

# Wildlife Friendly Fence for Antelope

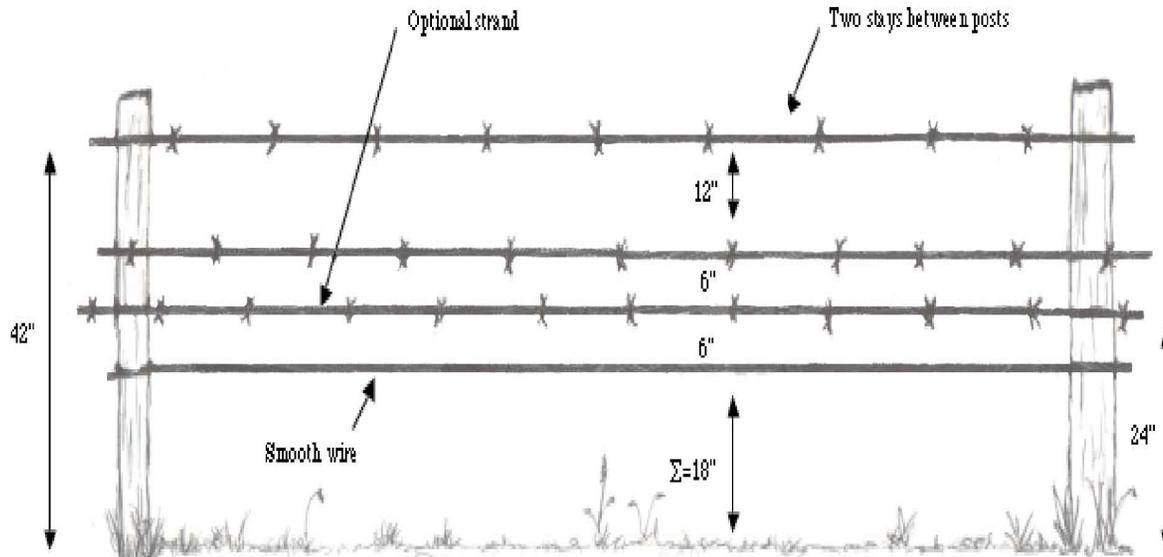


Diagram from The Pronghorn Management Guide 2006

For more tips about rural living, ranchettes, and improving wildlife habitat on your property, visit our website:

[www.audubon.org/local/sanctuary/appleton](http://www.audubon.org/local/sanctuary/appleton)

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## Wildlife Friendly Fencing



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# Fencing



...may be necessary to keep livestock in, or out of your property, but fencing may cause problems for wildlife that need to move freely to escape predators, to forage for food, or to find a mate. Pronghorn, the swiftest animals of North America, are unable to jump high fences, so if they can't find an opening they are trapped. Deer can jump over most fences, but sometimes snag a hind foot and are unable to free themselves. A rabbit, fleeing a predator, may be trapped in a corner.

Fences constructed of net or woven wire pose the most serious difficulty to wildlife, and should be avoided except for small areas (gardens, yards, chicken pens, horse corrals).

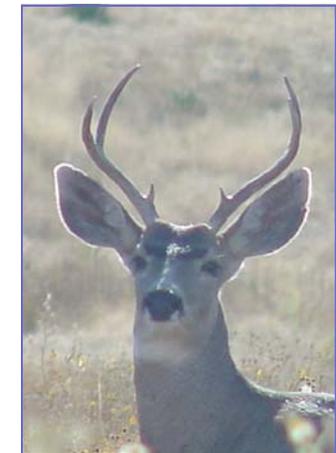
Wildlife friendly fence allows wild animals free passage, is easier to construct, and is less expensive than many other types of fence. If your property is already fenced, it may be possible to convert the old fence without much expense or labor. If you are fencing your property for the first time, please consider the safety of your wildlife neighbors.



The Pronghorn Management Guide 2006 has recommendations for wildlife-friendly fencing for pronghorn (see diagram on reverse). Please contact the Arizona Game and Fish Department office near you for appropriate modifications of fencing that will routinely be encountered by elk or bighorn sheep.

Construction of new wildlife friendly fence usually includes metal fence posts (wooden posts are subject to wildfire). These posts are driven securely into the ground at 20-25 ft intervals along the fence line.

Four strands of wire (galvanized, 12 ½ gauge) are used in the most common configuration. The bottom wire, and ideally the top wire, is barbless and the middle two are barbed. Placement of these wires is critical to protect wildlife. The lower wire should be at least 16" or even better 18" above the surface of the ground; the second should be 6 " above that with the third wire (if needed) strung 6" above the second. The top wire should be 12" above the third (or second) wire to reduce the chance that a deer would snag a foot between wires when jumping over the fence. To keep the wires from sagging but not too taut, 2 or at most 3 wire stays should be used between the fence posts.



Enjoy the wildlife as they move freely,

thanks to you!