Virtual Fence

A RIGHTRISK PROJECT

Managing Virtual Fence Risk on Your Operation

Decision-support resources from RightRisk

Good fencing and grazing decisions start with the management problem, not the technology. What outcome does the operation need? What are the realistic ways to get there, including keeping things as they are? How much risk comes with each? RightRisk, an extension risk management education program serving farmers and ranchers since 2002, applies its framework to help livestock producers and advisors work through those questions. These resources do not recommend any product, vendor, or decision.

The Website

VirtualFence.RightRisk.org

The website brings the resources together around three questions: Where am I now? Where do I want to go? What are the ways to get there?

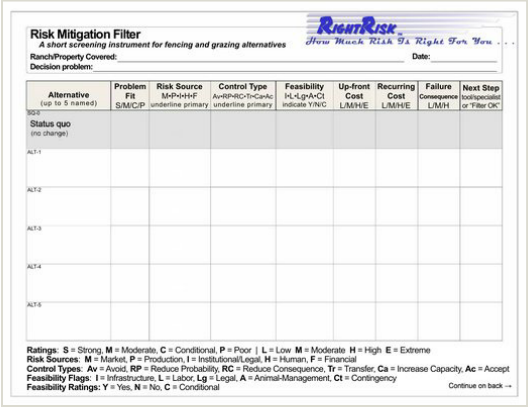
Along the way it covers:

- **Five sources of risk:** market, production, institutional/legal, human, and financial
- **Six risk control types:** avoid, reduce probability, reduce consequence, transfer, increase capacity to bear, and accept.
- **Five valid decision outcomes:** reject, defer, trial, partial adoption, and full adoption. Each is a legitimate result of a well-made decision.

Good places to begin include:
Start Here at virtualfence.rightrisk.org/start-here and

Tools & Cases at virtualfence.rightrisk.org/virtual-fence-risk.

The Risk Mitigation Filter



Risk Mitigation Filter
A short screening instrument for fencing and grazing alternatives

RightRisk
How Much Risk Is Right For You . . .

Ranch/Property Covered: ______ Date: ______
Decision problem: ______

Alternative (up to 5 named)	Problem Fit S/M/C/P	Risk Source M•P•I•H•F underline primary	Control Type Av•RP•RC•Tr•Ca•Ac underline primary	Feasibility I•L•Lg•A•Ct indicate Y/N/C	Up-front Cost L/M/H/E	Recurring Cost L/M/H/E	Failure Consequence L/M/H	Next Step tool/specialist or "Filter OK"
SQ-0 Status quo (no change)								
ALT-1								
ALT-2								
ALT-3								
ALT-4								
ALT-5								

Ratings: **S** = Strong, **M** = Moderate, **C** = Conditional, **P** = Poor | **L** = Low **M** = Moderate **H** = High **E** = Extreme
Risk Sources: **M** = Market, **P** = Production, **I** = Institutional/Legal, **H** = Human, **F** = Financial
Control Types: **Av** = Avoid, **RP** = Reduce Probability, **RC** = Reduce Consequence, **Tr** = Transfer, **Ca** = Increase Capacity, **Ac** = Accept
Feasibility Flags: **I** = Infrastructure, **L** = Labor, **Lg** = Legal, **A** = Animal-Management, **Ct** = Contingency
Feasibility Ratings: **Y** = Yes, **N** = No, **C** = Conditional

Continue on back →

The ***Risk Mitigation Filter*** (RMF) is a two-page paper form. It lines up the status quo and up to five alternatives the producer chooses, and it makes barriers and conditions easier to spot. The producer's ratings show whether screening is enough or the decision needs a deeper RightRisk tool or specialist review. It does not total a score or pick an alternative; some decisions can stop with it. Download the current RMF from Tools & Cases.

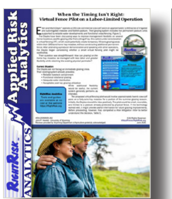
Screening comes first.
Deeper analysis follows when the ratings call for it.

Applied Risk Analytics bulletins show how the Risk Mitigation Filter and deeper RightRisk tools work together in realistic decision contexts.

Completing the Risk Mitigation Filter: A Step-by-Step Guide for Users

The Applied Risk Analytics bulletin (August 2026) walks through both sides of the form in six pages, for someone using it for the first time.

Three case study bulletins follow fictional western cow-calf ranches through the RMF, using illustrative numbers to teach the method and show when screening is enough and when it leads to a deeper tool. The framework itself is written for livestock operators broadly. Each case reaches a different outcome:



DEFER

CASE: When the Timing Isn't Right

RMF only. Looks at limited management time and a current system that already works.

TRIAL

CASE: No Fence, No Turnout?

RMF plus the RSP Tool. Looks at grazing unburned allotment forage while keeping cattle off a burned area under agency conditions.

PARTIAL ADOPTION

CASE: Rough Country, High Costs, Hard Fencing Choices

RMF plus MTRA. Compares multi-year options for failed rough-terrain cross-fence as rider labor declines.

Connecting to RightRisk Analytics Tools

When screening shows that uncertainty, time horizon, cost exposure, failure consequence, or the scale of a decision calls for a closer look, the RMF points to specialist review or to RightRisk Analytics tools, free with user guides at **RightRisk.org/Analytics**.

Risk Scenario Planning (RSP) Tool

For near-term changes with meaningful uncertainty. It adds uncertainty to a partial budget to show a range of possible results.

Multi-Temporal Risk Analyzer (MTRA)

For multi-year capital decisions where alternatives carry different costs over time.

ERA, FRA, RDFinancial & Risk Navigator

For enterprise changes, forage and lease economics, whole-farm financial position, and broader strategic planning.

Broader Risk Management

RightRisk.org offers courses, budgeting tools, producer profiles, and other resources for understanding and managing risk across the whole operation. **Whatever direction an operation is leaning, working through the decision before committing to any alternative is time well spent.**