

A minute with Farmer Fred fences

FF: Come with me as I walk over to that water trough and work out why it is leaking. I have something to say about my fences.

Ronald Rogainer: Sure, I'd love to hear more about what we can do to avoid any problems.

FF: There are several kilometres of fencing surrounding my property and most were put in by my father and I. Any breakages and I have to go out and fix them; but a breakage normally means the animals go to the wrong paddocks so that becomes an additional task.

Ronald Rogainer: How would you like us to approach your fences? And I notice they are not all the same – you have barbed wire, high tensile wire, ring-lock and plain wire.

FF: Ideally you should use a gate when there is one close, but stepping over the plain wire fence is fine. The problem comes when someone puts their full weight on a wire and stretches or breaks it. Some fence wire will snap, other wire will stretch and never be tight again. The best place to climb a fence is next to a strainer post. There is nothing wrong with crawling under a fence either, and you might find wombat holes that make this easy. Some of your people might jump an easy fence without putting their full weight on the wires and that is ok.

Ronald Rogainer: I see you have electric fences. Do you have these on most of the time?

FF: Yes, the whole security of my fence line relies on the electric wires. I might turn local ones off during your rogaine but you should not rely upon this. It is really easy to test if they are on – if you know what I mean.

Ronald Rogainer: Look at that branch there, it has broken off and landed on your water trough. The branch is resting on the float so the water flow does not cut off properly. Let me clear the branch from the water.

FF: You're learning fast – we will make a farm-hand out of you yet. Call in next time you are in the area, and we can talk gates.