

**NATURAL RESOURCES CONSERVATION SERVICE  
CONSERVATION PRACTICE STANDARD**

**USE EXCLUSION**

(Acre)  
CODE 472

**DEFINITION**

Excluding animals, people, or vehicles from an area.

**PURPOSES**

To protect, maintain, or improve the quantity and quality of the plant, animal, soil, air, water, and aesthetics resources and human health and safety.

**CONDITIONS WHERE PRACTICE APPLIES**

This practice is applicable in areas where vegetative establishment and maintenance, soil condition, water or air quality, wildlife or aesthetic values are in need of protection. This practice is also applicable in areas where human and animal health and safety hazards are present.

**CRITERIA**

***NOTE: Specific program guidance may be more restrictive on a number of these criteria. Refer to program manual for specific program requirements.***

Exclusion of the targeted animals, vehicles, or people will be accomplished through physical or psychological barriers.

Exclusion will be by one or more of the following:

1. Constructed barriers of woven wire, barbed wire, suspension, high tensile, or power fencing as outlined in Fencing (382).
2. Established living fences of trees or shrubs. See Hedgerow Planting (422).

3. Arrangement of fields.

Barriers for stream corridor protection are to be constructed on stable stream banks and shall not be closer than 30 feet to the water.

Barriers along forested areas shall be constructed outside the canopy drip line to reduce maintenance and repair from falling limbs.

Barriers shall not be constructed more than 100 feet from the targeted area to be protected.

Timing and exclusion periods must be described to accomplish intended purposes.

**CONSIDERATIONS**

The type of barrier will depend on the kind of livestock or other targeted objects to be excluded and the landusers objectives.

For ease of fence maintenance and creation of wildlife borders along streams, barriers should be placed a distance of two times the height of the stream bank or a minimum of 30 feet from the water.

If permissible by program regulations, flash grazing along stream banks, especially along cold water streams, has been found to be beneficial in reducing both woody and herbaceous weed pressures.

## **PLANS AND SPECIFICATIONS**

Plans and specifications are to be prepared for each specific field site. Plans and specifications will include construction plans, drawings, job sheets, construction specifications, and narrative statements in conservation plan or other similar documentation. These documents will specify the requirements for installing the practices, such as the kind, amount, or quality of materials to be used, or the timing or sequence of installation activities.

## **OPERATION AND MAINTENANCE**

Barriers will be periodically inspected and remedial repairs will be performed as needed. Follow applicable O&M procedures outlined under Fencing (382) or Hedgerow Planting (422).