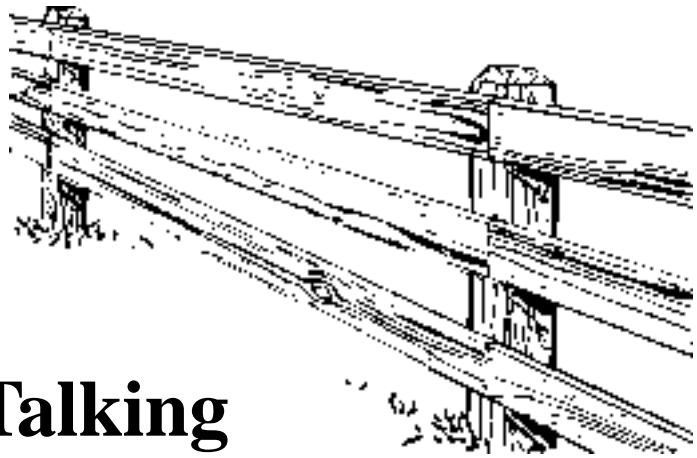




Farm Views



Talking over the fence

Even though fences are designed to divide you and your neighbor's property, the issues of fence maintenance and repair may divide you further.

Such agreements often are uncomfortable, even with neighbors who have good relations; if you're not on the best terms with your neighbor, agreeing about anything might be difficult. Fortunately, Nebraska's laws are designed to facilitate fence building and repair for neighbors of all kinds.

The state of Nebraska allows several kinds of lawful division fences: rail fences, board fences, rail and post fences, pole and post fences, wire fences, old-time Warner's Patent wooden fences and sheep- and hog-tight fences. Because the state fence laws were enacted more than a century ago, electric fences aren't considered lawful division fences. Landowners can, however, install electric fences on a property line if they pay the cost themselves or if their neighbors agree to share the expense of the electric fence. Each fence type has a set of specific requirements, which are relevant primarily if neighbors disagree over sharing costs of the fence.

If you want to build a fence between your property and your neighbor's property, you have the right to ask your neighbor to pay for half by going through the fence viewer process. When requested, the county clerk will select three fence viewers for your case. Fence viewers function like an unofficial jury; they view the property, call and subpoena witnesses if necessary, and eventually make a decision by majority vote. As with a jury, fence viewers are selected from the general population. They receive \$30 a day for their services, paid for by the landowner requesting the fence viewers. If more than one fence view is done, the two neighbors split the cost. The fence viewers' decision is legally binding. If

one neighbor refuses to pay his share of fence maintenance expenses, the other neighbor has the right to sue for those costs.

The fence viewer process shouldn't be an initial option. Landowners have the choice of paying for a fence themselves or contracting with their neighbors to share costs and responsibilities of the fence.

If you own livestock and your neighbor doesn't and you want to put in a livestock fence, your neighbor is required only to reimburse you for the cost of a regular wire fence if you go through the fence viewer process. There also are state laws dealing with trespassing livestock, although they're different for cultivated and uncultivated land. If cultivated land is damaged, the landowner has the right to impound the trespassing animals. If the livestock owner refuses to reimburse the neighbor for the neighbor's losses, the neighbor may sell the impounded livestock to cover costs. That right doesn't apply to owners of uncultivated land, although they still can sue their neighbor for trespassing.

Livestock owners are legally responsible for any damage their animals might do to their neighbors land while trespassing; if one neighbors land has been damaged by the other's livestock, the fence viewers might make the livestock owner pay for a larger share of the fence.

Ideally, neighbors should try to work out an agreement without resorting to fence viewers. In addition to helping neighbor relations, an agreement also gives flexibility to build the kind of fence you want.

To find out more about Nebraska fence laws, see NebFacts guide NF98-390 or read it online at <http://www.ianr.unl.edu/pubs/farmmgmt/nf390.htm>.

SOURCE: David Aiken, J.D., water law specialist, NU/IANR, (402) 472-1848. (WS)

Fertilizing grass pastures and hay lands-Part 1

This article discusses managing nitrogen for grass pastures and hay lands.

Pastures are important to many livestock producers in Nebraska, but production from many pastures is low. Research shows that fertilizing, weed control and rotational grazing increases grass production from pastures, resulting in greater livestock production.

Fertilizing and controlling weeds on hay lands also increases production. Since more plant material is removed when land is managed as hay land, more attention needs to be paid to fertilization.

In addition to increasing grass production, fertilizing can improve forage quality. On-the-farm demonstrations show that fertilizing increases the amount of beef produced per acre, even in a dry year. This increased production is primarily a result of added carrying capacity, rather than an increase in average daily gain.

Nitrogen Management

Apply nitrogen (N) fertilizer yearly to grass pastures and hay lands for profitable livestock production. Nitrogen improves both grass yield and protein content. It also improves the vigor of grass plants, which can thicken stands and reduce weed invasions. When adequate soil moisture is present, economical rates of nitrogen more than double forage production.

Note that fertilization with nitrogen is most economical where weeds have been controlled and additional grass growth is needed for livestock. If additional forage can be purchased or pasture rented at a lower cost than fertilizer, these alternatives may be better choices.

