Zinc coating is important to fence life

MIDDLETOWN, Ohio-How long it will last is probably your prime consideration when you buy fencing. For added service life, all manufacturers coat their wire fence products with zinc for corrosion resistance. However, that coating weight varies considerably from one manufacturer to another.

Corrosion experts say that the thickness of the zinc coating on the wire is the single most important factor in determining its life before rusting and hence its overall life. The coating thickness is not very visible to the eye, but it's directly related to how long the fence will last in the atmosphere. The thicker the coating, the longer the life.

Over the years as the fence is exposed to the weather. the zinc gradually wears away until the bare wire is exposed. As long as there's zinc on the wire, it's protected from corrosion. However, when moisture and rain can get to the bare wire without any zinc around, the wire will begin to corrode.

Actual cost of the zinc is small compared to the cost of the finished fench product. However, manufacturers are limited to how much zinc they can apply using conventional processes. If the

40 Rods 80 Rods 21/2 10 Acres 160 Rods Fence Required 5 Acres 120 Rods Fence Required 40 Acres 320 Rods Fence Required 80 Rods 20 Acres 240 Rods Fence Required 1/4 Mile 1/4 Mile 160 Rods 80 Acres 480 Rods Required

HOW TO ESTIMATE FENCE

Entire square represents 160 acres 640 rods fence required

Here's a diagram to help you quickly estimate your fencing needs for most any size land plot. Armco advises using good materials for a durable, long-lasting farm fence. It may cost a little more initially, but it will pay for itself in the long

12 Mile

zinc coating is too thick, it will craze and flake off when the wire is bent as during fence fabrication. A small amount of aluminum added to the molten zinc bath allows a thicker coating to be applied without danger of its peeling off when bent.

Recently an independent consumer testing laboratory compared the coating weight on ten different manufactueres' wire products. For a copy of the results of the test or for more information on the importance of coating weight to fence life, contact

Jack Campbell at Armco's Western Steel Division, 7000 Roberts Street, Kansas City, Missouri 64125. (816) 483-



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