

TAEP Livestock Fencing

2026-2027 TAEP Application A

Maximum Reimbursement - \$3,000

Reimbursement is based on \$2.00 per linear foot up to the program maximum. Linear footage is calculated by number of **spans** (space between posts) x **spacing between posts** (measured from the center of one post to the center of the next post). The fence must be fully installed, functional, and ready for livestock use by the reimbursement deadline. Final payment will be based on the eligible project installed and documented. *See TAEP Livestock Fencing Worksheet to calculate estimated payment.*

Applicant Responsibility

It is the applicant's responsibility to review all TAEP program requirements prior to applying for cost share. Applicant must qualify for program selected at time of application to be considered for approval.

- [Applicant Eligibility](#)
- [Educational Requirements](#)
- [Reimbursement Requirements](#)
- [Verification Requirements](#)
- [Applying for TAEP](#)

Minimum Requirements

Cattle – 30 head **or** Equids – 20 head **or** Goats/Sheep – 50 head **or** Swine – 100 head

Applicant must meet at least **one** of the minimum requirements of head of livestock for program.

Head of Livestock = maximum number of single type, regardless of sex or age, during the last 12 months.

Equids (horses, donkeys, and/or mules) must be part of a commercial equine business (breeding, training, and/or boarding) to qualify.

Goats/sheep can be combined to meet minimum head requirement. Verification of minimum requirements may be requested prior to approval.

Eligible Items & Requirements

New items cannot be previously owned.

Items purchased at an auction are considered used and are not eligible.

Replacement parts are not eligible.

1. Permanent perimeter fencing – new permanent fencing enclosing pasture or other land actively utilized for qualifying livestock.

2. Permanent cross-fencing – new permanent interior fencing that creates paddocks, improves grazing management, separates livestock groups, or controls access to sensitive areas.

Requirements

- **New construction only**
 - Livestock fencing must be permanent and constructed with new materials
 - Livestock fencing project may include a combination of perimeter and cross fencing

- Livestock fencing project may include a complete replacement of a clearly defined segment of perimeter or cross-fencing that is unsafe, substantially deteriorated, or no longer capable of containing livestock.
- Ø *Routine repair, patching, replacement of a few posts, or replacement of isolated strands of wire would not be eligible.*
- **Minimum fence height**
 - 54 inches — cattle & equids
 - 48 inches — goats, sheep & swine
- **Maximum post spacing** – 20 feet
- **Reporting requirements** –
 - Photograph of each fence run showing at least 3 spans
 - Printed aerial diagram highlighting new fence location
 - Project receipts

Fencing Resources

- [Planning & Building Fences on the Farm](#) – University of Tennessee
- [Tennessee Fence Laws](#) – Tennessee Farm Bureau Federation

Eligible Material – New Only

- Fence
 - Steel — *min. 4 rails*
 - Treated wood — *min. 4 rails*
 - Vinyl — *min. 4 rails*
 - Wire
 - Barbed wire — *min. 5 strands*
 - Fixed knot or field woven wire
 - High-tensile smooth wire — *min. 5 strands*
 - Non-climb woven wire
- Posts
 - Steel
 - T-posts
 - Treated wood
 - Vinyl – Rigid PVC

Reimbursement Amount Per Linear Foot

- \$2.00 per linear foot
- [Livestock Fencing Worksheet](#)

Reimbursement is based on linear foot amount up to the program maximum.

Linear footage is calculated by number of **spans** (space between posts) x **spacing between posts** (measured from the center of one post to the center of the next post).

The fence must be fully installed, functional, and ready for livestock use by the reimbursement deadline.

Final payment will be based on the eligible project installed and documented.

Ineligible Items – commonly requested

- Ø Fencing installed before the allowable purchase date
- Ø Fencing intended primarily for wildlife, hunting preserves, or exotic animals
- Ø Materials delivered but not installed
- Ø Owner labor
- Ø Portable corral panels, gates, guard rail, wire panels
- Ø Poultry/chicken wire fencing
- Ø Repairs, patching, replacement parts, or routine maintenance
- Ø Residential, ornamental, privacy, dog, or yard fencing
- Ø Temporary poly wire, poly tape, step-in posts, or portable electric netting
- Ø Used or previously owned materials; items purchased at auction are considered used and not eligible for cost share

Reimbursement Request Deadline – August 1, 2027

Allowable purchase dates for Livestock Fencing are from October 1, 2026 – August 1, 2027.

All items, regardless of backorder status, must be purchased (paid in full or financed) by the program reimbursement deadline. *Backordered items may be ineligible for cost share if not delivered to the farm by the program deadline.*

Receipts must be in the name of the applicant approved for cost share funding. *Quotes and purchase orders do not represent a purchase and are not considered receipts.*

Proof of payment may be requested to verify purchase.

See “Reimbursement Requirements” link at the top of the page for more information.

Email livestock.fencing@tn.gov for additional information.

Visit www.tn.gov/taep to learn more about TAEP.