

Fencing Techniques for Difficult Terrain: Sheep and Cattle

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Our Farm: Agritourism



Pizza Nights/Events



Glamping

Our Farm: Crops



Hay (lots of it!)



Organic Cash Crops

Our Farm: Animals



Grass Finished Lamb



Grass Finished Beef

Why fence difficult terrain?

- Land access
- Benefit to Land
- Benefit to Livestock

Silvopasture

- Combination of trees, forage, and livestock
- Potential to benefit both land and livestock
- Silvopasture resources

Silvopasture by Steve Gabriel

The Graziers Guide to Trees by Austin Unruh



Table 1.2. Appropriate land-use types for silvopasture (SP)

Appropriate for SP	Possible, with Caution	Not Appropriate
Hedgerows	Even-aged forests with a mix of older trees above browse height	Forests in fragile habitats (wetlands, rare species, for example)
Plantation forests	Orchards, vineyards, Christmas tree farms	Mixed-aged forests with good species regeneration
Overgrown land	Wet zones, seasonally	Old-growth forests
Sites producing poor-quality trees		

From *Silvopasture* by Steve Gabriel

Difficult terrain

- Natural features
 - Hills, valleys, trees, brush, waterways, predators
- Other obstacles and challenges
 - Inappropriate or junk fence
 - Planted trees and crops
 - Neighbors, visitors, pets
 - Roads



Terrain not difficult enough?



Strategies

Portable vs Permanent fence



Use minimum amount of fence possible

- Match fence to livestock species
- Train animals to fence
- Maintain equipment



Remove Obstacles

- Clear alleyways for fence
- Remove old permanent fence



Fence placement

- Fence outside of junk fence
- Fence well inside or outside of tree line
- Use more worn fence in most difficult locations
- Semi permanently install fence in most difficult spots
- Use extra posts at points of slope and direction change



Fencing will get easier over time!









