



# GOAT FENCING OPTIONS



Anyone who has ever raised goats knows how mischievous, albeit cute, they can sometimes be. Having the proper fence is critical for raising these curious critters and if done so without it, could spell disaster. If you are new to raising goats, Wellscroft recommends starting with affordable, portable electric netting. The advantage of netting is that it is scalable - you can begin managing just a few goats to get comfortable and then add more netting together as you acquire more animals. Eventually, you will want to invest in a perimeter woven wire or high-tensile fence if goats are going to be in your future. The electric netting will still come in handy for putting the goats out on hard-to-reach areas overgrown with brush and invasives, or as a divisional fence to rotationally graze sections within your perimeter fence.

## Fencing Options for Goats

### ELECTRIC NETTING

- Wellscroft recommends a “strutted” (vs. “stringed”) net as its semi-rigid verticals help the net maintain its height and stand up straighter with minimal sag.
- 42” ElectroStop® or 48” ElectroFence® for all stand alone or perimeter fences, and where there is dog or coyote pressure.
- 42” Quick Ground net eliminates the need to install a ground rod for netting setups that are not powered off a perimeter fence and are moved frequently. In Quick Ground netting, the bottom strand that contacts the ground contains separate conductive wires which connect all of the net’s spikes together which collectively make up a ground field for the energizer. Use one Quick Ground net for every three regular nets.
- 48” PermaNet® for situations where net is going to be left up for extended periods.



**Image at top:** Portable electric netting is an excellent tool for land management and allows goats to browse overgrown pastures or combat invasive species in areas with rugged terrain. Many farmers also use electric netting to save on feed costs and extend their grazing season by pasturing animals on hay field re-growth into late autumn.

**Above:** With its semi-ridged vertical stays, the 42” ElectroStop® stands erect and is also a good divisional fence for livestock in a permanent enclosure.

- Double spike posts are not recommended if netting is going to be frequently moved since these posts tangle more easily.
- “Plus” netting posts are spaced 6’8” apart instead of 12’5”, for use in more permanent situations. This net comes in shorter lengths, has double spike posts, and is slightly more bulky.

Follow instructions on how to set up, take down and store net. Electric fence and netting are not as effective in winter, as dry snow and frozen ground are insulating and the net will not hold up very well in the snow.

### CAUTION:

Many breeds of goats have horns which can act as an insulator against the fence. Check with Wellscroft for tips on how to properly train goats to an electric fence.

Options continue on reverse »

### SEMI-PERMANENT LOW-TENSION ELECTRIC FENCE

- Five strands for subdivisions and seven strands for perimeters of rope, tape, twine or MaxiShock, and should have at least one visible conductor.
- May last up to 20 years but may also be taken down and moved on reels.
- Support posts should be every 20' – 25' apart.
- Use small springs to help maintain tension.

### PERMANENT HIGH-TENSILE ELECTRIC FENCE

- Minimum of six, recommended seven, strands for perimeter.
- Lasts 20 to 30 years.
- Very strong, fewer posts to drive into the ground.
- Needs brace assemblies or trees for corners, changes & ends.
- Uses battens every 20' which sit on top of the ground and a line post (wood, T-post, fiber rod or tree) every 80' or minor changes of direction.
- Can be set up to operate as a bi-polar or pos/neg fence for winter use.

### PERMANENT "PHYSICAL" FENCE

- 13/48/3 woven wire or 10/47/3 suggested for goats and kids.
- 15/61/3 woven wire or 16/60/2 may be considered for breeds that are known to be jumpers.
- Wellscoft recommends one electric wire on top of fence to deter predators and provide power to portable subdivisions.
- Requires brace assemblies at corners, ends and gates and a large support post at every change of direction.
- Wellscoft recommends line posts be spaced every 15' due to goats' inherent nature to climb on fences... or anything else they can!

## RECOMMENDATIONS & BEST PRACTICES

- Be sure to test fence and ground voltage **before** introducing animals to the net.
- Voltage should register at least 3000 volts (3000 to 5000 is ideal).
- In tall grass, make a path for netting with mower or tire track before setting up net.
- To train animals, we recommend pouring grain along fence line, and if they have horns, bait at nose height.
- Gently introduce new animals to the net to prevent them from charging through it.
- When relocating the net, use an 82' roll to encircle the animals while you move the rest of the netting.
- As a general rule of thumb, you can run:
  - 1-3 rolls (164') on a 0.5 joule energizer (2 – 20 goats)
  - 4-8 rolls on a 1 joule energizer (20 – 40 goats)
  - 8-12 rolls on a 2 joule energizer (60 – 100 goats)
- When planning to run sheep & goats together, always use best practices for goat options.

**Right:** Wellscoft raises both sheep and goats, often rotating them among the same pastures. For this reason, a 7-strand high-tensile perimeter fence is used to ensure respect by the goats. Note how electric netting is used to subdivide the pasture for rotational grazing practices.



**Above:** Woven wire with 3" vertical stay spacing like this 12.5 gauge fixed-knot 13/48/3 provides a very strong and safe enclosure for goats. For added security, electric offsets can be installed on either the interior, exterior, or both to discourage goats and predators alike



**Inset:** We do not recommend using 6" spacing without an electric offset since it can easily trap horned goats.



**Above:** Woven wire with 12" vertical spacing such as 13/48/12 can be used for internal divisions and allows animals to extract their heads if inserted through it.

**Note:** Wellscoft offers **CONSULTATION & DESIGN** of your fence. Send us a map of your layout and we can provide you with an estimate. See our catalog or website for tips on how to prepare your sketch.

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