



# *Rich Mountain Conservation District*

## **June 2022 Newsletter**

### **Fencing**

Fencing is one of the biggest investment decisions a producer can face. One of the most common fencing options is barbed wire.

Besides choosing the gauge and number of points of the wire to be used, there are other considerations in fencing material. Barbed wire fences typically use steel 'T-posts' for line posts and wood posts for corner or stretch posts. Wood post used for corner or stretch posts should be a minimum of five inches in diameter. Wood posts must be pressure treated, unless red cedar, Osage orange or black locust posts are used. Corner and pull posts should be set three feet into the ground or concreted in if this depth cannot be reached. Line posts should be driven to the top of the anchor plate (in the case of T-posts) or driven to 24 inches if three-inch wooden posts are used. Line posts should be spaced a maximum of 20 feet apart, or 30 feet if wire stays are used.

Each corner or stretch post is two posts connected with a brace post and a twitch wire – commonly called an 'H-brace.' The posts used for the brace portion should be a minimum of three inches in diameter. A double H-brace is required every 1320 feet, at changes in direction greater than 20 degrees, and at slope changes greater than 8 percent. Some fences are constructed using metal posts for corner and stretch posts. These posts should be a minimum of 2 7/8 inches in diameter for the corner and pull posts, and 2 3/8 for the brace posts. All metal posts should be set in concrete. Four stands of 12 1/2 gauge wire is recommended for cattle. Wire spacing is recommended as follows: 40-44 inches; 32-36 inches; 24-28 inches; and 16-20 inches.



*Common barbed wire fence H-brace*

For more information on this or any conservation issue, contact the Rich Mountain Conservation District at 479-437-6054

**Equipment available for rent from your local Conservation District**

Gas powered Rhino Post Driver \$150 weekly with \$100 deposit

Spinning Jenny & electric fence tester \$50 deposit

Sunflower no till drill \$10 per acre with a 5-acre minimum

Tye no till drill \$10 per acre with a 5-acre minimum

Hog trap \$100 deposit (restrictions apply)

Contact our office with any questions or to reserve the equipment at 479-437-6054



## **Granny's Famous Strawberry Cake**

### Cake Ingredients:

- 1 box white cake mix
- 1 6oz strawberry Jell-O mix
- 1 cup oil
- 1 cup chopped strawberries
- 1/2 cup milk
- 4 eggs

### Icing Ingredients:

- 1.5 sticks butter
- 24oz confectioner's sugar
- 1 cup drained and chopped strawberries (may need to use some juice)

### Instructions:

Mix the cake and Jell-O mixes together. Add the other ingredients in order, adding one egg at a time. Divide batter into three equal round pans. We use 9" pans. Bake at 350° until toothpick comes out clean (about 20 minutes). Let cool completely.

To prepare the icing, mix the butter and confectioner's sugar together. Add strawberries. If the icing is thick, add a bit of strawberry juice until the right consistency. Chill icing. *Granny made sure there was plenty of icing between each layer before icing the rest of the cake.*



## **Did You Know?**



You can help your conservation district by purchasing a specialty license plate at the revenue office. For every purchase of this specialty license plate, the Rich Mountain Conservation District receives \$20, which helps put conservation on the ground.

# Newsletter by Deanna Wright - District Manager

## **OFFICE STAFF:**

**Steve Swall, District Conservationist NRCS**

**Mary Holland NRCS Soil Conservation Technician**

**Abigail Crawford, Soil Conservationist**

**Samantha Hough, NRCS Support Specialist**

**Deanna Wright District Manager**

**Jake Wiles District Technician**



**Thank you for your interest in conservation and agriculture in Polk County!**

Sent on behalf of the Rich Mountain Conservation District by:

**Steve Swall**

District Conservationist

USDA-Natural Resources Conservation Service

Mena Service Center (Polk & Montgomery Counties) (479)437-6054