



COUNTY OF ALBEMARLE
Department of Community Development
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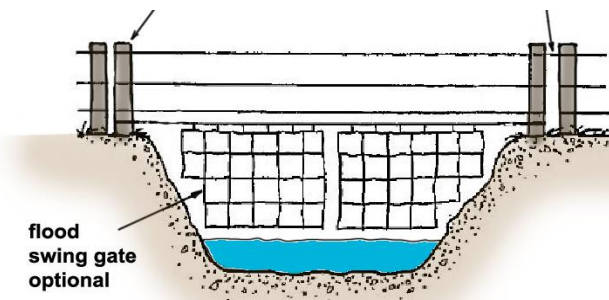
Guidelines for Breakaway Fencing across a Stream Channel

Albemarle County requires that any new fencing installed across a stream channel located in the 100 year floodplain is constructed to breakaway design standards to permit the passage of floodwaters and debris during peak flow conditions. The following diagrams illustrate the fundamental components of breakaway fence design.

Example 1. Non-electric fence

Fence section independent of main fence line. Wire not wrapped fence around post.

May be tethered to prevent post from being carried downstream.



Breakaway Fencing

Construct fencing across the stream so that it is not directly anchored to the permanent fencing. This will keep the permanent fencing from being torn down along with the fencing across the stream in the event of a flood. The cross-stream fencing should be anchored to separate posts and wire should be securely connected to the fence post, but not wrapped around the fence post to allow the wire to break free during flood conditions. Fence posts should not be placed within the stream channel.

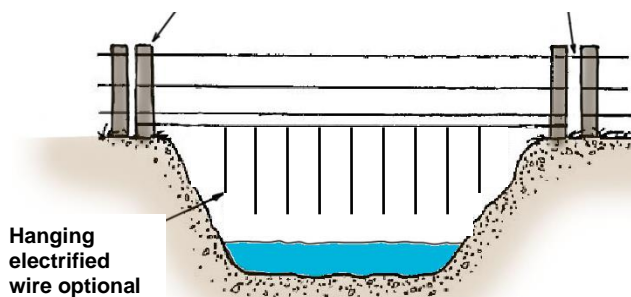
Flood Gates

Where needed, flood gates may be attached below bottom wire and should be designed to allow water and debris to pass and still control livestock. Some type of hinged or breakaway floodgate works best. Hanging gates should terminate approximately 6 inches above normal water level. Non-electric flood gates should be hinged such that gate will swing with the rising water during storm events. An electrified flood gate may be used to minimize debris problems on stream crossings. The electrified flood gate is constructed using electrified vertical droppers across the drainage above high water flow level.

Example 2. Electric fence

Fence section independent of main fence line. Wire not wrapped fence around post.

May be tethered to prevent post from being carried downstream.



For more information about Albemarle County's breakaway fencing standards, contact the Community Development Department at (434) 296-5832 or the Thomas Jefferson Soil & Water Conservation District at (434) 975-0224.