

# Minimum Standards for Perimeter Fencing and Handling Facilities on Cervid Farms

As per section 14 of the *Livestock Industry Diversification Act*, all cervid operators are responsible for ensuring that their domestic cervid animals remain on the licenced property and that wildlife species remain outside of the perimeter fencing. The following standards have been developed over time and are designed to minimize domestic cervids from straying off the licenced domestic cervid farm. These standards apply to all domestic cervid farms, including temporary holding facilities as defined in the *Domestic Cervid Industry Regulation*.

## 1. Fencing Standards

### a. Perimeter Fences

Height: **Elk and Moose** – fences must have a minimum of 2.5 m (8 ft.) mesh wire, or 2.1 m (7 ft.) mesh wire with at least two high-tensile wires above it, with a maximum spacing of 15 cm (6 in) between wires.

**Deer** – must have minimum 2.8 m (9 ft.) mesh wire or 2.5 m (8 ft.) mesh wire with at least two high-tensile wires above it, with a maximum spacing of 15 cm (6 in) between wires.

Mesh: **Elk, Moose, and Deer** - must be of high-tensile wire. Horizontal wires must be spaced 15 cm (6 in.) or less, and vertical wires must be spaced 30 cm (12 in.) or less.

It is recommended that new perimeter fence construction should be 20-96-6 fencing wire, (20 horizontal wires and 2.5 m (8 ft.) total height, with 15 cm (6 in.) spacing between vertical wires).

For deer farms, it is recommended that predator proof or similar mesh wire be attached to the outside-bottom of the fence 60 cm (2 ft.) above the ground extending about 60 cm (2 ft.) from the base of the fence, level with the ground surface, or buried no more than 15 cm (6 in.) below the surface to prevent coyotes and other predators from digging and gaining access to the farm. A single strand of electric fence wire may also be used, in addition to other methods of predator fencing.

Note: Operators should contact the municipal agricultural fieldmen in their area regarding coyote predation control.

- b. Posts: Must maintain tension on all horizontal wires and must keep the bottom of the mesh at ground level.

- c. Gates: Perimeter gates must be the same height as the perimeter fence. Perimeter gates must be kept closed and secured (padlocks are recommended) at all times to ensure that wildlife do not enter the farm and domestic cervids do not stray from the farm. Mesh space for gates cannot be larger than that of the mesh on the perimeter fence.

2. **Handling Facilities** - All handling facilities must meet the following standards:

- a. Handling facilities must be designed and situated in a manner that ensures all animals can be captured within one week of notification of an inspection request (herd certification audit).
- b. Handling facilities must consist of a squeeze, crush or alley-way designed to hold animals securely and in a manner to prevent injury to workers or the animals.
- c. Handling facilities should not form any part of the perimeter fence. Where this is unavoidable, it is recommended that a portion of the perimeter fence be constructed so there is no likelihood of straying. Handling facilities may be housed within a solid walled building that is inside, or is part of, the perimeter fence.
- d. All loading and unloading of animals must be conducted entirely within the perimeter fence.

It is the responsibility of a licensed operator of a domestic cervid farm to maintain all perimeter fences and handling systems in good order at all times.