

Heavy-Duty Livestock Fencing

Fencing built for the pressure of larger animals

DIFFICULTY Moderate–hard
TYPE One-off construction
TIME Days to weeks depending on scale



DIFFICULTY
Moderate–hard



TIME
Days–weeks



COST
Moderate–high



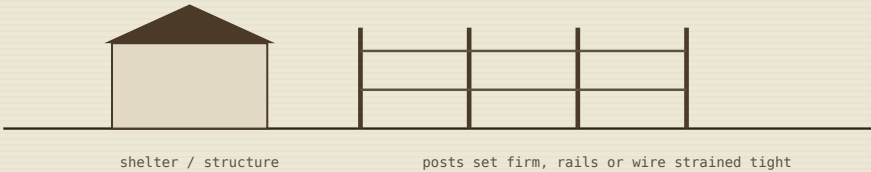
BEST SEASON
Dry ground makes construction easier



FREQUENCY
Built once, maintained ongoing

01 Built to handle real pressure

Fencing for cattle, larger goat breeds, or pigs needs to handle far more pushing and rubbing pressure than a simple garden fence — this generally means deeper-set posts, stronger wire, and closer post spacing.



02 What you'll need

- Strong corner/strainer assemblies (often braced, not just a single post)
- Wire or mesh rated for livestock use (high-tensile wire, ringlock, or similar)
- A post driver or auger suited to the ground conditions
- Electric fencing components if using electric as part of the system

03 Method

1. Plan strong, well-braced corner and strainer assemblies — these bear the majority of the load in a tensioned livestock fence.
2. Set line posts at a spacing appropriate to the animal and wire type, generally closer than for smaller livestock.
3. Install wire or mesh rated for the specific animal, strained tight.
4. Add electric wire if using a combination system, appropriately earthed and powered.
5. Test the fence under real conditions — with the animals present and under some pressure — before relying on it fully.

04 Troubleshooting

- **Cattle or larger stock pushing through** — usually under-braced corners or insufficient wire tension; reinforce bracing and re-strain wire.
- **Pigs rooting under the fence** — pigs need a buried skirt or electric wire low enough to deter digging, standard fencing alone often isn't enough.
- **Posts leaning under sustained pressure** — insufficient depth or bracing for the animal's weight and behaviour; corner assemblies especially need real engineering, not guesswork.
- **Electric component not deterring animals** — check earthing and voltage are adequate; a weak electric fence trains animals to ignore it, which is worse than no electric component at all.

05 Timing & maintenance

BEST TIME	Dry ground conditions make post-hole digging and construction considerably easier.
DURATION	Scale-dependent — a small paddock in days, larger perimeter fencing in weeks.
MAINTENANCE	Regular tension and post condition checks, particularly after stock have tested the fence or after storms.
SIGNS OF SUCCESS	A fence that holds under real, sustained pressure from the animals it's designed for, without sagging or failure over time.

06 Tips & variations

PAIRS WELL WITH

Fencing Basics

Rotational Grazing at Property Scale

COMMON MISTAKES

Under-building corner/strainer assemblies, which bear the most load in the whole fence

Assuming standard fencing wire/mesh is adequate for larger or more determined livestock without checking it's rated for the purpose

PRO TIP

Test any new livestock fence with the actual animals present and supervised before leaving them unattended in it — some animals test boundaries immediately, better to find weaknesses under supervision.