



Fencing your Pigs

Fencing is an essential component in raising pigs. A sturdy and well planned out fence not only keeps your pigs in, but also reduces risks associated with disease transmission from wildlife and losses associated with predation. Escaped pigs result in lost revenue, and can lead to unhappy neighbors and increased welfare risks.



Where Do I Start?

There are many different fencing options for raising pigs outdoors. The type of fencing you choose will depend on several factors, which includes cost, sturdiness, longevity and ease of set-up/repair.

It is important to consider the size of your pigs when developing the fencing plan for your farm. Pigs can go over, through or under a fence when not designed properly, and their strong snouts can lift fences, including posts, if not secure.

One important point of consideration. All pigs raised outdoors root, and some pig breeds are easier to manage when raised outdoors. The smaller the area designated for your pigs will result in pigs testing your fence more often. Therefore a more robust and sturdy fence is required.

HOTTIP

Pigs can be escape artists and can be difficult to catch once they are out. Build a strong and secure fence before ever bringing pigs home.

Fencing Types

Page wire



Hog panels



Pipe panel



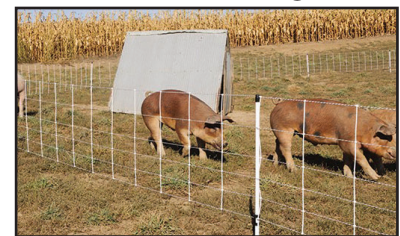
Solid wood or metal



High tensile wire



Electric netting



DO NOT use barbed wire - Barbs can harm and compromise the welfare of the pigs



Perimeter Fencing

The most effective perimeter fences will combine multiple types of fencing in layers. This reduces the possibility of pigs escaping and unwanted contact with wildlife. An example of this is an external page wire fence with an electric fence located inside of that. Electric wires should be located low (at pig height) and high to prevent pigs from routing under or jumping over the fence.



Electric Fencing

Ideally suited for use inside existing perimeter fencing or paddock. Not recommended as the only type of perimeter fencing. Training of your pigs is required for electric fencing to be effective. Ensuring proper installation and ongoing testing and maintenance is crucial to successfully using electric fencing.

FENCING CONSIDERATIONS

- Fences (page wire) should be at least 4 feet in height above ground and buried at least 1 foot below ground.
- Posts should be 3 to 5 inches in diameter and at least 5 feet in height. Space posts at most 15 to 18 feet apart.
- Wires need to be spaced closer (6 inch) together near the ground and wider (12 inch) on the top part of the fence.
- Monitor and maintain fences, specifically looking for weak spots when using page wire, wooden, or mesh fences.
- Ensure paddocks have good gate access — this facilitates handling and moving pigs.
- Use lag bolts instead of screws and nails for attaching boards

