

FENCING SPECIFICATION GUIDELINES

Pursuant to the *Wildlife (Deer Farming) Regulations 2010*

When designing an area to farm deer the natural features of the property should be taken into account. Time spent designing a farm that recognises the natural habits of deer will be well worth the investment. It is advisable that bush or other shelter and shade be available to minimise climatic stress. During these early planning stages some thought should be given to handling deer, the social behaviour of deer, particularly the behaviour of male deer when rutting and the overall welfare of the deer. Deer farms should be positioned close to houses to provide familiarisation with humans, easy observation of stock, and protection from theft.

The purpose of deer fencing is to prevent escape whilst the design should aim to minimise the risk of injury. It is important that there be no protrusions from the fence. Where possible, ensure posts are on the outer side of the fence, gate hinges and catches are centred on the posts and no wire ties protrude. Barbed wire should not be used in areas where deer are likely to pressure fences.

The following fencing specifications are intended as a minimum standard guide; other methods may be feasible.

Boundary Fencing

Minimum standard is a 2.0 metre high netting fence, supported by 3.0 metre wooden posts 100 to 125mm in diameter (1 metre buried into the ground) and spaced no further than 10 metres apart.

Netting - small mesh deer netting 17/190/15 (17 horizontal wires/190cm high/15cm spacing between the vertical wires). Horizontal wires are closer at the bottom of deer netting to reduce the likelihood of fawns escaping and to aid in deterring predators.

Plain wires – One wire positioned 10-15cm above the netting, plus additional wires to finish the total fence height at 2 metres. A minimum of 2 wires to be positioned at the top and bottom of the netting for support and to aid in the prevention of deer going under the fence and escaping.

Internal Fencing

Minimum standard is a 1.8 metre high netting fence supported by 2.7 metre wooden posts 100 to 125mm in diameter (0.9 metre buried into the ground) and spaced no further than 10 metres apart.

Netting - small mesh deer netting 15/150/30 (15 horizontal wires/150cm high/30cm spacing between the vertical wires).

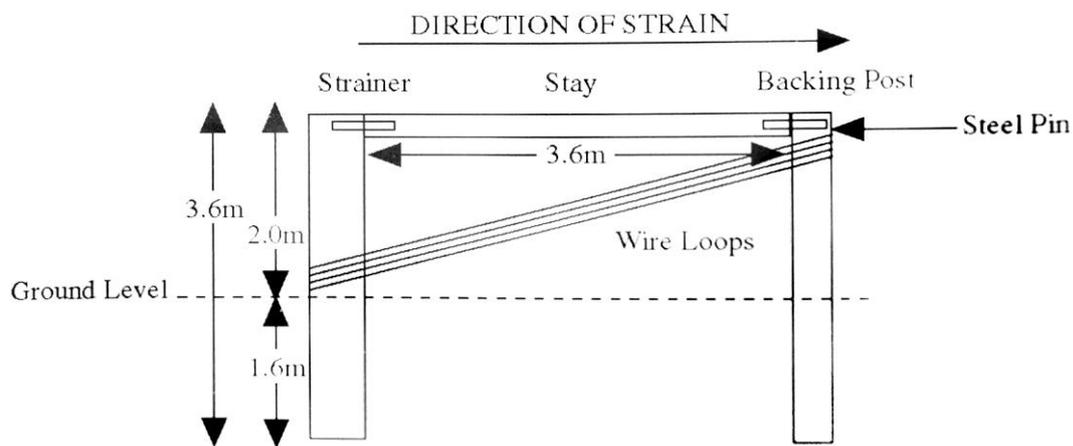
Plain wires – Two plain wires positioned 15cm and 30cm above the netting (1.65 and 1.80 metres from the ground) to finish the total fence height at 1.8 metres. A minimum of 2 wires to be positioned at the top and bottom of the netting for support is ideal.

Posts

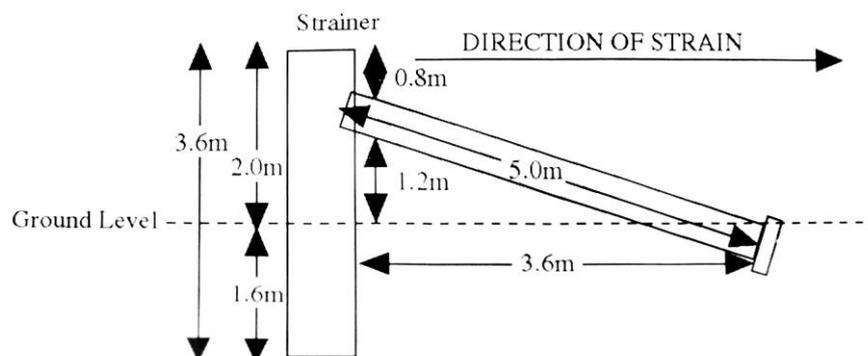
Post length will vary between boundary and internal fencing, however the post length must adequately meet the requirements of the fence under construction. The length of strain to be supported, soil type, fencing type and post spacing should all be considered. One third of the total post length should be held in the ground. Treated pine posts 100 to 125mm in diameter are suitable for use in most circumstances, with the exemption of assembly constructions. Post spacing should be no greater than 10 metres.

Assemblies

Horizontal Stayed Assembly consisting of a strainer post, a stay post, a backing post and a wire stay, made from diagonally looping the wire around the posts. The strainer post being 150 to 200mm in diameter and buried 1.6 metres into the ground. To ensure maximum strength for the end assembly, the ratio of the length of the strainer to the length of the backing post to the length of the wire stay is ideally 3:4:5 (2 metre strainer out of the ground:2.7 meter backing post:3.3 metre wire stay minimum). A small slot cut into the framing posts will ensure wire stays sit in place.



