

Fencing

Purposes and Types

Purpose

- Management/movement
- Safety of the horse
- Protect others
- Aesthetic properties/boarders

Considerations for type of fence to be used

- Cost
- Type of horse that will be using pasture/paddock
- Older horses - may not require as strong of fence
- Foals/yearlings/stallions = more solid fencing
- Durability/life expectancy = maintenance

Considerations for type of fence to be used

- Neighborhood location
- Animal use
 - Time in pasture
 - Animals/area; if more horses
 - More pressure between fences
 - Closer to barn
- Safety

Height of fencing

- Perimeter fencing
 - Min. of 5 ft
 - 6 ft with taller breeds

Height of fencing

- Small paddocks (<3 acres), corrals, stallion pens
 - General rule -= top of fence should be eye level with the horse's head in a natural upright position
 - Discourages fence fighting
- Stallion paddocks
 - Double fenced
 - Lane between them and next paddock

Types of fencing

- Wooden board
 - 3 or 4 board = 12 to 16 ft long hardwoods
rough cut 1" x 6"
 - round or square posts = min. 4" (5" stronger)
>round posts are stronger
 - 7 1/2 - 8 ft tall posts
 - 2 1/2 - 3 ft set underground

Types of fencing

- Boards should be secured to the inside (horse side)
- Bottom board 10 - 12" above ground
- Safer, strong, more efficient, practical
- White washed, black asphalt paint
- Vertical boards optional

Board Fencing



Board Fencing

- Advantages

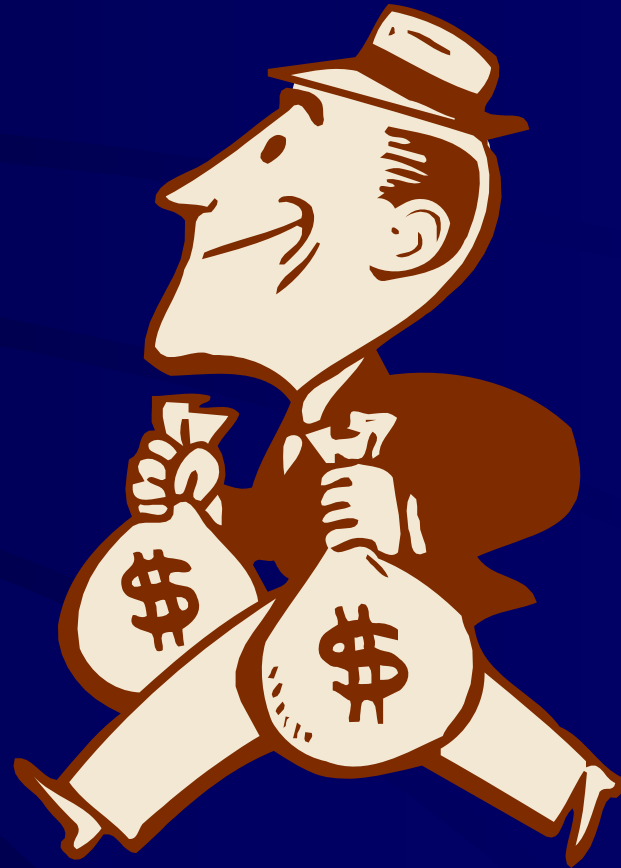
- Aesthetics
- Good for show and sale rings
- Practical for stallion paddocks

- Disadvantages

- High maintenance
- Horses chewing
- Injury due to fractured or damaged boards

Board Fencing

- Price/running ft
- 3 board = \$1.20/ft
- 4 board = \$1.85/ft



Post and Rail Wooden Fence

- Advantages
 - Aesthetics
 - Safer than some other types of fencing
 - Can be fairly strong
- Disadvantages
 - Highest maintenance of all types of fencing
 - If not properly installed, rails can slip out of posts
 - Unsafe fence
 - Risk of loose horse
- Not recommended for use with horses

