

Chilkat Valley Historical Society, Inc

Secure Agriculture and Wildlife Project (SAWP) – FAQs

1. What does the Secure Agriculture and Wildlife Project pay for?

This project funds a **Fencing Voucher** redeemable at two local retailers to help pay for new fencing equipment/supplies. Project funded fences will keep bears, moose or other wildlife out of home and commercial gardens, farm-animal enclosures and orchards. SAWP funds local food producers who qualify through a simple, but exacting CVHS application process.

2. Where will the fencing vouchers be redeemed?

The CVHS will not stock or supply fencing materials directly. Each voucher can be redeemed at Haines Home Building Supply or Lutak Lumber—one or the other. No other vendors will be considered. Successful applicants will use the voucher, and their own funds, to purchase the materials.

3. How long are the vouchers good for?

The fencing vouchers for 2021/2022 will be issued between October 1, 2021 and April 1, 2022, and will expire on June 1, 2022. A second year of the project (2022/2023) may occur, depending on the availability of funds.

4. By what date do the project-funded fences need to be operational and how will the CVHS determine a project has been successfully completed?

Voucher recipients need to have their projects installed and electrified, as designed, by August 1, 2022. Once installed/operational, recipients notify the CVHS by email and send a photo of their successful operation to SAWP@chilkatvalleyhistoricalsociety.org. A follow-up inspection may occur. Recipients who have not submitted final documentation will be contacted. We will also ask permission to post submitted project photos on the CVHS website for our gallery of success stories.

5. What standards are used for the funded fencing projects?

IMPORTANT: SAWP applies electric fencing recommendations developed by the Alaska Department of Fish & Game (ADF&G) and the Takshanuk Watershed Council (TWC). Project vouchers can also fund physical barrier fences.

- **Projects that do not currently have a *compliant* electric fence, or do not include a compliant electric fence in their plans, will not be considered for funding (Key Design Criteria provided below).**

6. What is the value of the SAWP fencing voucher and who makes the decisions about funding?

The total value of the fencing voucher will, in almost all cases, be **less** than the quoted cost of the needed fencing materials/equipment. Thus, the owner will be required pay the balance—and install the fence—within the project timeline.

A quorum of the CVHS Board of Directors will make the decisions about issuing vouchers and at what amounts. These decisions will be based on the application parameters, such as the scale of project and the experience and goals of the applicant. The CVHS Board of Directors reserves the right to fund some projects at a higher level than others. \$300 might be an average voucher.

7. How do I apply?

The SAWP APPLICATION is found on the CVHS website (chilkatvalleyhistoricalsociety.org), under the **Fencing Grants** menu

- Avoid delays by reviewing all the relevant documents before completing the application.
- Complete ALL the questions, including the Fencing Cost Estimator and a clear, scale drawing. Applications that are incomplete will be returned.
- To receive a voucher, you will attest and sign an agreement promising that you will fulfill the fencing design requirements within the pre-determined completion timeline.

8. Can I get more than one voucher?

No. Only one voucher will be awarded to any one project or individual, at this time.

Key Design Criteria:

- Fences must comply with the ADF&G/TWC **Electric Fencing Brochure** recommendation. Here are the basics:
- Fence posts a minimum of 40-inches tall above ground level.
- No less than **4 strands** of electrified fence wire.
- For **Permanent** fence installations, a grounding rod **MUST** be 1/2" Copper (or greater) and be at least **4 feet long**. Multiple grounds better for large enclosures. Seasonal fences: use 5/8" Re-bar as a ground.
- Energizer power sources must produce a **MINIMUM of 0.7-Joules**, which create a shock of **4000V or higher**. Larger energizers are A-OK and are needed for larger enclosures. Energizer pulse-rate between 40-45 pulses/second is considered optimum, but not a requirement.
- Each voucher recipient **MUST** purchase or own a **Fence Tester**.

Key Installation/Operation Criteria:

- *Tight electrical connections*
- *Excellent GROUND in damp soil*
- *FOUR strands of wiring minimum*
- *Reasonable spacing between posts*
- *Battery powered systems need to have batteries replaced or recharged periodically to ensure high voltage output. Be aware that solar powered systems can lose power and efficacy in waning fall light when bear activity is still high, and your food project needs protection most.*
- *USE the electric fence tester*