

.....“ They learn patience, because you don't plant something and see it come up the next day. ” see page 34 >>

Farmstead

GROW *your own* Fence

Building a containment enclosure using the land's bounty is as practical now as it was back in the day. And, it's a great way to save a few dollars.

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THERE ARE A NUMBER OF natural materials you can use to build your own fence. In this column, we'll focus on one of the most practical fence types—one to contain animals. It's a stout combination of posts harvested from your own woodlot and store-bought wire, and it is relatively easy to build, using basic skills and some quality tractor time.

Layout the Footprint

As you determine your fence's length and the amount of wire you'll need, you'll also need to determine how many corners and gates your plan will include and where they'll be located. Once you know that information, you can figure the number of posts

and the amount of wire your project will require.

For instance, to enclose a 100-foot square (10,000 square feet or slightly less than ¼ acre) with one corner gate, you'll need 5 corner/end posts (4 corners, plus 1 for the gate), 8 brace posts, 8 brace rails and about 32 line posts, give or take a couple. For a fence this size, you'll save close to \$500 by harvesting the posts from your land rather than buying them.

Harvest the Posts

Keep aesthetics in mind when harvesting your fence. Look for lovely, arched trunks that could be used for brace rails. They'll be just as strong as straight pieces, yet endow your fence with a unique, artistic look. >>