

Fencing and Equipment Aids for Sustainable Sheep Production

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- I. Brief overview of 4 basic types of fences used by sheep producers
 - A. Permanent - never moved.
 - Highest cost per ft. to install
 - Lowest cost per year of use in both labor and ¢
 - Why more is better.
 - When it's essential and when it is not.
 - B. Semi-permanent - in place from 30 days to 4 yrs.
 - The two basic types - differences
 - Where it is suited
 - Where it is unsuited
 - C. Temporary (in place less than 30 days)
 - Netting vs reel systems - pros and cons
 - Common uses and abuses.
 - D. Corral and Laneway fences.

- II. Some useful changes in fence possibilities since I last spoke to ETN – Wisc.
 - Way to construct permanent electric sheep fences that requires less worry about weeds.
 - Portable electri-fiable netting is about to become better in function and 10-33% less costly per ft.
 - Wide impedance energizers -- merits and demerits.
 - Better form of HT woven wire fence - at no more cost.

III. Non-fencing equipment – comments re.

- Crooks - leg crook in the lambing pasture to help you catch a ewe.
- Grain feeders for supplementing ewes or lambs on pasture
- ATV's
- Dogs (herding). An essential or a luxury?

IV. Related points that maybe addressed if time permits.

- Why we flock and fence management on grass depends on type of grass in the sward.
- Organizing pasture layouts to minimize lambing problems in the pasture.
- The change that has occurred between the relationship of price of "stuff (sheep equipment, fences), the price of labor, and the price of lamb/wool over past 30 years.

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