

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 2002. Respondents were businesses involved in building and/or selling fence supplies. The survey was conducted over the phone and through email. Nineteen fence materials 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. A similar fence cost survey was conducted in 1998. Both surveys collected data for the calendar year prior to the year in which they were conducted. The data from both surveys is 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 1998 and 2002 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 \$16.58 in 1998 to \$18.99 in 2002.

Steel Post

Data on two types of steel posts were collected in 2002. The 5.5 FT, 1.25 LB/FT post cost \$1.99/post, and the 5.5 FT, 1.33 LB/FT cost \$2.32/post. In 1998, the cost for the 1.33 LB/FT was \$2.14/post. Data was not collected in 1998 for other types of steel posts.

Treated Wood Posts

Treated posts were specified as 4 inch by 8 foot in both surveys. The cost for treated wood posts increased from \$5.64/post in 1998 to \$6.83/post in 2002.

Barbed Wire

One 80-rod roll of 2 Point Barb, 12.5 Gauge barbed wire cost increased from \$32.03/roll in 1998 to \$33.93/roll in 2002.

Labor: Fence Building Per Rod

The cost per rod of labor for fence building increased from \$5.04 in 1998 to \$8.32 in 2002. In both 1998 and 2002, labor costs were obtained from both the surveys and the Kansas Agricultural Statistics Service (KASS) publications, Kansas Custom Rates. The custom rate data was averaged with survey responses to calculate the reported average cost.

Labor: Hedge/Corner Posts

The labor cost for hedge/corner posts was \$10.00 in both 1998 and 2002. Because there were fewer than five usable responses in 2002, the 1998 information was used. There were very few usable responses to this question in 2002 because most respondents had unusual contractual circumstances affecting their costs.

Labor: Additional Charges Per Rod for Rough and Rocky Terrain

In both 1998 and 2002 labor costs were obtained from the Kansas Custom Rates publications and were averaged with other labor cost observations to calculate the average reported. The additional charges per rod for rough and rocky terrain decreased from \$2.77 in 1998 to \$1.87 in 2002.

Table 1: Fence Cost Survey Comparison in Average Cost Per Unit		
	1998	2002
Hedge/Corner Posts	\$16.58	\$18.99
Steel Post (5.5FT, 1.25 LB/FT)	Not Reported	\$1.99
Steel Post (5.5FT, 1.33 LB/FT)	\$2.14	\$2.32
Treated Wood Posts (4 IN X 8 FT)	\$32.03	\$33.93
Barbed Wire (2 Point Barb, 12.5 Gauge-80 Rods/Roll)	\$5.04	\$8.32
Labor Fence Building/Rod	\$10.00	\$10.00
Labor Hedge/Corner Posts	\$2.77	\$1.87
Labor Additional Charges/Rod for Rough and Rocky Terrain	\$5.64	\$6.83