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How to install Electric Netting

MARCH 30, 2012 - By Charles Duhigg and Steven Greenhouse

1. Site preparation

Carry roll(s) to proposed fence line. Prepare line by trampling or mowing all vegetation over 4 inches tall. We often use a vehicle to make a track through grass or weeds and then install the fence along wheel track. For long fences needing 2 or more nets, we put the rolls into back of a vehicle and throw them out at intervals (determined by length of rolls) as we drive along making the path.

2. Untying the roll of net

Untie the 2 tie strings to release the roll of netting.

3. Unrolling the net

Grip all the posts as a group and lift them up in front of you. This allows the netting to unroll in front of you in a series of folded "pleats," each attached to the posts in your hands. Lay unrolled pleats on the ground. Locate the beginning post. It's the post with 2 tie strings attached and a stainless-steel connector at the top. For PermaNet, this job is easier with 2 people.

4. Inserting the first post

Insert the beginning post into the soil beside a stronger support post or an existing fence. Use the 2 tie strings to secure the first post to the support post or fence.

5. Unfolding the net

Grip all remaining posts as a group and lift them up in front of you. Then walk backwards along the intended fence line, "feeding out" each post as it's pulled from your hands, thereby unfolding the netting. To reduce risk of tangling the netting, try to drop or toss each post in sequence, helping to free it from the other posts you are still holding. Unfold entire roll of netting along the fence line. For PermaNet, this job is easier with 2 people.

6. Installing line posts

Start at first post, walk along fence line, picking up each post in turn and pushing it into the ground. Apply only enough sideways tension to each post to keep the netting erect and straight. Stretch it just tight enough to stand up well. If the netting is too tight, it cannot adjust to changes in terrain.

7. Joining 2 rolls of standard net

Start the second roll by placing its first end post next to the last end post of the first net. Use the 2 tie strings to tie them together.



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Why Successful Husbandry and "Control" are Connected

MARCH 30, 2012 - By Charles Duhigg and Steven Greenhouse

Recall the last time your animals, for any reason, escaped their pen or pasture and took off onto the public roads, your neighbors garden/crops, your garden, the feed bin in the barn, etc. Animals, it seems, have an uncanny ability to choose the least useful moment to escape. (You were in good clothes or just leaving on a trip or night was coming on or it was raining hard-or all of the above). Your feelings at that moment, if you're like me, was a mixture of frustration and fury at the time wasted and damage being caused.



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Surprising insights from a study-tour of French sheep farms

MARCH 30, 2012 - By Charles Duhigg and Steven Greenhouse

A coach-load of US sheep folks toured French sheep farms in September. It included a full day at Tech-Ovin (a biennial French one-day event that brings together the latest sheep industry ideas and equipment).



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Lessons for food producers from the boom in irrigation and alfalfa in New Zealand

MARCH 30, 2012 - By Charles Duhigg and Steven Greenhouse

I was in New Zealand South Island a month ago on sheep industry business. (I'm a member of the American Lamb Board.) Some years ago I visited the very same places. This time the frequency, scale and sophistication of their irrigation installations was impossible to ignore. Likewise was the sudden interest in the potential of alfalfa. Both gave me pause. Here's why...



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An Example of the Impact of a Change in Agric. Subsidies

MARCH 30, 2012 - By Charles Duhigg and Steven Greenhouse

Whether you love them or hate them, govt. subsidies are a force in our lives-though their power over us is often overlooked or minimized. I was reminded again of their influence during a recent trip to England and Wales...



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