

Fencing for Farmed Cervidae

Minnesota Statutes, § 35.155, subd. 4, provides, in part:

- Farmed Cervidae must be confined in a manner designed to prevent escape.
- All perimeter fences for farmed Cervidae must be at least 96 inches in height and be constructed and maintained in a way that prevents the escape of farmed Cervidae, entry into the premises by free-roaming Cervidae, and physical contact between farmed Cervidae and free-roaming Cervidae.
- The Board of Animal Health or commissioner of natural resources may determine whether the construction and maintenance of fencing is adequate to prevent physical contact or escape under this subdivision and may compel corrective action when fencing is determined to be inadequate.
- All new fencing installed, and all fencing used to repair deficiencies, must be high tensile.

Examples of Exclusionary Fencing Plans

The examples listed below are for illustrative purposes only and are not an exhaustive list for satisfying the statute. Exclusionary fencing plans will be reviewed and approved by the Board of Animal Health (Board) on a case-by-case basis. The purpose of this document is to provide examples of exclusionary fencing plans that the Board believes would satisfy the no physical contact requirement; the examples provided are informational only and should not be interpreted as creating new criteria or requirements beyond what is already established in the relevant statutes and rules. The statements in this document do not have the force and effect of law.

1. Double 8 foot (96 inches) high fencing at least 4 feet apart

2. Secondary (coupled) fence attached to the outside of an existing 8-foot fence:

- Secondary fence composed of welded wire mesh fence material with openings no larger than 2 inches by 4 inches that is minimum of 4 feet in height, parallel to the perimeter fence.
- Spacers are attached such that they maintain a minimum of 12-inch space between the two fences.
- The bottom of the fence is no more than 6 inches above the ground and the top is a minimum of 4 feet, 6 inches above the ground.

3. Solid fencing as part of an existing 8-foot fence:

- Solid material such as wood, metal, or densely woven shade cloth.
- Solid material must be attached to perimeter fence no more than 6 inches above the ground.
- The top of the solid material must be at a minimum height of 5 feet or 60 inches from the ground.

4. Electric fencing:

Number of electrified wires	Height of top wire from ground	Height of lowest wire from ground (must be electrified)	Distance from perimeter fence	Maximum distance between electrified wires
Four wires	48 inches	16 inches	16 to 36 inches	11 inches
Five wires	48 inches	10 to 12 inches	12 to 16 inches	9.5 inches

- Electrified 12.5 gauge high tensile or larger diameter fencing wire must be used to create an external barrier.
- The fence must deliver a minimum of 5000 volts/8 joules throughout the length of the fence.
- An industrial strength fencer with alarm notification and battery backup must be utilized to electrify the fence.