

Date:
March, 2012

Silage Bags with 3D Wildlife Fence

*“ Unfortunately
we didn't have
our normal
wildlife pressure
this year,
but I still believe
the 3D fence
is the way to go
to protect stored feed
from wildlife.”
Freddy Schneider,
Pouce Coupe, BC*

Original Objectives

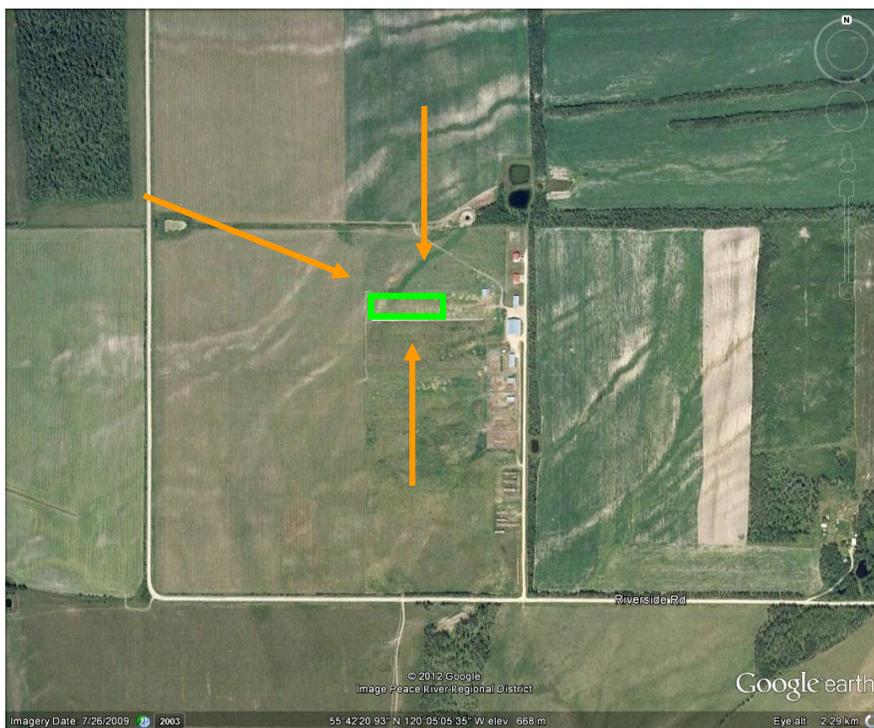
Freddy and Liz Schneider own and operate Riverside Ranch east of Pouce Coupe, BC. Throughout the winter they experience heavy elk pressure to their silage bags which are located close to their farm yard.

In the fall of 2011, The Schneiders modified an existing permanent fence which houses the silage bags that they feed their beef cattle and their bull pen. Their goal was to keep the elk out of their stored feed.



Area where silage bags are kept

Air photo (right) illustrating
location of Schneiders'
3D fence 
In relation to wildlife
traffic 



Contacts:

Freddy Schneider
(250) 786-5051

Sandra Burton
(250) 789- 6885

Julie Robinson
(250) 787-3241

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How was the 3D fence set up?

The set-up of Schneider's 3D fence was very similar to that of Glenn Hogberg's in Forage Fact #54.

To work with his existing fence, Freddy used 2x2 boards (*photo to right*) to bring the height of his inside fence up to shoulder height. He used deck screws to fasten the boards to the wooden posts. This turned his 4-wire fence into a 5-wire fence with the top wire at a height of 62".

The outside fence then consisted of one wire which was held up by bright orange pigtail stakes (*photo below*). These pigtails held the fence at a height of 33". Freddy chose these pigtails as he figured the orange color would be visible to the wildlife.

Using the portable fence on the outside enables him to take down the wire during the spring and summer. This allows his cows to keep the grass mowed down so that it doesn't interfere with his electric fence.



How were the gates setup?

The gate to the silage fence was approximately 50 feet wide. To give the gate extra support Freddy pounded a set of posts in the middle to hold the wires. His gate consisted of 4 individual wires: 3 on the inside and 1 on the outside.

How much did this fence cost?

This fence enclosed approximately 2 acres. The cost for all the materials (orange pigtails, 2x2 boards, deck screws, wire and gate handles) came to \$837. This cost also includes energizer rent for one year. The cost of labour and equipment to cut the 2x2 boards is not included in this analysis. Now that the fence is built, Freddy says it only takes an hour to take down/put up the outside fence and this includes the time to put away/gather the wire and pigtails and hook up the fencer.

Did it keep the wildlife out?

Unfortunately there was very little wildlife pressure over the winter and hardly any snow to see evidence of tracks around or in the fence. However, the Schneiders were going in and out of the fence for a good part of the winter and saw few signs of wildlife.

Where to next?

Freddy is confident this fence will deter wildlife when there is more wildlife pressure and he will continue to use it to protect his silage bags. The only potential disadvantage to limiting the effectiveness of the fence would be freezing rain or snow that would weigh the outside wire down and affect the electricity or 3D effect.

Fence Height Recommendations

- * The original 3D Fencing Forage Fact (#52) suggested the fence be 48" high.
- * We found with our winter/snow conditions that the height actually needs to be more like 55-60" high.
- * On the average person this is shoulder height.
- * This is not a set recipe and fence height will need to vary with snow depth and wildlife pressure.

Compiled by: Freddy Schneider and Talon Johnson in March 2012.

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