Nitrogen fertilizer applied just prior to the period of most rapid grass growth assures that the applied nitrogen is available to the plants. For cool season grasses, such as smooth brome and wheatgrass, maximum growth occurs in mid to late spring (Table 1). These grasses grow very little in July and August. A small amount of growth takes place in late August and September if soil moisture is adequate and temperatures are favorable. Fall growth, however, is only a small

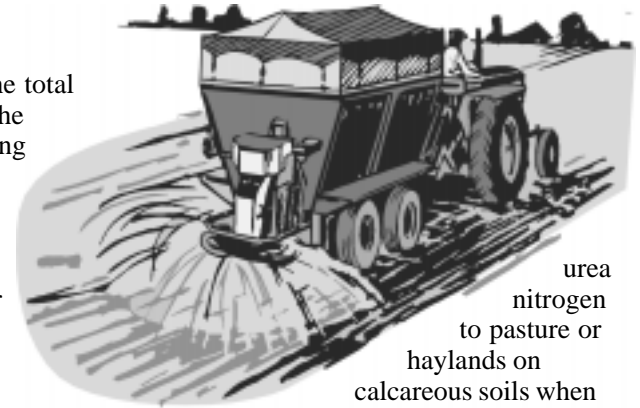
portion of the total growth for the entire growing season.

Nitrogen can be applied in either fall or spring on cool season grasses. The risk of losing applied nitrogen by either leaching or run-off is reduced if it is applied in early spring. Therefore, spring applications are preferred.

Split applications of nitrogen for production of cool season grasses under dryland conditions are useful only when more than 100 lbs of nitrogen per acre are to be applied during the growing season, and good growing conditions are anticipated during September and October.

Apply fertilizer in mid to late May to pastures and hay lands containing warm season grasses, such as switchgrass and bluestem. Do not fertilize warm season grasses in early spring in order to reduce fertilizer loss and to avoid stimulating growth of cool season species. Begin application in mid-May in southern Nebraska and delay until late May in the northern portion of the state.

Some pastures and haylands contain a mixture of both cool



urea nitrogen to pasture or haylands on calcareous soils when air temperatures are above 85 degrees F. Nitrogen loss due to ammonia volatilization can be high under these conditions. Since urea supplies more than half the nitrogen in solution nitrogen fertilizers, use similar care with their use.

Pasture production is highly dependent on rainfall, so nitrogen recommendations are adjusted accordingly. Suggested application rates for nitrogen are shown in Table 1. The lower rates listed are the minimum amounts recommended for average conditions and management situations. Even in years when summer rainfall is below normal, the use of 80 lbs of nitrogen per acre usually will increase production economically on pastures and haylands in eastern and northeastern Nebraska. Use the higher rates listed for each zone when there is a full profile of subsoil moisture at the start of the growing season.

Zone I is southeast of a line running from Blair, in Washing-

Table 1. Nitrogen recommendations for pastures and hayland in Nebraska

Zone	Pounds of nitrogen to apply per acre*			
	Cool-season grasses		Warm-season grasses	
	Pasture	Hayland	Pasture	Hayland
I	80-120	100-150	60-90	75-100
II	50-80	60-90	40-75	50-80

and warm season grasses. Fertilizing these pastures with nitrogen in early spring often stimulates the cool season grasses which crowd out any warm season grasses present. To maintain warm season grasses in such a mixture, fertilize in late May. It also may be necessary to apply herbicides to suppress the cool season grasses.

Liquid and dry forms of nitrogen fertilizer are equally effective for increasing pasture production when certain precautions are taken. Do not apply

ton County to Hebron, in Thayer County and includes all of Lancaster County except the Branched Oak Lake area. Zone II is southeast of a line running from Niobrara in Knox County to Alma in Harlan County down to Zone I. *Use the higher rate when a full profile of subsoil moisture is present.

Phosphorus and other nutrients - Part 2 will be continued in the July Issue of the Nebline.

Weed control in and around a sewage lagoon

There must be free air movement over the lagoon for it to work properly. Weeds and trees should, therefore, be controlled around the lagoon and in the lagoon itself. Open water during the summer months also provides a nesting ground for mosquitos, which requires mowing of the lagoon banks to reduce possible mosquito breeding areas. Cattails seem to be the most common aquatic weed in many lagoons. Proper herbicide rates and timing are

critical for good control.

Reward (diquat) can be used for control of cattails and many other aquatic weeds. Reward is a contact herbicide, but has some residual effect when in clear water. Reward can be applied at any growth stage to actively growing plants.

Some chemicals are classed as systemic as opposed to contact herbicides. These are most effective if they can be translocated into the root system. Cattails are more actively

translocating food reserves into the root system just before and during the flowering period than at other growth stages. Systemic chemicals applied at that time will, therefore, be most effective. The herbicide guide lists two systemic chemicals for cattail control. 2,4-D LV ester at 1.5 gallon per acre + 5% diesel fuel + 0.5% emulsifier at boot to early flowering and Rodeo (glyphosate) at 3 quarts in 10 gallons of water per acre at flowering. (TD)

A REMINDER FOR INTERNET USERS:

Lancaster County Extension Office has a new, shorter home page address: www.lanco.unl.edu

Some shortcuts:

www.lanco.unl.edu/food

www.lanco.unl.edu/ag

www.lanco.unl.edu/enviro

www.lanco.unl.edu/nebline

www.lanco.unl.edu/hort

www.lanco.unl.edu/family

www.lanco.unl.edu/4h

www.lanco.unl.edu/contact