

Date:
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3D Fences Spreading Across the Land

*“The 3D fence
worked great and
kept approximately
25 to 30 elk
out of my hay”
Les Ellis,
Bulkley Valley, BC*

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Introduction

Since the first 3D Wildlife Fencing Project initiated in 2009, there has been tremendous interest in the innovative fencing efforts by farmers and ranchers in the Peace Region. Our fencing design modifications have been featured in numerous publications throughout western Canada since 2009.

As a result of this sharing of information, several 3D wildlife fences have been constructed outside of the BC & AB Peace Region. All of these ranchers used some version of the 3D 2 line fence design highlighted in *Forage Fact 64*.

These four pages highlight 7 of the fences we have heard about.

Central & Southern British Columbia 3D Wildlife Fences

Bulkley-Nechako Area

Producer: Les Ellis

Location: Bulkley River, BC

Size: 300 ft by 400 ft

Goal: The incentive to build the first 3D fence in the Bulkley-Nechako region (Smithers area) came when a group of elk destroyed ~80 hay bales in the winter of 2012/2013.

Details: Since posts could not be pounded, Les constructed the fence with 2x4's standing 3 ft high and 3 ft away from his existing fence. Holes were drilled in the ends of the 2x4's for stringing the smooth wire through.



This fence is an excellent example of something that can be built in response to wildlife pressure.

Forage Facts Published by PRFA of BC About 3D Wildlife Fences

FF#52 3D Fencing Keeping Wildlife Away

FF#53 Grain Bags with 3D Wildlife Fence

FF#54 Stackyard with 3D Wildlife Fence

FF#55 Winter Feeding with 3D Wildlife Fence

FF#56 Does 3D Fencing Pay?

FF#58 Wildlife, Swaths & Soils

FF#61 Silage Bags with 3D Wildlife Fence

FF#62 Nimitz Adjustable 3D Wildlife Fence

FF#63 Snow Height Adjustments in 3D Fence

FF#64 Where There is a Will, There is a Way

FF#69 Comparing Your Fencing Costs

FF#76 Are You Grounded?

FF#85 Wildlife Fence Behaviour

FF#86 Responding Quickly to Wildlife Pressure

FF#87 Luring Wildlife to Your Fence

FF#88 3D Fences Spreading Across the Land

Peace River Forage Association
of British Columbia



Kootenay Area

Producer: Phillip Proudfoot

Location: Grasmere, BC

Size: ~35 acres

Goal: Phillip built his 3D fence in the winter of 2013/2014 around a small field of leased hay land. He wants to rejuvenate this hay field but fears the damage elk would do to newly emerging forage plants. He constructed a 3D fence to help protect the new seedlings. He seeded barley in 2014 and plans to put down oats and under seed forage in the spring of 2015. Phillip's ranch sits right on the edge of the BC/Montana border where elk migrate through. They go down to winter in Montana and then come back through his property in the spring.

Details: This field had an existing four strand barbwire fence around it that Phillip needed to repair. This fence line serves as the interior fence and stands 48" high. Phillip believes that this may be too low and plans on adding a "hot" wire to the top of his posts to increase the height another 4".

In order to add the outer fence line, he cleared brush along two sides of the field. The second fence was built 2.5 to 3 ft away from the existing fence, as space warranted. The outer fence consists of three smooth wires, two that are hot and one that is a ground. After talking with Rob Davidson, electric fencing expert, Phillip has decided to make all 3 of these wires hot. According to Rob, ground wires are not as effective as ground rods, as they can tangle with the hot wires and ground the fence out. *Forage Fact 76* explains the difference between these two grounding systems and how to test if a ground is functioning properly.

Results: Overall, Phillip is very happy with the 3D fence as it has deterred elk from this field. When elk pass through his property now they travel along the 3D fence and jump a single fence beside the 3D fence. The true test will be the spring of 2015 when the newly seeded forage is growing.

