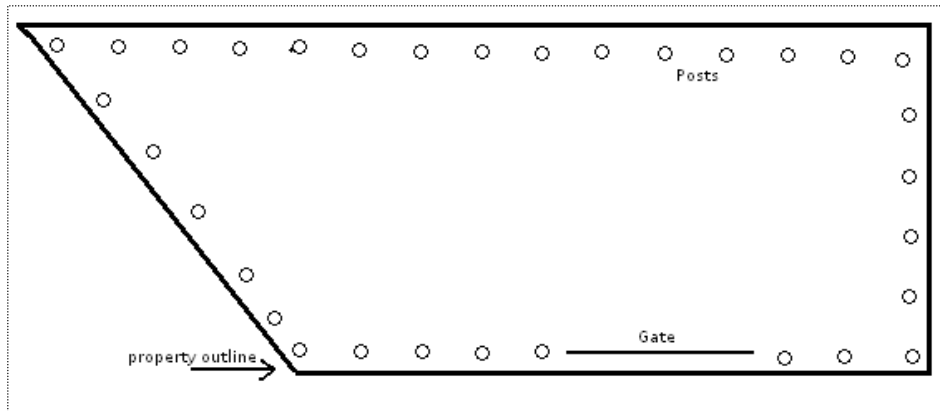


How to Plan Ahead



- 1) Draw a map of your property. Preferably on $\frac{1}{4}$ -inch graph paper using $\frac{1}{4}$ -inch as one foot.
- 2) Use a ruler to sketch in the fence line you would like. Try to keep the scale accurate.
- 3) Using an estimated traffic pattern, find where you would like the gate first. Mark out the gateposts, then the corner posts, and then each line post. If the distance between the gate post and corner post is not evenly divisible by 8 feet or 6 feet, or really whatever section length you want, you have two choices.
 - a) Shorten each section a bit so that all the sections have an identical length.
 - b) Plan for a shorter section next to each corner post. Oftentimes this option is more preferable because it wastes less time and materials. Instead of having to cut every board from $7\frac{1}{4}$ -inches off of every 8-foot board, you just need to cut the corner boards.
- 4) Write down all of the lengths. You may be confronted with working in rods. Pastureland boundaries are usually measured in rods, and rolls of barbed wire are always measured in rods. A rod is simply $16\frac{1}{2}$ feet.
- 5) Answer the following questions
 - a) How many corner posts, bracing posts, and line posts will you need?
 - b) How many boards, pickets rails, or bales of wire will you need?
 - c) How many gates and gateposts will you need?

After finishing your graph paper version, go outside to see your ideas on the ground.

- 1) Place a stake where each gatepost will be. Start your fence at each side of the main gate and proceed with standard size sections towards the corners. By doing this, you'll maintain perfect symmetry around the gate area.
- 2) Place stakes at the corners.
- 3) Pull mason's line tightly between gateposts and corner posts after clearing brush or obstacles that may have been in the way.
- 4) Lay a board or rail along the twine to locate each successive line post location. Mark each spot with a stake.

How to construct a legal fence

- ⇒ Make sure the fence is going on your property.
- ⇒ If you're unsure about the property line, consult your own survey maps or verify your boundary lines at the recording clerk's office.
- ⇒ Find out any height limits, setback rules, or construction codes for your town.
- ⇒ Talk with your neighbors about the fence plans; especially if you want to run the fence exactly on the boundary line.

For this information and more refer to [The Best Fences](#) ©1984 by James Fitzgerald.