

Netting upgrades over the years...

Premier first imported netting in 1977 when Stan Potratz (Premier's founder) returned to Iowa after farming for 10 years in England.

The original netting was yellow and black, 33" tall, 150 ft long, a poor conductor (compared to our nets now) and used thin 0.50" diameter posts (still used in non-Premier nets).

During the past 35 years we've talked daily to netting users about what they like and dislike about it. We've used netting extensively (2 miles of it currently) on our 3 small farms—and have our own likes and dislikes.

As a result we've:

- Developed better netting designs.
- Become the world's leading educator on the uses and abuses of electrified netting.



A fence that's changed sheep and goat husbandry for many producers...

Electrified netting, in its many variations, has been such an essential tool on our farms since 1978 that it is difficult to imagine life without it.

That others share this view is proven by the demand for it from sheep, goat and poultry owners across North America. We were the first to introduce it to the US. We now supply 80% of all netting in use in this country.

Since 1979 we've introduced:

- **Black/white horizontal strands** for their higher visibility.
- **Much higher conductivity.** We reduced electrical resistance per 1000 ft from 380 to 38 Ω. It essential for long fences and those that experience high weed contact.
- **Larger, stiffer line posts**—0.60" and 0.75" diameter instead of 0.50".
- **Plus nets (with extra posts).**
- **Designs for specific species.**
- **Better support spikes.**
- **Double spikes** if you prefer them.
- **More secure caps and clips.**
- **Reliable Pos/Neg designs.**
- **QuikFence**—a suspended netting that doesn't rest on the soil.
- **FiberTuff posts** for corners, curves.
- **Drivable netting posts.** Can be hit with a hammer for hard soils.

Before netting...

- Sheep could only be grazed in areas enclosed with woven wire. With netting they can be grazed nearly anywhere that folks want to install the nets.
- Sheep were at the mercy of coyotes and stray dogs. It was not a matter of *if*, but *when*. Shepherds had to sleep with one ear open. With netting we can keep the coyotes out and our guard dogs in. (We need both netting and dogs to stop the local coyotes. The netting ensures dogs stay in and the combination of net plus dogs ensures coyotes stay out.)
- One person could not move more than 50 head of sheep without a herding dog. With netting to make temporary lanes, one careful person can

control and move a reasonably large flock without a herding dog.

- Using sheep or goats for weed and brush control by forcing them to eat a minimal area with specific vegetation was rarely practical. Premier's netting enables goats and sheep to—
 - ✓ Browse brush under power lines.
 - ✓ Eat brush to prevent it from becoming fuel for wildfires.
 - ✓ Control invasive species (e.g. leafy spurge, garlic mustard).
 - ✓ Reclaim acres infested with multiflora rose and other brushy/undesirable weeds.
- Flood gaps rarely contained sheep, goats or guard dogs. They do now—if the netting is reset after each flood.

Drivable Netting Posts

Nets with drivable posts...

ElectroNet
ElectroStop
PoultryNet 12/42/3 (PN)
PoultryNet 12/48/3
Bear QuikFence

Drivable Posts (DP)...

- For easier identification—**drivable post caps are brown in color (see at right)** instead of black.
- Can be hit hard with a mallet or dead blow hammer. Can be tapped with a steel hammer.
- **Can be driven into hard soil and frozen soil** as well as soft soil. Pushing is no longer necessary.
- Only available now for NetPost 19 (0.75" dia). They are larger and heavier than some netting posts—but they support the net better.
- Users who have them love them.
- Spikes (SS) have a spike stop for added support when hammering.



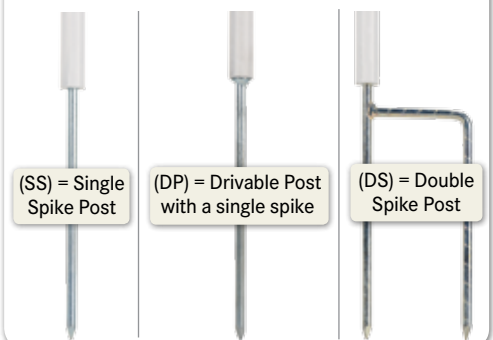
Spike Stop helps prevent spike from being driven into the post.



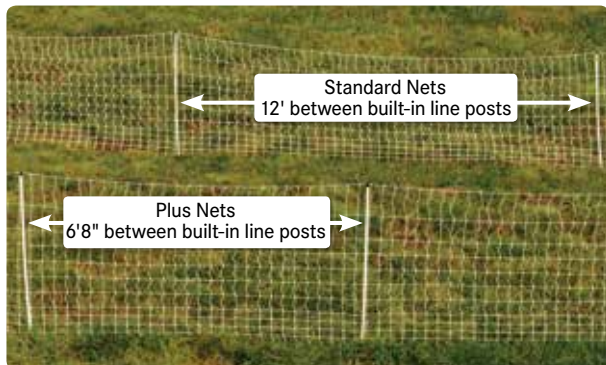
Who needs Drivable Posts?