Partners: Peace River Forage Association of BC



"Great to see this innovative idea spreading across western Canada! Kudos to you & the PRFA for championing this."
Darrell Smith,
Invermere, BC



Part of a Series: This forage fact is one of a series produced during the 3 D Wildlife Fence Project Phase 2.

Warren Bloomquist 3D fence - Ponoka



Central Alberta 3D Wildlife Fences

Ponoka Area

Producer: Warren & Eric Bloomquist
Project Coordinator: Grey Wooded Forage Association

Location: Ponoka, AB

Size: 10 acres

Goal: To be able to swath graze again. Mule deer pressure has made swath grazing in this area virtually nonexistent. Warren saw 3D fencing as an opportunity to try it again.

Details: Warren had issues with deer going through the fence in the first winter but after beefing up his grounding and adding scent caps (*Forage Fact 87*), he had no more deer go through the next winter.

Partners: Ponoka County Agric. Services, Powerflex Fence Canada & Gallagher.



Sundre Area

Producer(s): Otto Seidel and Darryl Murphy
Location: Mountain View County (Sundre area)

Size: N/A

Goals: Both Darryl & Otto were experiencing damage to stored feed from 75 to 140 elk. They agreed to test how this fence would deter elk.

Details: Fences were constructed with 4 wire, high tensile electric fence on the inside fence line. An additional wire 3 ft high and 3 ft from the higher inside line was added to the outside. Gates had the same configuration. The wire was also flagged and foil scent cups added.

Partners: Lone Star Ranch & Sales, Gallagher, Sundog Solar, PowerFlex Fence Canada, Anchor JB Ranch (Jim Bauer), West Frazer, Kokanee Heavy Truck Sales, Mountain View County, Rocky Mountain House Co-op, Signs by Jan.



Part of a Series: This forage fact is one of a series produced during the 3 D Wildlife Fence Project Phase 2.



"We swath grazed a combination of millet & oats for a number of years very successfully, usually beginning in early January. In 2011 a herd of elk discovered the swaths. They would paw up the swaths and the snow would freeze and then the cows could not get at them, so we could no longer use millet and oats and turned to standing corn. We found that the elk did not eat much corn, only just wandered through it. We would like to return to the millet/ oats swath graze again. We'll experiment with the 3D fence and the corn. If it is effective in keeping the elk out, we'll try the millet/ oats again."

Ruth Demetrick, Norquay, Sask,

Saskatchewan 3D Fences

Swan River Area

Producer: Ruth Demetrick

Location: on SW 18-34-32 W1

Size: ~50 acres

Goal: to keep elk off winter feeding area where they swath graze corn (or preferably millet & oats) and feed hay bales to 80 head of cows.

Details: Her 3D fence is built off an existing fence. To increase the height of her interior fence to 60", she attached 16" long 2x4's with insulators.

Estimated Labour & Costs: Ruth estimated her labour to total about 40 hours and her costs for posts, insulators, wire, post extenders & post pounder rental to be \$526.

Carrot River Valley Watershed Association

Producer: Morgan & Margaret Leigh

Location: SE 27-42-17 W2,

Rural Municipality of Pleasantdale

Size: 65 feet x 150 feet

Goal: The Leighs, along with many other Saskatchewan ranchers, are quickly losing their winter feed due to increasing elk pressure. They are testing their 3D fence around 135 bales saved for feeding their 300 head of cattle in the spring.

Details: This existing or outside fence line is 34" high. The interior fence line was constructed using wooden posts for braces and rebar in the middle to support the wire at 54" high. The 2 lines of fence are 30" apart.

Partners: Saskatchewan Crop Insurance Corporation.

"The 3D fencing system was based on the design created by the Peace River Forage Association of BC, with some modifications to best fit these producers' needs and use existing infrastructure." Lynne Roszell, Carrot River, Sask,

In Summary

The 3D wildlife fence demos in the Peace encouraged farmers in other parts of BC, Alberta & Saskatchewan to initiate their own 3D wildlife fence testing.



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Compiled by: Talon Johnson & Sandra Burton in March 2015.

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