

Use Exclusion Fencing Q&A

9/11/2025



Use Exclusion Fencing

Modifications were applied to the existing 'Livestock Exclusion Fencing' BMP policy, including:

- Revised definition/purpose
- *Modified fencing requirements*
- Added flash grazing provisions
- *Added a temporary water supply failure exception*
- Added a policy on contract modifications
- Added an annual spot check requirement



Use Exclusion Fencing

- Revised definition/purpose

Use Exclusion Fencing means a system of permanent fencing (board, barbed, high tensile or electric wire) installed to exclude livestock from streams and critical areas not intended for **regular** grazing to improve water quality. Benefits may include reduced soil erosion, sedimentation, pathogen contamination and pollution from dissolved, particulate, and sediment-attached substances.



Use Exclusion Fencing

- Modified fencing requirements
 - Both fencing BMPs have the same requirements
 - Setback wording changed, but minimum distances remain
 - Minimum of 10 feet from the top of the stream bank unless...
 - Impacted by concentrated livestock activities <100 ft from a stream = minimum 20 ft.
 - The location of non-cost shared fencing must be indicated on the conservation plan map
 - A statement confirming non-cost shared fence installation must accompany the RFP
 - Use Exclusion Fencing BMP must be included on the ACSP contract regardless of funding



Use Exclusion Fencing

- Flash grazing provisions
 - Goal: permit livestock management of riparian areas while maintaining riparian and watershed function, surface water quality, and desired species composition and vigor of plant communities
 - Not to be utilized to access additional grazing land when pasture forage is insufficient
 - Violation of the approved flash grazing plan constitutes non-compliance of ALL stream protection measures. Damage must be repaired at the cooperators expense



Use Exclusion Fencing

- Flash grazing provisions
 1. Permitted at the discretion of the District board based on local priorities with a site-specific determination by the conservation planner
 2. Temporary fencing (not cost-shareable) is recommended to protect streambanks while using forage adjacent to the stream
 3. Flash grazing is permitted for a 24-to-48-hour period each spring and/or early fall under suitable environmental conditions



Use Exclusion Fencing

- Flash grazing provisions

4. Provide detailed specifications → use Access Control Implementation Requirement
5. Flash grazing is not permitted to undermine exclusion requirements or grazing prohibitions of any other cost shared BMPs during their maintenance period
6. Consider impacts on wildlife when planning grazing times
7. ACSP permitted flash grazing does not supersede watershed rules or conservation easements



Use Exclusion Fencing

- Added a “temporary water supply failure” exception
 - **Power outages, pump failures, or periods of severe to exceptional drought** (according to the NC Drought Management Advisory Council) resulting in depletion of the existing water source
 - Cooperators may contact their district and request a temporary exception to ACSP fencing policies
 - The temporary exception duration is determined by the district and supporting notes must be included in the contract file
- ❖ **Now included in BOTH fencing BMPs**



Use Exclusion Fencing

- Added a policy on contract modifications:
 - A cooperator with an active ACSP contract, including the Livestock Exclusion Fencing BMP, may request a contract modification to Use Exclusion Fencing BMP if the original contract design:
 1. meets all the flash grazing provisions
 2. the cooperator agrees to the additional management and maintenance requirements
 - ❖ The original contract maintenance period does not change due to modification of the fencing BMP type.



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- Added an annual spot check requirement:

✓ The district shall inspect the site annually during the maintenance period.



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Questions?

