



Fact Sheet

Commonwealth of Pennsylvania • Department of Environmental Protection

DEP STREAM BANK FENCING PROGRAM

Landowner Participation

Background

The Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection (DEP), through the Chesapeake Bay Program, began stream bank fencing and agricultural crossings and ramps as a stand-alone best management practice (BMP) in 1994. This special practice was initiated to accelerate Pennsylvania's efforts to improve water quality by reducing soil erosion and nutrient deposition caused by livestock. Lands under the program need not be open to the public.

Who is eligible to participate?

Landowners with existing livestock operations along streams in the Susquehanna or Potomac River basins of Pennsylvania may participate.

Is a landowner limited to the amount of fencing or number of crossings?

There is no limit on the amount of one- or two-strand fencing a landowner may receive. Each landowner is limited to one agricultural crossing or ramp as defined in DEP's General Permit 6 (GP-6). However, this program also will install the fencing necessary to accommodate additional crossings or ramps simultaneously installed and funded by other sources.

What facilities are fully (100 percent) paid by DEP?

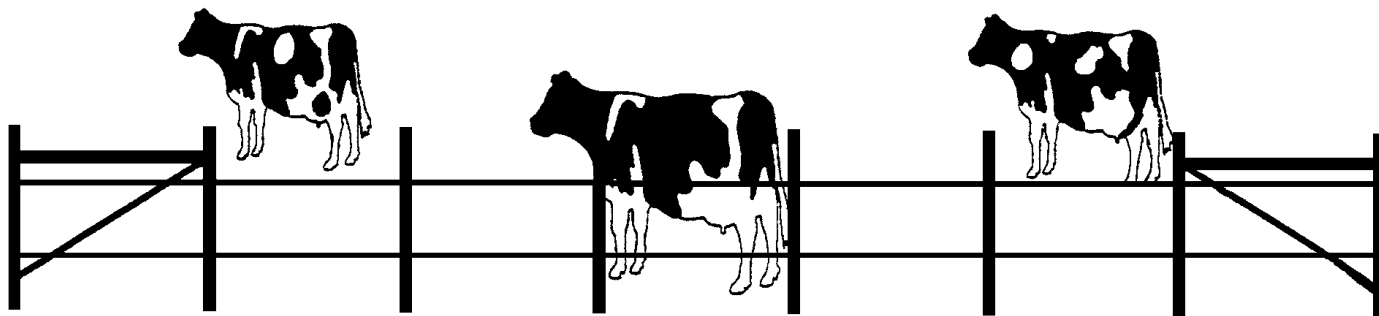
All costs associated with installation of a high tensile fence and crossing or ramp are paid by DEP. This includes all fencing materials (treated posts, wire, solar energizer, lightning protectors, warning signs, etc.) and stone material for an agricultural ramp (livestock watering access) or agricultural crossing (serves as a crossing for livestock or agricultural equipment).

What does the landowner agree to do?

- Signs a consent form for right of entry allowing DEP to erect a fence and any necessary crossing or ramp on the landowner's property.

- Performs all required notifications and obtains all necessary permits and approvals to install the agricultural crossings and ramps.
- Designates location of any known underground utilities, and indicates boundary of property line where proposed facilities would be close to adjoining properties.
- As required, clears vegetation from proposed line installation site.
- Provides at least an average 12-foot stream corridor width as measured from the top of the stream bank to parallel fence line.
- After installation, removes any vegetation and other debris which could ground the electric fence.
- Maintains the fence for 10 years and the crossing or ramps in accordance with permit.
- Allows periodic inspection of project area by authorized representatives of DEP and its agents.
- If landowner fails to maintain facilities according to program guidelines, he must refund to DEP all or an equitable part of the costs of installing the fence and any crossings or ramps.

Landowners interested in the DEP Stream Bank Fencing Program should contact their county conservation district or the Nutrient Management Specialist in the appropriate DEP Regional Office (Harrisburg, Wilkes-Barre or Williamsport) or phone DEP - Bureau of Water Quality Protection at 717-783-7577.



Landowners residing within shaded area are eligible for fencing program.

This fact sheet and related environmental information are available electronically via Internet. For more information, visit us through the Pennsylvania homepage at www.pa.state.us or visit DEP website at www.dep.state.pa.us (choose Subjects/Water Management/Fact Sheets/Water Quality Protection).