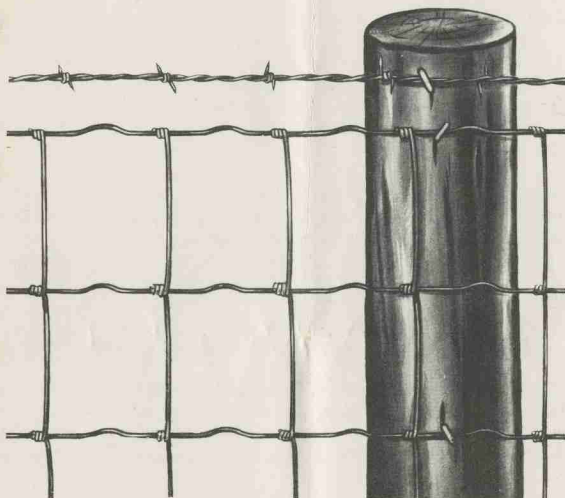


Agricultural Engineering Information Leaflet



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N. C. State College of Agriculture and Engineering of the University of North Carolina  
and U. S. Department of Agriculture, Co-operating

**N. C. AGRICULTURAL EXTENSION SERVICE**

D. S. WEAVER, Director  
State College Station, Raleigh, N. C.

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FARM FENCING  
H. M. Ellis, In Charge  
Agricultural Engineering Extension

Good fence construction need not be too expensive.

Don Lee, cattle farmer in Pamlico County, has proved this quite successfully. Line wires are tight. There are no visible braces at end posts. And the fences were not put up recently, either. Some of them are 10 years old. The barb wire may be rusty, but it's still tight.

According to H. M. Ellis, in charge of extension agricultural engineering at N. C. State College, one of the secrets of Mr. Lee's fencing success is the care he uses in construction.

"A good fence is a tight, well constructed fence," Mr. Ellis said. "This takes time and work."

Let's see how Mr. Lee goes about putting up his fence.

First, he uses nothing but pressure-treated creosoted posts. His end and corner posts, which are about eight inches at the small end, are placed 3 1/2 to 4 feet in the ground. His line posts, which are about 4 inches, are spaced 12 feet apart and 2 to 2 1/2 feet in the ground.

The unique feature of Lee's fencing is his braces for corner and end posts. He uses what he calls "dead man". These are simply underground braces. They are made from 4-inch, pressure treated creosoted line posts which are 4 to 6 feet long.

The "dead man" is put in place after a corner or end post has been tamped in place. It is placed squarely between the post to be braced and the direction of pull. This is done by cutting a trench along side the post. The trench is cut deep enough so that the "dead man" can be buried 4 to 6 inches deep. The trench also is cut smoothly so the "dead man" will make a snug fit. This is very important. Lee makes the trench small enough so that the "dead man" has to be mauled in place. (See Fig. 1-back page)

The "dead man" is notched to prevent it from slipping past the post to be braced. Once put in place, it is fastened to the post by a spike. The spike prevents the post from twisting. (See Fig. 2)

Ellis says the "dead man" does an excellent job in preventing the post from leaning as wire is stretched. It also is much cheaper and easier to install than a conventional brace. The "dead man" can be used for corners of any angles. (See Figs. 3, 4, 5 and 6)

Mr. Lee has some other ideas on building good fences, too. For example, he always stretches his top line barb wire first. If the top wire is not stretched first, he says it will certainly slaken other wires when it is stretched.

Mr. Ellis believes that beef production in North Carolina has been hampered by the high cost of cattle-tight fencing.

"Good fences are not impossible to build", he says, "in fact, they cost less per year of service".

This is one reason why he was impressed with Mr. Lee's fence.

"Mr. Lee combines some of the better principles of good fence construction with some money saving short-cuts," Ellis states. "And while he deviates from generally recommended practices, the result is fencing that other cattlemen may find profitable."

However, Mr. Ellis stresses the fact that short-cuts do not mean slip-shod or cheap construction. He firmly believes, along with Mr. Lee, that a cheap fence which requires continuous maintenance is the most expensive fence to own.

"By building them better, they last longer," he says. "One man did it. Why can't you?"

8" END POST  
FRONT VIEW

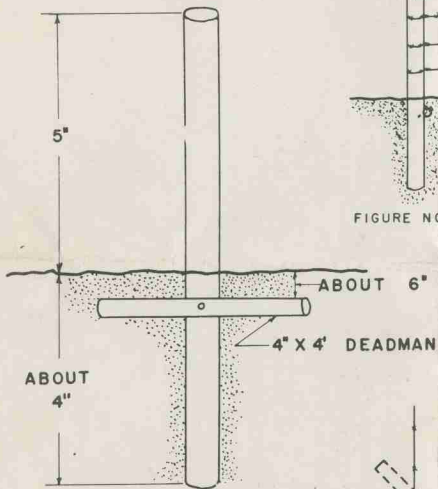


FIGURE NO. 1

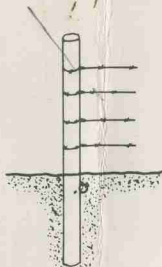


FIGURE NO. 2

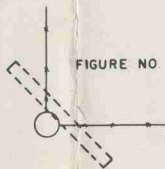


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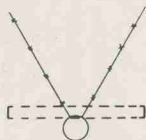


FIGURE NO. 4

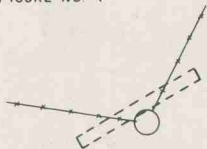


FIGURE NO. 5

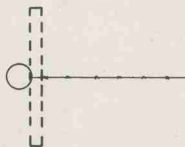


FIGURE NO. 6