

Report from the Field

Every evening we turn on the electric fence to (hopefully) keep out deer. As many can attest, deer can do an incredible amount of damage in a short amount of time. The electric fence provides a strong shock, especially to barefoot humans. Deer fur is an excellent insulator so the fence has to be strong to overcome this obstacle. Occasionally we check the fence to ensure it has the voltage it should to provide a good jolt. If the voltage has dipped, it is normally due to broken wires or other fence damage.

On Wednesday we checked the fence and it appeared to be working great, but then late Saturday afternoon we noticed damage to the carrot beds. At least two deer had enjoyed a carrot top salad and an apple desert. We then put scent lures on the electric fence. This attracts the deer to the fence and in theory they try to take a little nibble on the apple flavored scent and they get one heck of a shock. By the time we finished this it was nearing dusk and after plugging in the fence we noticed the voltage was very low; we didn't have time to find the problems and fix the fence *and* hunt before dark. In addition, if we didn't hunt them then, we would have to wait until Monday, since we are not allowed to hunt on Sunday and we may have to incur more damage. We were still hopeful, even with the lower voltage, that with the lures they would be discouraged from crossing the fence, but we were not willing to count on it, so we were also ready to shoot the deer if they came in.

Unfortunately, one did come in just before dark. Our family being primarily vegetarian, this is not something we look forward to nor seek, but it is a necessary part of living this life.

On Sunday we worked on repairing the fence and putting on more lures. Fingers crossed.