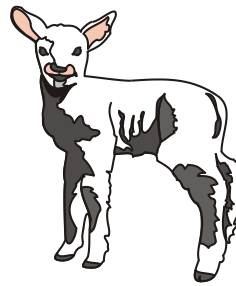


Farm Fencing

Fences are expensive to construct and maintain so ask yourself does **that** fence need to be **there**.



As a general rule, avoid following a geometric pattern which happens to look good on a flat sheet of paper. Rather locate internal fencing along natural boundaries eg creeks, gullies, ridges. Ideally the fences should follow the contour or be at right angles to it. Consider other restrictions such as frost and flood lines. Paddock establishment has to work with the location of watering points, stockyards, shelter belts, roads, fire and wind breaks.

To reduce creek bank erosion and maintain water quality, exclude livestock from the watercourses. However, provision of alternative water points eg troughs, may keep livestock away from watercourses without fencing. Laneways and other connections between paddocks are an important part of the layout. They can give quick access to all parts of the property in emergencies such as bushfires and can make the job of mustering stock quicker and easier.

Electric fencing

An electric fence works by 'educating' your animals so that they learn to associate touching the fence with receiving an unpleasant shock. It does not have physical strength as a wire fence because it seldom comes under pressure. However it must be well designed and constructed. Electric fences are low cost, easily constructed, maintained and modified.

Helpful ideas

- Strainer assemblies are the foundation of any fence. The deeper the posts are put into the ground, the greater the load it is likely to carry.
- A box assembly is most effective when the top bar is at least twice as long at the upright post.
- Posts should be driven into undisturbed soil or at least into as small a hole as possible. Rammed soil is never as strong as undisturbed soil.
- Don't re-use a piece of medium or high tensile wire which has been severely bent.
- Wire run through holes in steel posts increase the rate of corrosion.
- Holes in wooden posts may allow fire to access the heart of the post
- To reduce the risk of damage to fences from bushfires, keep vegetation off the fence.

Posts made from hardwood timber grown on the property are often suitable.

