



Fact Sheet: Successful Apiary Fence Operation

Suggestions for successful operation of electric fencing for protecting apiary yards:

- The electric system must be well grounded. Use three or more ground rods spaced a minimum of 10' apart. Use an ohm meter to check conductivity.
- Keep all vegetation clear. Anything touching hot wires will create a load & reduce the power that would repel a bear. Check hot wire voltage with a voltmeter. Any unwanted load will draw down the battery.
- Bare ground will help provide a better "Bear Ground". Vegetation insulates.
- Keep hives at least three feet in from the fence and out of a bear's reach
- Hide and protect the battery & charger in a well ventilated hive box to prevent theft and protect from weather. Insulate the battery from touching the ground, or conductive or moist material. Do not place the battery too close to the charger in order to avoid sparks and possible combustion. Be careful of trapping explosive gasses & creating sparks.
- Avoid complete discharge of the battery and recharge it as soon as possible if it happens. Charge the battery prior to storage and every 8 weeks while in storage. Avoid temperature below 32 and above 120 degrees (F) as well as flames and sparks.
- If the battery used is an unsealed wet cell battery check the electrolyte levels frequently and especially at recharge. Refill unsealed wet cell batteries with deionized, distilled, or rain water. Batteries provided by the CPW will be deep cycle, possibly sealed, or a gel cell but you may be using an unsealed wet cell. The combination of solar panel, battery, and charger system provided when used properly should fully power your system during average Colorado summers.
- **Bears are intelligent animals, do not underestimate them.** Experiences have shown that once they get into a yard due to system failure, poor construction, etc., it may become impossible to keep that bear out! In these situations the hives must be moved far enough away to prevent damage. Bears have been able to jump or lay over shorter fencing, nose under fencing too high off of the ground, and also go through a fence with brute force especially when insulated from a good ground! A well constructed and maintained system will work if precautions are taken. Failure to use prevention materials correctly may cause denial damage claims.

For help or advice call the Game Damage Prevention Section at 970-252-6000.