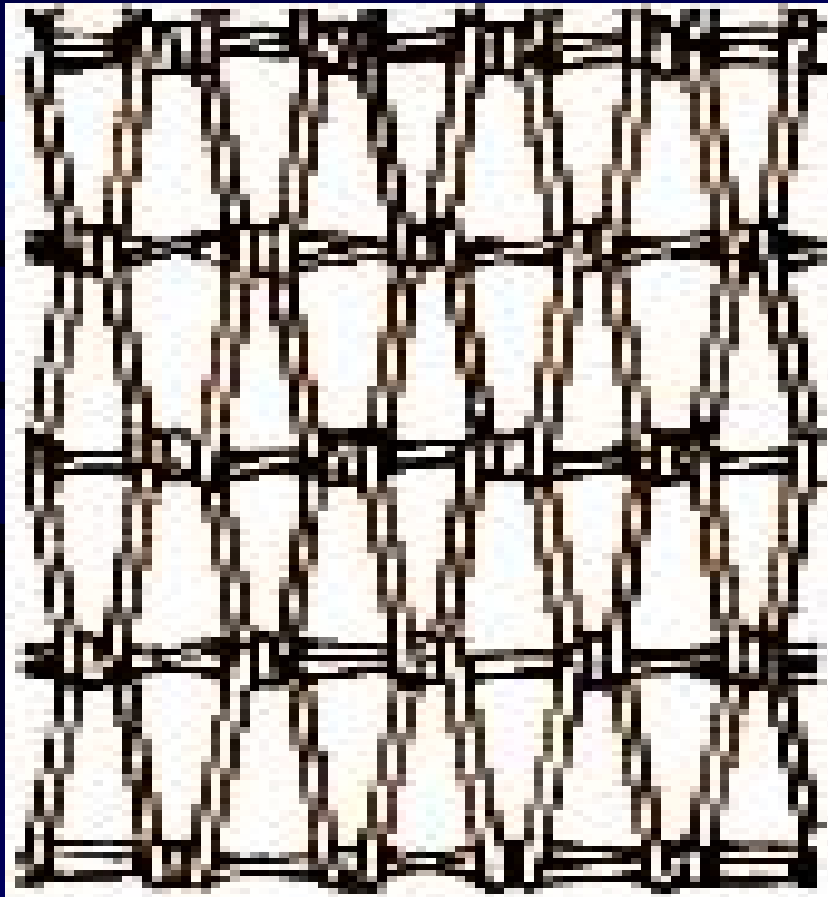
Post and Rail Wooden Fence



Wire fencing

- Lower maintenance than wood fencing
- Needs to be stretched and braced at corners

5-diamond, V-mesh wire



- Description
 - 4-6' poles
 - Wire can be raised 8 - 12 " off ground to prevent horses from "walking down the wire"
 - All the way down prevents intrusion of other animals

Wire Fencing

- Advantages
 - Safest wire for horse fencing
 - Close weave prevents horse/foal from catching foot in it
 - Strong due to design w/ some flexibility
 - Longer life span, less maintenance, safer than board fence
- Disadvantages
 - May be harder to obtain the wire
 - More expensive
- Price/ft w/wooden board
 - \$2.05 - \$2.10/ft

Rectangular Woven Wire

- Description
 - 2" wide by 4" high
 - Board at top to strengthen and increase visibility



Rectangular Woven Wire

- Advantages

- Less maintenance than wooden
- Lower cost

- Disadvantages

- Openings are large enough for a pony or foal's hoof to pass through
- Not as safe or as strong as V-mesh

Regular stock woven wire (square)

- Description
 - Openings at top of wire are larger than at bottom
 - Wire should be at least 10 gauge or heavier (lower gauge # =heavier wire)
 - Board on top to strengthen and increase visibility

Regular stock woven wire (square) Image



Regular stock woven wire (square)

- Advantages

- Less maintenance than wooden
- Lower cost
 - Price/ft \$1.18/ft

- Disadvantages

- Not as safe or as strong as V-mesh
- Openings at top of fence are lg. enough for horse to pass foot through

High-Tensile Wire

- Description
 - 12.5 gauge smooth wire; high breaking strength of 1,300 to 1,800 lbs; stretch (bounce off)
 - Ratchet-type tighteners for retension
 - Posts can be as far apart as 60 ft w/spaces to keep properly positioned
 - 10 to 12 strand –all electrified, or some times every other strand

High-Tensile Wire



High-Tensile Wire

- Advantages

- Doesn't break easily
- Low maintenance

- Disadvantages

- Low visibility
- Safety

Electric Wire Fence

- Description
 - 3 strands with metal posts and insulators
- Advantages
 - Cheap
- Disadvantages
 - Not very strong
 - Visibility
 - Only temporary fencing



Electric Wire Fence

- Price/ft
 - 5 strands = \$.55/ft
- Visibility: fiberglass band/strap w/electrified center
 - Looks like boards
 - 3 strands
 - Price/ft w/3 strands = \$1.00/ft

Electric Wire Fencing



Chain Link Fencing

- Small pens or paddocks
- 9 gauge recommended
- Sharp edges at top and bottom must be covered by board
- Lacks horizontal strength = sags

Chain Link Fence



Rubber fencing

- Description
 - 3-4" wide tire stock or black rubber
 - wooden posts
 - nailed on

Rubber Fencing

- Advantages

- Safety = bounce off

- Cost

- price/ft-\$0.80/ft

- Disadvantages

- Sags easily if not properly installed

- Some horses pull at edges of material and swallow pieces of rubber/nylon cord = impaction colic, # of deaths

- Freezing makes strands brittle (not good in cold weather)

Pipe Fencing

- Description
 - Usually 3-4" diameter posts
 - 2-3" rails
 - Steel pipe

Pipe Fencing

- Advantages

- Low maintenance
- Good for paddock fencing

- Disadvantages

- Need to paint
- Material availability?
- Price
 - Price/ft = 4" posts and 3" rails
 - \$2.10 - \$2.20

Poly Vinyl Chloride (PVC) Fencing

- Description
 - Plank/board = flat or round
 - Different colors
 - Look like board fencing/plastic-like

Poly Vinyl Chloride (PVC) Fencing

- Advantages
 - No painting, will not crack or peel
 - Very low maintenance
- Disadvantages
 - Very expensive
 - Not very good for between fences
- Price/ft = 3 plank/8' centers \$2.20/ft +

Poly Vinyl Chloride (PVC) Fencing



Gates

- 12' wide min. horse gate (14'+ wide if equipment)
- 4' wide people gate
- Rounded corners for safety with steel tubing or pipe gates
- Easy to unlatch, open, shut, and properly refasten gate w/one hand

Gates

- Normally hung in middle of fence rather than at corner
 - Horses congregate at gates
 - Prevents trapping in corners

