

A Simple Method of Winding Barb Wire

By
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Taking down or moving barb wire fences is an unpleasant task, because of the ordinary difficulties in winding up the barbed wire. Many different methods have been used by farmers and others. Some of these left the wire in such a tangled mass the re-use was practically impossible.

In the reorganization of the former Ward County Poor Farm to the North Central Experiment Station it became necessary to remove several miles of barb wire fence. Some thought was given to known methods of winding up the wire, but all were given up as too time and labor consuming.

A simple method was devised which uses tractor power to wind the wire on large spools from which it can readily be re-used.

Several large empty cable spools were obtained from a local hardware store. These were mounted on the tractor drive wheel by two bolts placed near the outer edge of the spool and on opposite sides. The bolts were so placed that they fit into two holes in the wheel weights on the tractor. The spool was thus fastened firmly to the tractor drive wheel.

The tractor was then placed near the end of the wire to be wound up and the side on which the spool was mounted raised so the tire was about two inches above the ground. The other drive wheel was securely blocked, both front and back to keep the tractor stationary.

The end of the barb wire was then attached to the inside of the spool and wound around the spool twice to take some of the pull off of the connection to the spool.

The tractor was then put in gear which caused the wheel with spool attached to rotate drawing the wire in and around the spool.

The wire was guided on the spool by the use of two metal bars or pipes. The lower end of these was forced into the soil three to four inches. A man held the top ends together and moved it back and forth as necessary to guide the wire on the spool uniformly, the wire passing through between the two pipes.

Lengths of wire up to 120 rods long were pulled in and wound in this way. It is believed up to 160 rod lengths could be handled, provided the spools used are strong enough.

With one man guiding the wire and another on the tractor to stop the tractor if necessary it was possible to operate the tractor at plowing speed, slowing up when splices were passing through the guide.

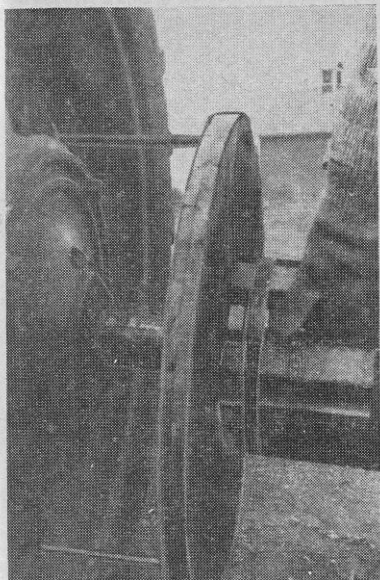


Figure 1—Mounting the spool.
Note position of bolts.

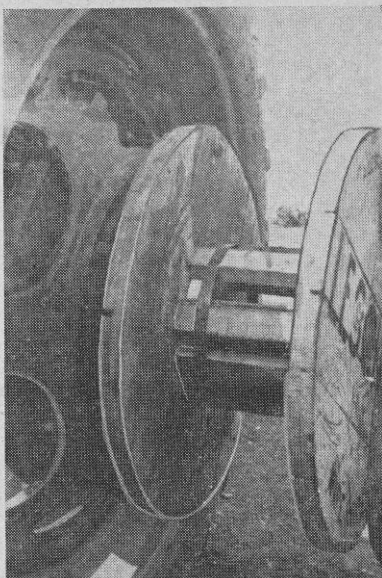


Figure 2—Spool in place.

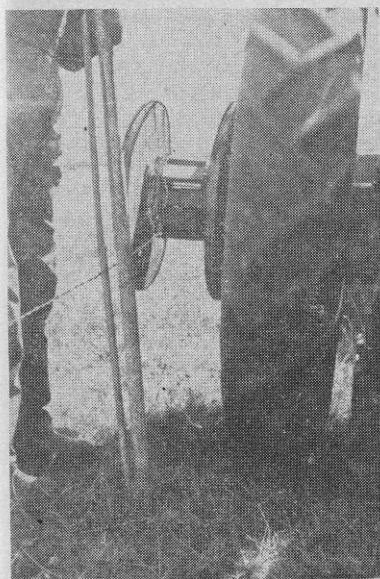


Figure 3—Guiding the wire in the spool. Jack used to raise tractor in extreme right of picture.

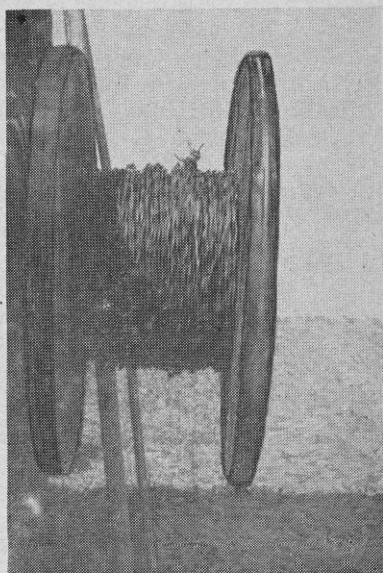


Figure 4—Showing the uniform winding of the barb wire.