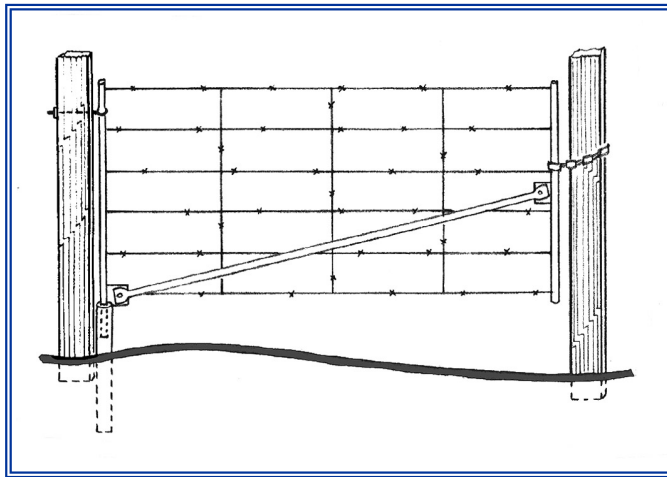


Fencing FACTSHEET

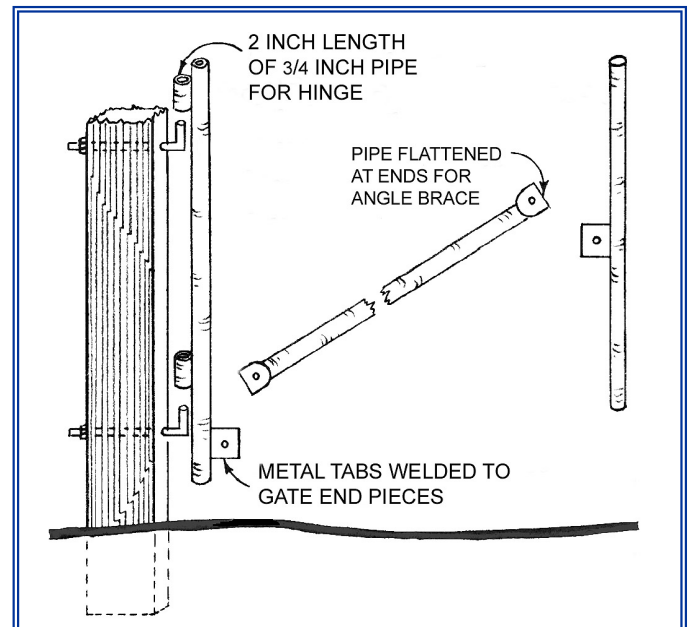
HINGED WIRE GATE

This is an improvement over inexpensive wire gates that are not freestanding and often tangle when opened. With the addition of the rigid diagonal bar from the bottom of the hinge end to the centre of the latch end, the wires are kept taut. This diagonal must be stiff enough to support the gate without sagging or twisting and the bolted joints between the diagonal and the ends must be tight to hold the latch end vertical. These bolted joints allow adjustment in the angle of the diagonal so the gate can be set on level or sloping ground.



To assemble the gate, fasten the end pieces to the diagonal, hang it on the hinges, then fasten the first wire from the centre of the latch end to the centre of the hinge end. This should be tightened to hold the latch end at the desired height. Pull the other cross wires tight enough to hold the latch end vertical and put in vertical supports as required. As in most presently used wire gates, a loop of chain, etc., will act as a latch. Heavy gate posts are not necessary as the gate is relatively light. Gate width can be up to 4.8 or 5.5 meters (16 to 18 feet).

Materials for the diagonal and ends can be steel pipe (galvanized or painted to prevent rusting), wooden rails or a combination of the two. The ends will be standard for any width of gate with only the diagonal varying in length. The hinge can be two bolted pivots on the gate post or one on the post and a buried pipe in the ground. The joints of the diagonal to the two ends can be accomplished in a number of ways from welded tabs to screwed-on angle iron brackets for wooden components. Whatever components are used, it is important to have a tight joint to hold the latch end vertical.



(This information was presented in an issue of "Rangelands" by S. Clark Martin, University of Arizona).

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