

FENCE MATERIAL AND CONSTRUCTION  
COST SURVEY IN KANSAS

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The Land Use Value Project in the Department of Agricultural Economics at Kansas State University conducted a Fence Construction Cost Survey in 2006. Respondents were businesses involved in building and/or selling fence supplies. The survey was conducted over the phone. Forty-three fence builders/ material suppliers throughout Kansas were contacted. Pastureland is distributed through the entire state so the suppliers were contacted to receive an even distribution of responses across Kansas. Data were collected for costs of barbed wire, and different types of posts and labor. Similar fence cost surveys were conducted in 2002 and 1998. All surveys collected data for the calendar year prior to the year in which they were conducted. The data are referred to according to the year of the survey. The data were summarized from the survey results to increase the information available on fence construction costs.

Table 1 summarizes the average fence construction costs for the 2002 and 2006 surveys.

### Hedge/Corner Posts

Hedge/corner posts were specified as 8 inch by 8 foot posts. The average cost per post for the corner posts increased from \$18.99 in 2002 to \$20.67 in 2006.

### Steel Post

Steel posts were specified as 5.5 feet tall and either 1.25ft/lb or 1.33 ft/lb in weight. A 1.25 lb/ft post cost \$1.99 in 2002 and increased to \$3.20 in 2006. A 1.33 lb/ft post cost \$2.32 in 2002 and \$3.73 in 2006.

### Treated Wood Posts

Treated posts were specified as 4 inch by 8 foot in both surveys. The cost for treated wood posts increased from \$6.83 per post in 2002 to \$8.26 per post in 2006.

### Barbed Wire

One 80-rod roll of 2 Point Barb, 12.5 Gauge barbed wire cost increased from \$33.93 per roll in 2002 to \$47.21 in 2006.

### Labor: Fence Building Per Rod

The cost per rod of labor for fence building increased from \$8.32 in 2002 to \$12.70 in 2006. In 2002, labor costs were obtained by averaging responses from surveys and data from the Kansas Agricultural Statistics Service (KASS) publication, Kansas Custom Rates. In 2006, labor costs were obtained solely from the survey.

Labor: Hedge/Corner Posts

There were very few usable responses to this question in 2002 because most respondents had unusual contractual circumstances affecting their costs. Because there were fewer than five responses in 2002, the 1998 information is used for comparison. The labor cost for each hedge/corner post changed from \$10.00 in 1998 to \$30.75 in 2006.

Labor: Additional Charges Per Rod for Rough and Rocky Terrain

Labor costs for 2002 were obtained from the Kansas Custom Rates publications and were averaged with other labor cost observations to calculate the average reported. Costs for 2006 were obtained solely from the survey as the number of survey responses increased greatly in 2006. The additional charges per rod for rough and rocky terrain changed from \$1.87 in 2002 to \$9.73 in 2006.

<b>Table 1: Comparison of Fence Cost Survey Averages</b>	<b>2002</b>	<b>2006</b>
Hedge/Corner Posts	\$18.99	\$20.67
Steel Post (5.5FT, 1.25 LB/FT)	\$1.99	\$3.20
Steel Post (5.5FT, 1.33 LB/FT)	\$2.32	\$3.73
Treated Wood Posts (4 IN X 8 FT)	\$6.83	\$8.26
Barbed Wire (2 Point Barb, 12.5 Gauge-80 Rods/Roll)	\$33.93	\$47.21
Labor Fence Building/Rod	\$8.32	\$12.70
Labor Hedge/Corner Posts	\$10.00 (1998)	\$30.75
Labor Additional Charges/Rod for Rough and Rocky Terrain	\$1.87	\$9.73