

A roll of barbwire, fencing pliers, fence stretcher, and leather gloves are commonly used to repair fence. These can be purchased at most farm and ranch supply stores or feed stores.



Build a loop in one end of the broken wire. Fold approximately 10 to 12 inches of the end back on to itself and twist it around the main wire four to six times. Repeat this step on the other end of the broken wire.

## HOW TO REPAIR A BROKEN

By Martin Curry

You just moved onto your new rural property. During your first morning walk to enjoy the sunrise, you notice signs that livestock have been on your property. You find an area in the fence with a broken strand of barbwire.

Since Wyoming is a fence-out state, you have the responsibility as the landowner to fence livestock out of your property.

Fixing a broken strand of barbwire fence is relatively easy with the correct tools.

Checking all fences in the spring for broken wires, missing "T" post clips and staples, and broken or rotten posts is a good idea. If dealing with rusty fencing and other rusty metal, make sure your tetanus vaccination is current. Fixing fence can be quick and easy if you have the right tools. As you periodically check your fences, keep in mind the saying, "Good fences make good neighbors!"

**Martin Curry** is the resource specialist with the Laramie Rivers Conservation District in Laramie. He can be contacted at (307) 721-0072 or at martin.curry@wy.nacdnet.net.



Ensure the stretcher is fully extended. Attach the end of the broken barbwire with the remaining single loop to one end of the fence stretcher. Hold up the non-looped end of the roll of patching barbed wire and estimate how long of a piece you'll need to complete the patch. Place this wire into the other end of the wire stretcher. Start ratcheting the fence stretcher and continue until the wires are taut. If you find that your estimate for the length needed isn't correct, release the stretcher, reattach the patching piece at a new part of the wire, and repeat the ratcheting process.



Insert the free end of the roll of barbwire into one of the loops that was created in Photo 2 and create a loop with this piece to attach it to the broken fence loop.



Here is a completed splice of old barbwire attached to the new barbwire.

## STRAND OF BARBWIRE



After the barbwire is tight, measure the patching piece of barbwire and cut with fencing pliers so that 12 inches or so extend from the stretchers. Next, insert the loose end of this wire into the loop on the existing fence and twist back on to itself four to six times.



Remove the fence stretcher, and you are done. Visit Barnyardsandbackyards.com for a video of this process.