

Date:
March, 2012

Snow Depth Adjustments in 3D Fencing

*“ I put two insulators
on the posts
because I wanted
to easily adjust
the fence height
when the
snow depth
increased”
Pat O’Reilly,
Dawson Creek, BC*



Pat’s 3D fence surrounding stored feed

Original Objectives

Pat O’Reilly lives south of Dawson Creek, BC on Bear Mountain. He owns an acreage where he raises horses. During the winter months, Pat experiences heavy elk pressure on his stored feed.

Pat’s goals were:

1. To protect stored feed from wildlife during the winter
2. To modify an existing fence setup
3. To change fence height according to snow depth

Adjusting Fence Heights:

For more ideas on how to adjust 3D fences when snow starts to build up refer back to Nimitz’ Adjustable 3D Wildlife Fence Forage Fact #62.

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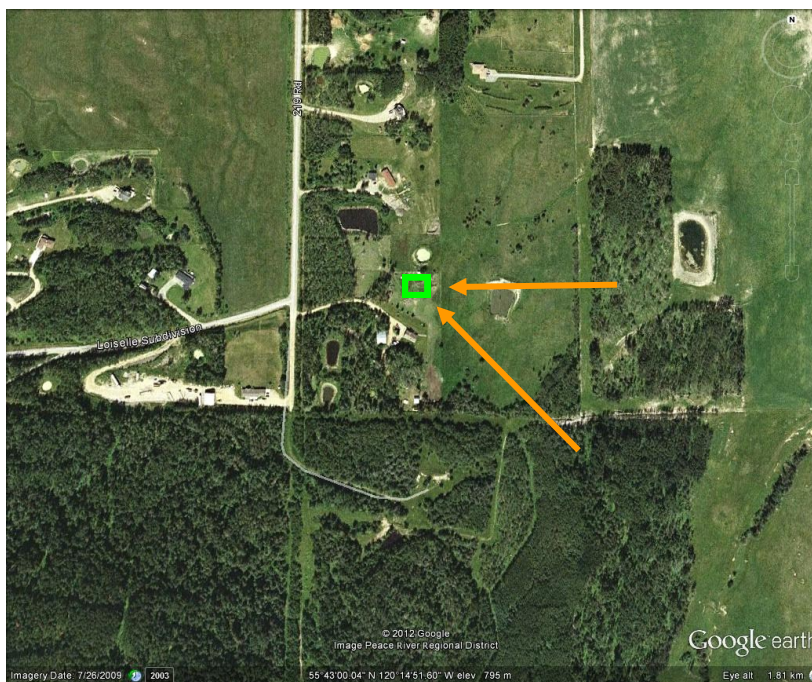
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Air photo showing O’Reillys’ 3D fence location 
In relation to wildlife traffic patterns 

Peace River Forage Association
of British Columbia





How was the 3D fence set up?

Pat built his 3D fence by using an existing old stallion pen. He already had sturdy pipe panels (*see photo on left*) with rebar attached to extend the height of the fence. This was used to keep his stallion from jumping out of the pen and then, when it was converted into a storage area, to keep the elk from jumping in. He ran electric tape around the top and hooked it up to a fencer.

This was still not deterring the wildlife so Pat decided to use the 3D fencing concept and modify his fence design. He pounded in wooden posts three feet from his pipe panes and attached insulators (*see photo below*). These posts were put on a slight outward slant to resist pressure from wildlife pushing on the fence if the power failed.

One of Pat's biggest concerns in the 3D fence design was "What do I do when the snow builds up and my fence gets shorter and shorter?". To solve this problem he attached two insulators to each post. In the beginning of winter he ran the electric tape through the bottom insulator and then as the snow builds up he would move the wire up to the top insulator.

How were the gates setup?

The original fence already had a swinging panel gate with electric tape strung above it to extend the height. He uses a bobcat to move hay in and out, he just lifts the top wire up so it isn't in the way. The outside fence then consisted of the one wire with a handle.

How much did this fence cost?

This 3D fence enclosed an area of 78' X 44'. The only materials that Pat needed to complete the 3D fence were wooden posts, insulators and electric tape wire. The fence cost to Pat was around \$300 which includes one year use of an energizer. Pat uses a Gallagher M120 electric fencer which puts out 6000 to 7000 volts.



Pat explaining wildlife patterns

Did it keep the wildlife out?

According to Pat "evidence of wildlife was very difficult to see but I can see this fence right out of my front window and I never saw any elk all winter". Due to a mild winter, wildlife pressure was very low last winter.

Where to next?

Pat will continue to use the 3D fence to protect his stored feed and looks forward to it's success in more high pressure years.

Compiled by: Pat O'Reilly and Talon Johnson in March 2012.

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