



All about

# Livestock Containment

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# Livestock Containment

## Introduction

If you have livestock such as horses, cows, goats, or sheep, you need a way to keep them from simply walking away or from actively escaping. Putting up secure and sturdy livestock containment is the answer. In many areas, livestock containment is required by law. In some cases, these containments also serve to separate animals from each other.

## Types of Livestock Containment

### Pens/Corrals

Livestock pens and corrals can be temporary (made up of wires or tapes) or permanent. Your choice of material is highly dependent on the intended use and permanency that you require.

There are also steel portable corrals that are quite effective for many animals.

### Barns

Modern barns are built of steel or wood. Wood is more picturesque, but demands higher upkeep.

The size of your barn will depend on how many “animal units” (AUs) you are going to house and what access they will have to the outdoors. To determine permissible and recommended AUs/square footage, consult your county agent.

### Fencing

Livestock fencing is primarily made up of a utility fence to protect your livestock and keep them from leaving the farm. Available types include:

Material	Description	Cost	Upkeep
Barbed Wire	Smooth wire twisted with barbs 4-5 strand/fence run. Very strong, low visibility	moderate	Low
Wire Mesh	Diamond and square knot available. 11, 12 1/2, 14, & 16 g. wire Strong and safe for animals	expensive	Low
Woven wire	Wire woven into a grid. Very strong and highly visible	Expensive	Moderate
High Tensile Wire -- Electric	Wires put up horizontally in a way that allows them to be tightened from one or both ends Very strong, low visibility	Moderate	Moderate
High Tensile Wire – Not electrified	Wires put up horizontally in a way that allows them to be tightened from one or both ends Very strong, low visibility	Moderate -Low	Moderate -Low



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## Types (continued)

Woven wire	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 6" grids for small animals</li> <li>• 12" grid for large animals</li> <li>• <b>Cattle</b> (adding a strand of barbed wire or two above the fence is helpful)</li> <li>• <b>Non-horned Sheep and Goats</b></li> <li>• Horned sheep and goats, provided the openings are small (or large) enough for the animals to not slide (or slide) their head in and out.</li> <li>• Swine can be contained in smaller-mesh woven wire; add a strand or two of barbed wire at the bottom to discourage rooting.</li> <li>• Horses if a single 1 inch by 6 inch board is placed at the top of a small-mesh (less than 4" squares) fence to increase visibility</li> <li>• Good for predator control, too, especially with one electrified bottom wire</li> <li>• <b>Unsafe for wildlife</b></li> </ul>
High Tensile Wire -- Electric	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Horned sheep and goats; good for predator control, too</li> <li>• Used for a wide variety of animals</li> <li>• Not recommended for horses</li> </ul>
High Tensile Wire – Not electrified	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Used for a wide variety of animals</li> <li>• Horned sheep and goats, provided the openings are small (or large) enough for the animals to not slide (or slide) their heads in and out.</li> </ul>
Plank & Board Fences (wood)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Can be used together with electrified wires to keep horses from chewing on the wood.</li> <li>• Used for horses and cattle near buildings</li> <li>• Recommended for cattle-handling facilities</li> </ul>
Poly-Coated Electrified Wire or Tape	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Often used for temporary pasture management.</li> </ul>
Plastic	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Horses and llamas</li> </ul>
Cable wire	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Most animals</li> </ul>



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## Location

You will need to take a variety of factors into consideration regarding the type and location of your livestock containment. Do you need the barns to blend in with previously-existing architecture? Is there a minimum acreage requirement for your animals? What additional space will you need for feed, equipment, and storage?



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