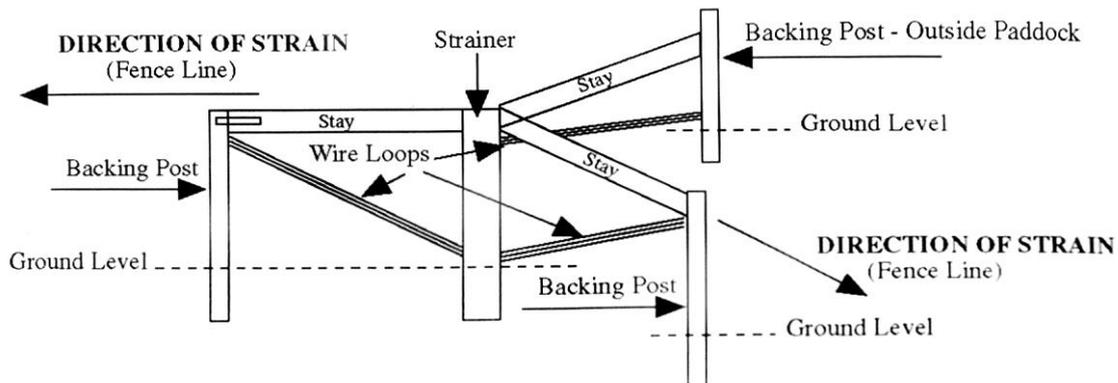
Diagonal Stayed Assembly consisting of a strainer post, a backing post and a bed log. The strainer post should be no less than 150 to 200mm in diameter and buried 1 metre into the ground. The stay is of similar diameter to fence posts (100 to 125mm), its length is determined by the position on the strainer. As a rule, the stay should be 4 times longer than the distance from the ground to the position on the strainer where the stay joins it. Keeping in mind that the longer the strain, the longer the stay length needs to be so that it does not jack the strainer from the ground. The bed log is to be a piece of hardwood timber approximately 60cm by 15cm by 30cm.



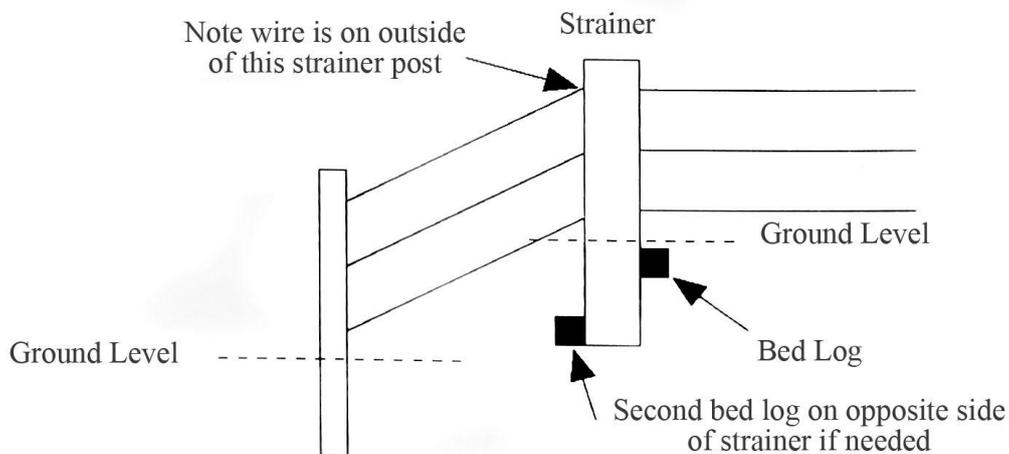
Curved fence stays

A **corner stay** is used on the inside (paddock side) of the corner. Often the area around the stay is fenced off and perhaps planted with trees, to reduce and prevent injury due to the stay protruding into the paddock. See diagram for diagonal stayed assembly.

A **reverse stay** is constructed on the outside of the corner (outside the paddock) and works by pulling the strainer post to keep it in position and to resist the strain exerted by the netting and wire.



A **bed log stay** does not use internal or external stays. This stay relies on a hardwood log bedded into the ground beside the post on the inside of the curve. The hardwood stay is approximately 3m by 10cm by 25cm.



Straining Netting

Deer netting is strained using large clamps made from very strong hardwood due to the heaviness of the netting. The length of the clamps should match the height of the netting being strained and held together with equally spaced bolts (minimum of six is recommended). The netting should be attempted to be strained as tight as possible as considerable stretching and sagging can occur. The netting should be located and stapled as close to the ground as possible, and pegs driven into the ground at low points to enable the netting, affixed to the plain wire, to be pulled down and fastened to ensure deer do not escape from under the fence. This will be particularly necessary for fencing on undulating ground. When stapling netting to posts, always staple the horizontal wires to allow for fence movement.

Joining Netting

Netting can be joined by the use of gripples, crimping sleeves or tied. Gripples are costly and there is concern that overtime some slippage can occur, but the process for tightening the strain is straight forward and simple. Crimping sleeves are cheaper than gripples, fast and easy to use but they are not recommended for use where wire they join will need to be restrained at a later date. In the instance of tying the netting, there are several approaches that can be adopted. If unsure seek advice from a fencing contractor.

Coupling clips

Coupling clips may be necessary between the top of the netting and the nearest plain wire or between plain wires, to minimise netting sag.

Gates

Gates are to be of solid construction such as galvanised weld mesh and must match the height specifications of the fencing.

