

LIFE on the farm

By Dieter Krieg, Editor

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The folks who make glass-lined, air-tight feed storage structures might disagree, but I'd say a farm just wouldn't be complete without the availability of used baler twine. It's an item for which a farmer can find hundreds of uses. Those loops of string hanging on a nail down in the barn can almost be classified as a tool.

Used bale strings come in especially handy during emergencies and hasty repairs. We've used'em to tie up gates, hold latches, tie calves, wipe grease off our hands, pull calves during birth, keep water bowls from overflowing, and control levers on machinery. I've even used them as a make-shift glove.

A bunch of them secured around a cow's head will make a dandy temporary halter. On several occasions we've even used them as a "bit" in a cow's mouth to relieve gases due to bloat.

Used baler twine can be used to make fine swings, door mats, and unusual decorations, among other things. A couple of them in the tool box of a tractor is always an idea which is never regretted. The applications of used baler twine are as varied as the chores on a farm. One day a "rope" made from them might come in handy to secure a broken stake on a truck. The next day a string or two might be used in the delicate procedure of bringing a calf into the world.

Flexible, lightweight, strong, and adaptable to a variety of uses, bale strings have probably been used more than any other instrument to pull calves from tight wombs. Plentiful on most any farm, they

probably also rank first in temporary repairs of delapidated equipment. Sometimes they even stay on the job after genuine replacement parts have been obtained.

On the other hand, those same bale strings are a nuisance. Occasionally a string or two gets into the manure and gets wrapped around the beater of the spreader, for example. In a year's time, a bunch of them can make a considerable change in the mechanical operation of a manure spreader. Those strings are also good at tripping people if they're left to lay around on the floor. And, of course, if you happen to have a few of them hanging in open places around the barn during the Summer, the fly population can really give them the business.

Anything fixed with baler twine looks ridiculous and poor, but give them credit - they often do the job if nothing else is handy at the time. The most undesirable thing about them is that they tend to accumulate faster than they can be put to use. At that point they're just one more heap of trash which has to be hauled away.

But how precious used bale strings are if you're in a far corner of the farm, a latch breaks loose on the truck, and you just happen to have a couple pieces of baler twine in your pocket to mend the situation. And if you don't happen to have those strings handy when you need them, that's when you find out how useful they really can be.

Like so many other things that are a part of our daily lives, they're easily taken for granted until they're not so plentiful anymore.

Nelson Breneman honored by FFA

MILLERSVILLE - Nelson Breneman, 16 year old member of the Manor FFA chapter, has been selected as December's "Member of the Month" by his local chapter.

Nelson is the son of Mr. and Mrs. Amos Breneman, Franklin View Farm, Columbia R2. He has been active in FFA work and is presently serving as treasurer of his chapter. Nelson sold 81 crates of oranges for his chapter's annual citrus sale. He has been parliamentarian of his chapter and is enrolled in the swine breeding, swine fattening and layers projects.

Nelson raises his pigs at his father's poultry and dairy farm, which he also works on. In addition, Nelson keeps records on 1000 chickens.



Nelson Breneman

Nelson said he would like to farm when he graduates from Penn Manor High School.

Exports noted

WASHINGTON, D.C. - The U.S. Department of Agriculture recently announced that under its daily reporting requirements, private U.S. exporters of agricultural commodities reported export sales contracts totalling 300,000 metric tons (11.8 million bushels) of corn for export to the Red China during the 78/79 marketing year (ending Sept. 30, 1979).

To date, sales made for delivery to Red China in the current and next marketing year are as follows: wheat - 3.9 million metric tons; corn - 2.7 million metric tons; soybeans - 57,000 MT; soybean oil - 80,000 MT; and cotton - 363,700 bales. Of this total, only the 80,000 metric tons of soybean oil involves optional origin sales. All other sales specify U.S. origin.

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