



SHEEP FENCING OPTIONS



If you are considering getting started raising sheep, Wellscroft suggests beginning with portable electric netting. For relatively low cost and minimal effort, you can start managing a small flock to get comfortable. From there, you can decide whether to take the hobby flock of 3 up to 30, or if sheep farming is not in your future, get out of it before investing in permanent fence and additional infrastructure. No matter which direction you choose, electric netting is easy to set up, move, take down and store, and can always be used later for rotationally grazing subdivisions within a permanent perimeter fence.

Fencing Options for Sheep

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® for all stand alone or perimeter fences, and where there is dog or coyote pressure. Also good for tall sheep breeds.
- 35” ElectroNet® for internal subdivisions or shorter sheep breeds.
- 48” ElectroFence for extreme predator pressure.
- “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.
- PermaNet® for situations where net is going to be left up for extended periods.



Photo at top: 42” ElectroStop® is Wellscroft’s top pick for portable sheep netting and is used to protect our flock when away from the farm and is also respected by our guard llama, Jackson.

Above: An all-season paddock of woven wire is a safe and secure area, highly recommended if sheep will be kept over the winter. The fence pictured here is high-tensile 13/48/6 fixed knot woven wire.

- 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.

Note: 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.

Options continue on reverse »

SEMI-PERMANENT LOW-TENSION ELECTRIC FENCE

- Four strands for subdivisions and six 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 five to six strands in perimeter.
- Lasts 20 to 30 years.
- Very strong, fewer posts to drive in 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

- 13/48/6 woven wire suggested for sheep and lambs, and 9/49/6, 10/47/6 or 13/48/4 if adult sheep only.
- 13/48/3 woven wire or 10/47/3 with a 3" stay if goats will also be raised.
- Wellscroft 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.
- Line posts need to be every 15' – 20'.

RECOMMENDATIONS & BEST PRACTICES

- Be sure to test fence and ground voltage **before** introducing animals to the net.
- Voltage should register at least 2000 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. To train predators, bait the fence (ask Wellscroft for recommended bait types).
- 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 sheep)
 - 4-8 rolls on a 1 joule energizer (20 – 40 sheep)
 - 8-12 rolls on a 2 joule energizer (60 – 100 sheep)
- When planning to run sheep & goats together, always use best practices for goat options.



Above: Fixed-knot woven wire such as the 15/61/6 pictured above, makes a safe area for having and training lambs before setting them out to pasture.



Above: High-tensile (HT) electric fence is a cost effective solution for enclosing large areas for managed grazing. HT fences are both a physical and psychological barrier and can be configured in numerous ways.



Above: Woven wire fences like the 13/48/6 pictured above are excellent perimeter barriers for all seasons. They are especially good in the winter when fences take abuse from snow and ice and also when electric fences are less effective.

Note: Wellscroft 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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