

Appendix E

Guideline for Constructing User-friendly Gates

The gate closure consists of a length of chain, one end of which permanently attaches to the inside of the stationary gate post in line with the closed gate and no more than 3 inches above the top wire using a minimum of 1 3/4 inches of barbed and cement-coated fence staple. A spike at least 1/4 inch in diameter is driven into the stationary gate post horizontally at the same height as the chain attachment and 180 degrees from it. The spike head is removed if it interferes with placing the chain link over the spike. No less than 1 1/2 inches nor more than 2 1/2 inches of spike is to protrude from the gate post. When the gate is in the closed and tight position, a minimum of 12 inches of excess chain extends from the spike. The recommended chain is zinc-coated, 3/16 inch, straight-link-proof, coil chain.

OR

Specifications for gates depend on the location and use of the gate. Gates on roads must be large enough to allow passage of vehicles and heavy equipment expected on the road and are generally slightly wider than the road. Gates for livestock range from 8 to 16 feet, generally whatever is convenient to construct. Gates at trail junctions and on trails must be wide enough to allow horses to pass safely.

Gates that will be used frequently should swing and be constructed of metal, poles, or boards. Gates used less frequently may be constructed with barbed wire and wooden or wire stays. Pole-wing gates provide easy access because the gate can be swung in either direction and from either end depending on the end the panel is pivoted on and the direction the panel is swung. Gate closure devices should be a wire loop that is twisted together or length of chain attached to the permanent gate post that can be wrapped around the non-stationary gate post. In using a chain as a closure device, a spike needs to be driven into the permanent gate post to attach the chain to once it has been wrapped around the non-stationary gate post. To facilitate the opening and closing of the gate, the use of a chain binder system will be used to remove the slack in the gate.