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Luring Wildlife to Your Fence

“Lures are the way to go if you want to make sure wildlife touch your fence and get a shock”

*Rob Davidson,
Creston, BC*

Demos Experimenting With Lures:

- ⇒ Burton/ Kabzems
- ⇒ Fred Schneider
- ⇒ John Kendrew

Scents Used in 3D Project

⇒ Apple Scent
(from Premier 1
Fencing Supplies)



⇒ Peanut Butter



⇒ Molasses



Original Objectives

The objectives change for ranchers when they move from traditional stackyard fencing to 3D fencing. Most ranchers do not want wildlife to come anywhere near their fence. For e.g., woven wire stackyard fences are constructed to look and be formidable structures. Those with a 3D fence, however, do want wildlife to have some contact with the fence, particularly with the hot wires on the outside fence. This contact creates a negative experience before they breach the fence, decreasing the frequency that they try to cross it.

How do we ensure wildlife are getting a shock from the fence and receiving that negative reinforcement to stay away? Every species behaves differently when they interact with an electric fence but we want to make sure they all get the same message. Phase 2 of the 3D Wildlife Fencing Project has tested lures on three fences in the Peace Region. In this factsheet we are going to explore using fence line lures and incorporate results from local fences.

How Do Fence Line Lures Work?

Fence line lures incorporate scents that are meant to entice wildlife to touch a fence with their sensitive noses. Fence line lures are popular in the United States on fences protecting orchards, tree plantations or gardens. Commercial lures can be purchased or there are many do it yourself options (see left side for scents used).

Currently, there are no spacing or number per area recommendations. When used in the 3D fencing project, 1 to 2 lures have been placed approximately every 40 feet in high traffic wildlife areas. The training process to teach wildlife to avoid a fence begins as soon as it is constructed.

Right: 3D fencing cooperator Fred Schneider adjusting his fence as we walk around and check lures.



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What to Lure/ Bait With?

Lure/Bait Options	Advantages	Disadvantages
<p>Scent Caps</p> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> * Easy to attach to wire * Remains upward facing * Doesn't slide along wire in wind * Quick to apply scent to 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> * Order online through Premier 1 Fencing (could build yourself - requires bottle caps, cotton balls and wire)
<p>Aluminum Tart Tins</p> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> * Easy to attach to wire (roll one end around wire) * Quick to apply scent to * Do-it-yourself option 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> * Will slide along wire towards posts * Will roll under (may work better if wire was used to attach but then more time consuming to create)
<p>Aluminum Foil</p> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> * Very visual and attract attention * Doesn't slide along wire in wind * Do-it-yourself option 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> * Cumbersome to attach to wire * Short lasting - wind eventually rips them from wire * More time consuming to apply scent to

Tips for Working with Lures

- ⇒ Put lure scent in a squeeze bottle for easier applications.
- ⇒ Check lures frequently (every 7-10 days) when they are first added to the fence to make sure there is a sufficient amount on each lure for the training period.
- ⇒ After the training period, lures should be checked for functionality and amount of scent monthly.
- ⇒ With do-it-yourself lure designs be sure to consider how much time you want to spend building & adhering lures to the fence.
- ⇒ Most importantly, check that the fencer is delivering the proper electricity to give a good shock.

Summary

Lures were placed along the Burton/ Kabzems' 3D fence winter 2013/14 and along Schneider's and Kendrew's 3D fences winter 2014/15. These lures were added after either deer (Schneiders & Kendrew's) or moose (Burton/ Kabzems) had penetrated the 3D fence. The goal was to provide something novel to entice wildlife to slow down and receive a shock that would deter them from the fence, not propel them through.

In all situations, no more successful wildlife crossings were seen where lures were added. However, mild winters and abundance of other feed sources may also play a role in the success seen. All cooperators are keen to continue working with lures to document continued success.

Visual Options

Michael Nimitz tried a new tactic with his 3D fence when he expanded it in the fall of 2014. Instead of adding lures he opted to slow wildlife down with a visual deterrent (below). These spin in the wind and reflect sunlight.



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