



NEWSLETTER 18/01
January 2018

Helpful Hints how to find out why your Electric Fence is not Working!

With over 20 years of experience in Electric Fencing we have come across quite a number of cases where the solution to a problem was simple, but the knowledge and the experience was not available on the farm. Here are some of the major points to be considered when your electric fencing system plays up:

- 1. If you want to find out whether the electric fence is under power and you have no voltmeter, you can use a piece of wet grass and touch the wire with it. If it tingles it is working. If it does not, check whether your shoes or boots have plastic soles which is non-conductive.*
- 2. If you check the voltage with a voltmeter, make sure that the battery of it is charged. A low battery will give you a false reading. A flat battery won't give you any reading at all.*
- 3. If the voltage on the fence is lower than what it usually is, measure the voltage on the last earth rod the same way as if you measured the voltage on the fence. In other words, poke the negative wire of the voltmeter into the ground and hold the positive contact against the rod. If you are using a Fault Finder e.g. a Fence Doctor just hold the tip of it against the earthing rod. The smaller the energiser the lower the voltage reading should be. However, it should not exceed 500 V at any stage. During dry weather or even a drought the conductivity of the earth rods with the ground is vastly reduced and you may require more earth rods, both at the energiser and periodically along the fence (if using an earth wire).*
- 4. Remember earth rods should be galvanized or copper plated and should be at least 6 ft in length. They should be 3 – 5 m apart, in a straight line and fully in the ground with just the tip poking out to attach the earth wire from the energiser.. Waratahs painted black or rusty are not suitable.*
- 5. Shorts on the fence can be detected with Fault Finders (Fence Doctor) which lead you in the direction of the short.*
- 6. If you are using tape or poly wire, please consider that the conductivity is not as good as that of steel wire. Tape should always be powered if animals are in the paddock as otherwise they may chew the tape and break the conductive wires. Test the voltage at the start and end of a tape fence as a break half way along will stop voltage travelling the length of the fence.*
- 7. If there is no power on the fence, make sure that the connection from the energiser to the fence is okay. Disconnect the fence from the energiser, plug it in and measure the voltage on the positive outlet with a Fault Finder. If you do the same with a voltmeter, touch the negative terminal with the earth pin and the positive one with the voltmeter. This will tell you whether the energiser is working or not.*
- 8. A Wi-Fi controllable energiser or a Wi-Fi controllable Monitor will let you know instantly and wherever you are, when the power on your fence has dropped.*

Happy farming!

Your *Red Snap'r* Team