

Baling Twine Recycling

For Los Alamos County

By Lisa Reader

What Is Baling Twine, and Why Recycle It?

Baling twine is a **strong, thick, synthetic string product** used to tightly secure hay bales. Bales usually have 2-3 strips of orange, pink, red or blue twine, totaling about **10-15 feet per bale**.

Most of the baling twine discarded after the use of hay bales ends up in a landfill. In some areas it accumulates on landowners' property or is burned.

Twine recycling can be a benefit to our community by removing this material from the waste stream and recycling it into usable products.

Impact on Animals: Wildlife and livestock can ingest baling twine and become seriously ill or die. Los Alamos has a known history of deer becoming tangled in all sorts of household trash, including baling twine.



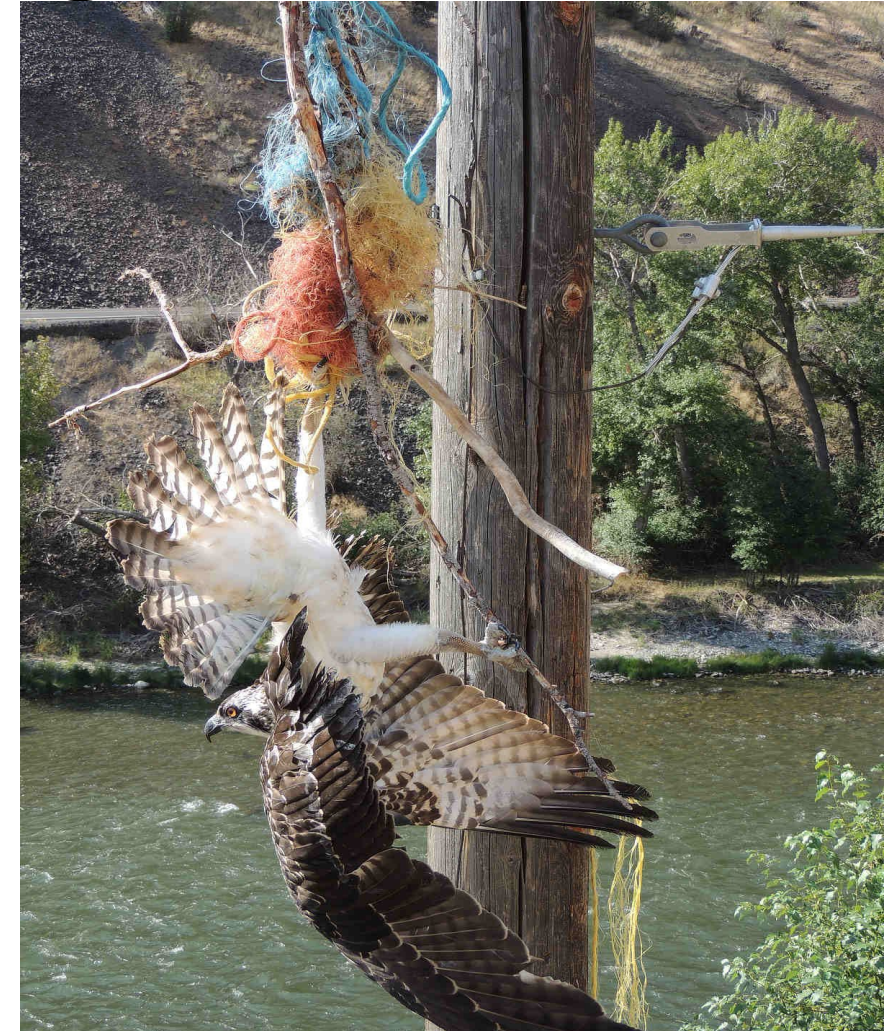
<https://twinerecycling.com/>

Wild Birds Caught in Baling Twine

Bird Hazards:

Twine also poses an especially deadly strangling hazard to birds.

Researchers have reported that baling twine is responsible for entangling and killing around ten percent of osprey chicks annually in some states.



Baling Twine in Los Alamos County

- There are approximately 150 head of livestock in White Rock and 250 on the Hill.
- Approximately 50,000 bales of hay (wrapped in 500,000 feet of twine) are used per year in the County.
- Recycling of baling twine would be a reasonably easy task in Los Alamos County given this close concentration of animals.
- Horses and livestock are concentrated in two areas: La Senda/Pajarito Acres in White Rock, and the North Mesa Stable Area (a county park) making collection simple.

Collection

- Three local organizations— **Los Alamos Stable Owners Association (LASOA)**, **Los Alamos Pony Club (LAPC)** and **Pajarito Riding Club (PRC)** are committed to assisting with this endeavor on a scheduled basis.
- Residents would place twine in feed sacks curbside/lot side
- Volunteers would periodically collect sacks and transport them to a storage site

Storage



- Los Alamos County would provide storage until sufficient amount is collected for transport to recycling center.
- Baling—the recycling processor prefers that the twine be baled.
- Cardboard balers such as that shown at left can be used. If LAC does not have a cardboard baler, the cost ranges anywhere from \$4000 to \$30,000. This equipment could be used for things other than twine, such as the aforementioned cardboard.

Transportation

- Transportation of twine from the EcoStation would be provided by RMC Twine Recycling in Glendale, AZ.
- RMC will pick up from LAC when sufficient amount is ready.
- RMC prefers a load of about 44,000 lbs (44 bales).



Other Benefits

- RMC will PAY for twine. \$200 per ton, minus transportation costs – current estimate \$1200/pickup.
- This has the potential to generate \$2,000-\$4,000 per pickup.
- Funds could be used to support livestock programs and ESB goals in Los Alamos.
- RMC's website <https://haytwinerecycling.com/> has more information.

Support of Los Alamos County Council Goals

Quality Governance

- **Intergovernmental and Regional relations**
- Collaborate and problem-solve with the County's major employers; community partner organizations; neighboring Pueblos; and regional, state, and national governmental agencies

Quality of Life

- **Open Space, Parks and Recreation**
- Protect existing open space and maintain and improve parks and recreation facilities and amenities as defined by adopted plans and approved projects

Support of Los Alamos County Goals (cont.)

Environmental Stewardship

- **Natural Resource Protection**
 - Take actions to protect open space, the wildlife and wildland interface, safeguard water, and mitigate tree loss in the community
- **Waste Management**
 - Manage waste responsibly by diverting waste from landfills through recycling, reuse, composting and waste reduction programs, and zero-waste education campaigns to promote a circular economy.



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CONCLUSION

- LASOA, LAPC AND PRC hope that Los Alamos County would be willing to support a Baling Twine Recycling Program, and look forward participating in such a worthwhile program!
- Thank you for your time and attention.