Topic Socioeconomic resilience

Animal welfare, society friendly



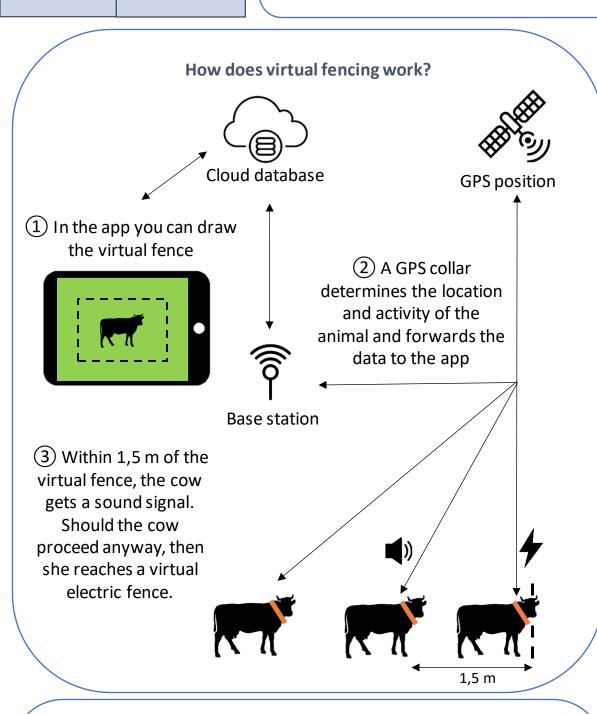






Virtual fencing

Wire fences are labour intensive (e.g. strip grazing), need frequent maintenance and hinder efficient grazing with overgrazing. A virtual fence may solve these problems. The investment cost may be recovered by more efficient grazing with higher production results and the loss of labour and maintenance costs of wire fences.



Equipment involved? Investment?

- Collar A.
- В. Base station
- C. Annual subscription fee per user-interface, depending on cattle numbers.

Contact supplier for specific prices and conditions.



A.





C.

Collar

Base station

User-interface

Positive features

- May be used for rotational or strip grazing and excluding cattle from riparian zones or areas prone to erosion
- Most animals learn within 24-48 hours how the virtual fence works.
- Real-live location of the animals.
- Monitoring of the activity of the animals (e.g. detection of heat or illness)
- Can also be used to muster by making the boundaries smaller and smaller.

Be careful, especially on these points

- Sometimes the collar can be twisted whereby the animal doesn't feel the shock when reaching the virtual fence.
- In a herd, some individuals don't approach the boundary as often and hence, take longer to learn how the virtual fence work.
- Animals that do not learn have to be removed for animal welfare reasons.

Specific advises

- Check if virtual fencing is allowed in your country.
- The technique is evolving very fast. Leasing of the product is an option to keep up with the evolution of the technology.

Assessment of method Economic resilience Readiness and Social resilience acceptability Other societal Technical efficiency perception Animal welfare and Environment health Score experts



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More info:

- **Vence**
- **Nofence**
- <u>eShepherd</u>
- Halter

Quote of a farmer:

"Cows quickly learn how to adequately react to the signals" (USDA.gov)

