

# Have confidence your livestock remains on the right side of the electric fence

Whatever livestock you own, keeping them where they should be, and knowing that they stay there is vital. Often, it's not only important to you, but also to your neighbours, and even more so if your land is adjacent to a road or railway line. Livestock owners have a duty to ensure fencing is stock-proof and maintained in this manner.

Drivers for farmers include managing livestock performance, animal health and welfare, management time and avoiding disasters:

- Ensuring that animals don't break out and damage crops, escape onto a road, neighbouring land, or indeed anywhere they shouldn't be
- Maintaining control of flock/herd, correct grazing
- Removal of need to check fencing 'just in case'



Given the above, it is important to have systems that:

- Alert farm workers to failure of the fencing due to grounding or breaking of the wire
- Show the state of the battery supplying the shock unit

When livestock is on grass or forage crops, they are often strip grazed, using movable electric fencing to keep the herd or flock in the right area of the field for optimum grazing.



Electric fencing is only effective when the battery is suitably charged and the discharge wires are not grounded, through foliage, branches resting on the wire, or the fence falling over. Similarly, a broken wire can mean that the system no longer functions.

In all cases, the malfunction is only detected when someone checks the fence or livestock is seen wandering in areas where they should not be – and this can include the public highway with all the liability ramifications this entails.

SmartRural's solution offers farmers and landowners peace of mind by deploying a combination of low-cost fence monitoring devices.

The first simply monitors the state of charge of the battery, which works whether or not a solar panel is used for topping up the charge.

The second monitors the discharge wire to monitor the 'zap' - or the lack of it.

Both tie into a simple app that alerts you when the system needs your attention helping keep the livestock where it is meant to be.

