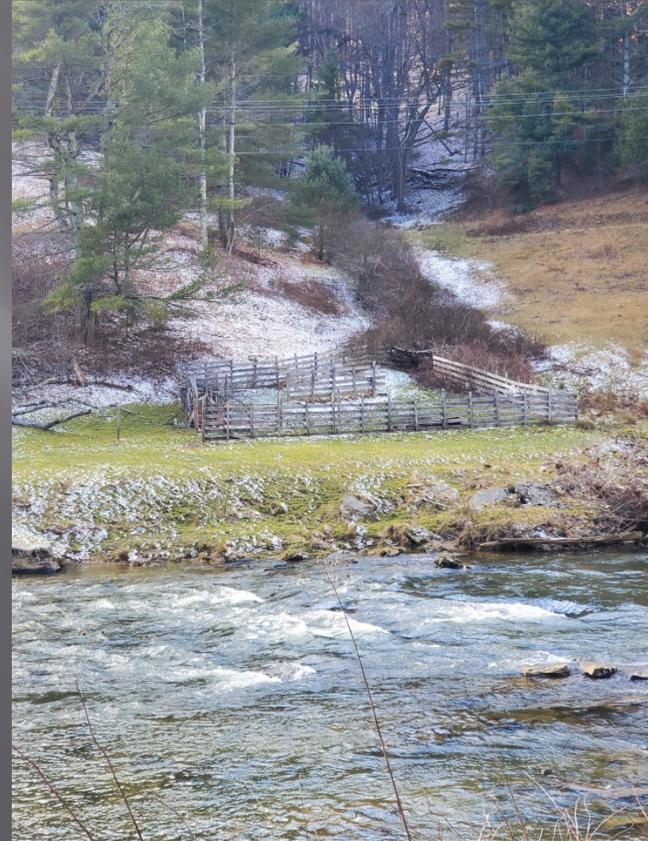
FENCE OUT WOODED  
AREAS.



RUN FENCE HORIZONTAL  
ALONG STEEPER GROUND.



Catch pens should be designed to incorporate existing fences or using lanes.



Unfortunately this lane is compromised.



Or maybe you just use a bucket !



Incorporate curves for better  
livestock movement.

Hang gates so you can open all the way on one side or the other.



# Observations

COLD



AND HUNGRY



# Where to feed ?



# Good management.

GOOD SOD ON HIGHER  
GROUND.



ROLLING OUT HAYLAGE  
BALES INSTEAD OF HAY RINGS.



# In summary

- ▣ Plan your system taking into consideration long range goals and objectives with livestock or wildlife. Study topography, animal movement, shade, north and south facing slopes, native grasses, weeds, improved ground. Working pens either permanent or portable and keep them on high ground if possible. Keep in mind animal welfare. Public expects it from us.
- ▣ Build good solid braces.
- ▣ Install the fence properly. Use electric for economical cross fencing.
- ▣ Use good clean source of water.
- ▣ Seek forage advice from VT extension or VFGC. Lots of options available.

# 2023 VFGC FENCE SCHOOLS APRIL 19<sup>TH</sup> and 26<sup>th</sup>.



Started in 2008 and going strong  
in 2023

