



USDA Electric Fencing Cost Share Program

Presented by Chrissy Lambert

Nonlethal Conflict Prevention Specialist

USDA Wildlife Services

Securing Attractants

- Electric fencing
- Turbo fladry
- Range Riding
- Livestock Guardian Dogs
- Montana Livestock Loss Board
 - Does not cover bees or chickens



USDA's Cost Share Incentive Program

- **Wildlife Services covers up to 50% of the cost** for each electric fence.
- These resources are meant to fund conflict prevention projects in high conflict areas and reduce financial burden on producers.



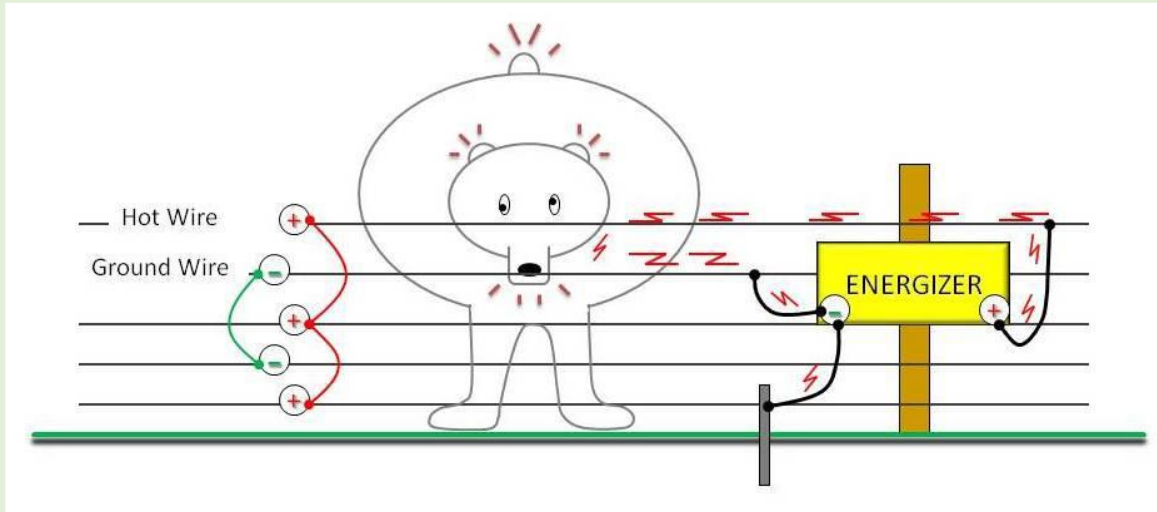
Electric Fencing

- Each fence and enclosure is different, which will impact how we approach a solution for you and your animals/livestock.

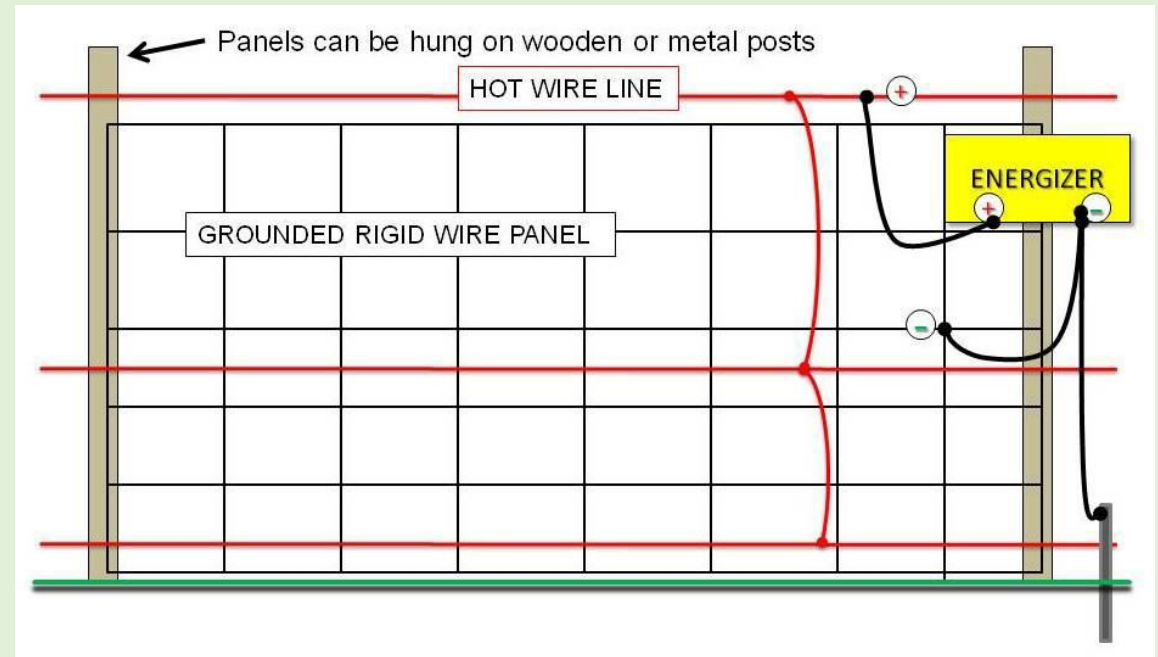


Electric Fence Setup

- Retrofit vs new build
- All hot vs ground-hot



Building an electric fence from scratch
Photo courtesy of MT Fish, Wildlife & Parks



Retrofitting electric fence onto pre-existing fence setup
Photo courtesy of MT Fish, Wildlife & Parks

Starting a Project

1. Site visit – measurements of the project area are taken.
2. Plan – blueprints and cost estimates are made for enclosure design(s).
3. Schedule – timeline is established to gather resources and build.
4. Build – exclusionary boundary is built or retrofitted.



Specialist building an electric fencing with a 4H member
Photo courtesy of WS

Participant Expectations

- Responsible for **regular enclosure maintenance**.
- Assist specialist with fence installation.
- Regularly check electric fence voltage with fence tester.
- Keep fence perimeter free of tall vegetation and anything touching the hot wires that would cause grounding issues.
- Check fence tension/tightness and any corrosion issues.
- Inform specialist of major fencing problems or changes.



The Importance of Regularly Checking Your Electric Fence...



Electric fence with a failed battery
Video courtesy of WS and USFWS

Same Bear, Same Location... Different Outcome



Video courtesy of WS and USFWS

- Spring and summer are busy with bear activity, so it's best to be proactive with electric fencing.
- **Please let us know as soon as possible if you're interested in building an electric fence so we can plan accordingly.**



Collaborators

- Defenders of Wildlife
- US Fish & Wildlife Services
- Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks
- People and Carnivores
- Confederated Salish Kootenai Tribe
- Blackfoot Challenge



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