- Those who find it too difficult to push single spikes or step double spikes into the ground.
- Those who install net into dry, hard soils; frozen soils; or rocky soils.

Netting spike differences...



Plus vs Standard Net



The key differences?

- Plus nets have additional posts, which means a **shorter distance between line posts**.
- More posts mean less sagging between posts.
- **Users who have tried both prefer Plus Nets.**

When and where Plus nets excel...

1. For fences that involve curves, corners and directional change. Added posts enable the fence to better adapt to corners and curves with minimal sagging. FiberTuff support posts are still recommended at 90° corners.
2. When aesthetics are a concern. Less sagging = more eye appeal.
3. When netting will be moved less often.

Designs with Plus options...

ElectroNet Plus 9/35/12
 ElectroStop Plus 10/42/12
 ElectroFence Plus 11/48/12
 PoultryNet Plus 12/42/3 & 12/48/3
 PermaNet Plus 12/48/3
 VersaNet Plus 9/20/3, 11/30/3 & 12/60/3

Drawbacks of Plus nets...

1. They are heavier and bulkier per foot than standard nets.
2. They are more expensive—due to additional posts.
3. The extra posts per roll make 164 ft rolls difficult to handle. That's why they are offered in 50 ft or 100 ft in length.

When to use Standard nets...

1. For a straight fence line with no curves. Purchase additional posts for corner support.
2. When your energizer is large/strong enough to cope with the extra sagging and grass contact.

Electric Netting FAQs

Q. Does the net have to be electrified?

A. Yes. Always. It's a serious mistake to not electrify it. Why?

1. Nonelectrified netting increases the risk of entanglement and death.
2. Nonelectrified netting will not stop predators.
3. Animals will peck and chew netting that is nonelectrified.

Conclusion: A simple quick shock is far better than death by entanglement or by a predator.



(inset) After turning on the energizer, test the fence with a voltmeter. Voltage should be at least 3000v.

Q. How do I hook 2 rolls of net together electrically?

A. There is a stainless steel clip (*at right*) on each end of all nets. Just join the clips together by hand to electrically connect the 2 rolls of net.



Q. Does net have to make a full circle for a pulse to occur?

A. No. The pulse path is from the net to the soil then back to the energizer. It's a mistake to attach (electrically) the far end of the net to the beginning.

Q. Is it ever safe to step over netting?

A. Doing so risks injury! Footwear and clothing (buttons, buckles) can become entangled and cause falls; short nets are easier, obviously.

Never step over energized netting! To our knowledge no human has ever been seriously injured by entanglement in non-energized netting, but there is always a first time.



Electric Netting FAQs



Q. How do I support netting at corners?

A. Two options:

1. Install a support post.
2. Or drive in a tent peg or T post outside the fence at the corner. Use nonconductive string to tie to the netting post (at least 2" away).

Q. If the net is too long, can I cut it?

A. We strongly advise against cutting netting—because all the energized horizontal strands are interconnected at each end of the net. The best way to deal with net that is too long is to make a complete U-turn with the excess netting and erect it back alongside the original fence line. The 2 nets can touch one another (unless the netting is a pos/neg configuration).

Q. How do I put in replacement posts? Replacement clips?

A. Starting at the bottom of the net, interweave the new post upwards. Once done, place the lowest all-black strand in the replacement bottom clip and slide it up the steel ground spike. Then attach the top strand to the cap on top of the post. For clips, place the lowest all-black strand in the replacement bottom clip and slide it up the steel ground spike. Then attach the top strand to the cap on top of the post.

Q. How much area do I need to fence in my animals?

A. It depends on the species, type of production (confined or rotational) and management style.

Q. Some of my netting wires are being chewed or cut. Why?

A. The lower wires are not “hot” enough to prevent small animals (rats, mice, rabbits) from cutting them with their sharp teeth.

Q. Does the bottom wire have a charge?

A. The bottom strand of most (but not all) nets is not conductive. The exceptions are QuikFence Quick Ground nets (*see our website for details*).

Q. How do I fix a break in my net?

A. Each net is supplied with a repair kit (*at right and sold additionally on our website*) containing brass ferrules, conductive twine, post tops and bottom clips.

Use a fisherman’s knot. (You can look online for a how-to on tying the knot.) Clamp brass ferrules over the knot to hold it in place.



Q. Can I use different types or styles of netting together?

A. Yes, they all conduct electricity. But some are much better than others.

Q. Advantages of Pos/Neg?

A. Main use is in dry, sandy or rocky soil conditions due to poor soil moisture.

It’s good for species that make poor soil-to-foot contact due to fur, dry hooves or minimal weight.

