

This column features questions from readers submitted via the website. To submit a question to Small Acre Sam, visit **BarnyardsandBackyards.com**. If your question is featured, you will receive a free one-year subscription to *Barnyards & Backyards!*



ask Sam

question

Dear Sam,

I live on a small acreage that's fenced, and my neighbor has several goats that keep getting out of his yard and into mine. They are cute, but they eat everything in sight. When I talked to my neighbor, he said Wyoming is a "fence out" state, and it's my responsibility to keep his goats out of my yard. Is that true? What can I do to keep his goats from coming onto my property?
 – Susan, Lander

Dear Susan,

Your neighbor is only partially correct. Wyoming is a "fence-out" state. Fence-out means landowners who do not want livestock on their property are responsible for fencing them out. However, the fence-out provision only applies to cattle, domesticated buffalo, and a few other livestock types in particular situations. For all other animals, including swine, sheep, llama, alpaca, and goats, it is unlawful for the animals' owner to let them run at-large. Your neighbor is responsible for finding a way to keep the goats on his own property.

If you'd like to learn more about fence and livestock laws in Wyoming, check out "If You Fence It, They'll Stay Out" <http://bit.ly/youfenceit>. If you need help starting a conversation with your neighbor about a fence-related issue, read "Avoiding a Border War: Beginning a Conversation with a Neighbor about Border Fences" at bit.ly/borderwars.
 – Sam

answer

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