

## Lock Wire Fence Com- mended

To the Editor of FARMING:

Will try and answer your questions in the order given.

(1) The kind of fence mostly used in this locality is the old snake rail fence, and when rotting down is replaced with the straight rail fence, and also wire fencing.

Wire fencing is coming more into use, as stated above, where rails are failing. There are various kinds used with more or less success, according to construction. The kind that seems to meet the requirements of a farm fence is the Page fence. Others are used—barbed and smooth wire, locked, and without locks. Smooth wire without locks is of very little use to turn cattle.

Next to Page fence I think the woven wire seems to answer all purposes best, as it will turn cattle and sheep, but it is not much used. The lock wire seems to take better, as it is probably a little cheaper. The Page seems to stand the strain of both winter snows and an occasional beast running against it; it being steel wire, it has more spring in it, and, though weighted down with snow in the winter, seems to come back to its place in the spring when the snow goes off.

Any of the other wire fences I have seen seem to require tightening up in the spring where they have been weighted down with snow.

(3) Where wire fencing has been used beside a well-travelled road it has prevented, in a great measure, blockades; but, where the roadway is not so much travelled on, it has not proved a success, as the snow seems to slowly drift into and cover up the former track, thus accumulating a great depth.

(4) The plan of not having fences along the roadways, in the meantime, I do not think workable. At the same time I think it very desirable that no stock of any kind should be allowed to run at large without a keeper. Until the municipalities pass by-laws to that effect, I do not think we can consider the plan of not having fences along the roadways.

HENRY ARKELL.

Broad Lea Farm, Teeswater, Ont., June 20th, 1899.

## Should Have Wire Fences on Both Sides of the Road

To the Editor of FARMING:

If I were asked what fence *has been* most largely used in this locality I would answer the old rail fence. Many of our farmers have been specially blest with plenty of good black ash timber, and although this is becoming scarce yet many farms have been well fenced and the fences are to-day in good enough condition to last for a quarter of a century. On some farms rail timber was scarcer and many used tamarac posts, which were very cheap, making with these a straight rail fence either with stakes and wire or with wire and staples. This is not nearly so permanent as the well-constructed crooked rail fence and will soon have to be replaced.

But many have to replace rotted and broken rail fences now and the importance of the fence question presents itself here. The farmer requires a fence that will be cheap, attractive, permanent, useful for all the purposes of a farm fence and not a harbor for all the weeds with which the farmer has to contend; besides economical of space. These requirements are all met in some kinds of wire fence, unless it be in that of cheapness, but in view of its permanence wire is, after all, cheap. From the many patents advertised in FARMING and other agricultural papers the farmer has plenty of choice but one of the main

points to be observed in choosing one is to obtain one which is so arranged that the expansion and contraction of the wire due to changes of temperature will be taken up or allowed. We are at present building a 10-wire fence (stayed with uprights one foot apart) which costs us about 58 cents a rod for posts (costing 15 cents each), wire at \$2.80 per hundred lbs., staples, and labor at \$1 per day. This fence is stock proof and suits our idea of a serviceable farm fence.

With reference to wire-fencing on the roadside preventing snow blockade on the road we find it is absolutely necessary that *both* sides of the road be fenced with wire-fencing in order to allow free sweep of the wind. With wire on one side and rails or board fence on the other side the roads are just as liable to blockade as before unless the road grade be high.

We find the road-fence an absolute necessity, too, where farming is carried on with any rotation at all, not only to keep our own stock in but to keep out that of some who allow their stock to run at large regardless of railway and municipal poundage laws.

The inside fences of the farm should be reduced to the minimum number and a portable hurdle fence be used, if necessary, to divide a pasture. With fewer fences we will have cleaner, larger, and more attractive farms.

CHAS. M. MACFIE.

Appin, Ont., June 20th, 1899.

## Wire Fences do not Prevent Bad Roads in Winter

To the Editor of FARMING:

*Re farm fencing.* The old rail fence which has been the fence is fast being crowded out by wire ones. All the makes are represented and pushed according to the activity of the parties representing them, I think the Page is as popular as any. Some people favor barbed wire, I have none of it, as I have always been afraid of the stock being injured, and while a farmer may be free from any loss or injury for years the time may suddenly come when he loses a valuable horse or cow.

I think the requirements will be fairly well met by wire fences, more so as stock gets accustomed to them. As far as snow blockade is concerned my views are entirely changed by experience. I at one time thought that wire fences along roadside would end all the trouble so far as drifting is concerned, but I have found that where there is much travel the drifting snow keeps packing under the horse's feet and the roughness of the sleigh tracks which causes a high treacherous grade in the middle of the road and in times of a thaw makes the way of travel very uncertain, so that I have about come to the conclusion that the old fence with the occasional labor and responsibility of shovelling is no greater difficulty to contend with than the one I have mentioned (of course there is no blockade at the sides).

As to the plan of herding or fencing off for stock the people would have to be gradually educated up to that point, as the change would be a very radical one.

By a system of portable fencing I don't think it would be a very difficult matter for the ordinary farmer, provided the law was such as to protect his growing crops.

J. C. DANCE.

Kingsmill, Ont.,  
June 13th, 1899.

"Well, Uncle Josh," said the chairman of the Rural Agricultural Society, "I suppose we can depend on you for an exhibit at our country fair this year?"

"I reckon you kin," replied Uncle Josh; "I hain't got much in the way uv cattle ner horses, but you kin put me down fer the biggest hog in this yer county."—*Chicago News.*