Must be installed with extra care and checked often to remove objects that fall on or against it. Best to convert it to all “hot” in green grass situations.

Q. How do I make a gate?

A. We often use the netting itself as a gate. Turn off the energizer or disconnect PowerLink. Open one end of net and walk through.

PoultryNet HotGate (shown in photo) or HotGate Handles also work.



Coyotes are one of many predators that well-energized netting can stop. Photo by K. Gustafson, MO.

Q. Can predators jump the net?

A. It is possible for some predators to jump these fences. However this is unlikely **if the net is properly electrified when it is first installed** and always maintained that way.

Why? Because of the “fear factor” created by the initial exposure. Evidence? Our sheep guard dogs will jump or climb 4 ft tall wire fences and gates in pursuit of coyotes or other dogs. But they rarely jump 35" tall electrified netting.



Q. I want to contain several species. Which net design is the best?

A. Choose the fence for the most difficult species to contain. For example, if fencing both poultry and sheep or goats, use either PoultryNet 12/48/3 or PermaNet 12/48/3 (*see above*).

Q. Will netting harm animals, birds or humans?

A. Not unless they are unable to move away from it. An electric fence pulse lasts less than 3 milliseconds—which is too brief to cause harm if the contact does not continue.

Electric Netting FAQs



First drill pilot hole(s)

Then insert net post(s)

During winter, drill pilot holes for single and double spikes. They will insert much easier.



Snow and a thick winter hair coat increase resistance. Make sure your energizer is up to the challenge of such situations.



Netting can be weighed down by ice or snow. Add more support posts to take the weight.

Q. Can I leave it up through the winter (see photos above)?

- A.**
- Posts become frozen in the soil. To release we clamp pliers on the steel spike and twist. To insert a post into frozen soil, use a power drill.
 - Excess ice and snow can flatten netting (as they will any fence).
 - Snow can act as an insulator and reduce the strength of the pulse.

Q. How can I make netting work well in dry soils?

- A.** Here are 4 ways to maximize effectiveness:
1. Use a **wide impedance energizer**. They are more capable of pushing strong pulses through dry soil than low impedance units.
 2. Install **more or longer ground rods (at right)**. The extra length needs to reach damp subsoil.
 3. Place the energizer's ground rod where the soil will remain damp.
 4. **Moisten the soil around the energizer's ground rod**. To do this, make a pencil-sized hole in the bottom of a 3 to 5 gal bucket. Set the bucket next to the ground rod. Fill the bucket with water. The water will gradually seep into the soil around the ground rod. Refill it every few days.



To reduce green grass contact we spray a strip of herbicide along netting fence lines.

Q. What about grass contact?

- A.** It lowers the fence's voltage. So:
1. When grass gets 6" high, mow carefully *along* the fence. First turn off the energizer! Do not mow into the fence. Move the net into mowed strip by removing and reinstalling.
 2. Or spray herbicide in a narrow strip under the fence. We prefer burn-down chemicals that don't kill perennial grasses or clovers. Vegetation will return.
 3. Or buy an energizer large enough to cope with the extra weed contact.



Q. Fence energizers? Why and which one to choose?

- A.** For netting to work, it absolutely must be properly electrified. Many farmstore energizers are too low in energy output to successfully energize a roll of netting.

That is why we offer our own units. They are specifically selected for this purpose.

Q. Which energizer is right for you?

- A.** If you're close enough to plug the energizer into an outlet, always use a **plug-in (AC/110V) unit**.

For fences far away from an outlet, your choices are:

- a. PRS solar units**—an all-in-one kit.

Units are ready to work within 5 minutes. Just place it, drive in the ground rod, connect the leads, switch it on and test for voltage on the fence.

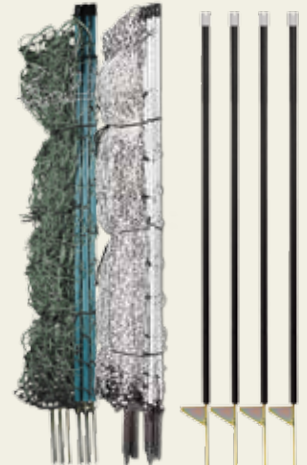
- b. DC battery**, for which you will need a 12 volt battery that must be regularly recharged.

Netting Kits

PoultryNet
RaccoonNet
VersaNet Plus

Energizer Kits

HotShock
Patriot
IntelliShock
Kube
PRS



Q. Why do you sell netting and energizers as kits?

- A.** To simplify purchasing decisions.
- Because there are so many netting options, support post choices, etc.
 - Because it's complicated for those without experience to buy the correct components.

We also know that:

1. Many already own an energizer. If you're not sure whether it will work for our fences, call us.
2. Many need longer fences and larger energizers than suggested in our kits. If so, call us and we will help.