Baler Belt Repair Tools

"Anyone who's ever owned a large round baler knows they're going to break a belt sometime, and there's never a good time or place for that happening," says Mark Burrell. "Fortunately, there's a tool available that makes in-field repair fairly easy."

Burrell Implement Company sells the Flexco Alligator® Rivet Tool, a device that fixes a belt in just minutes without the need for a vice or tool bench.

"I sell hundreds of these every year to people all over the country," says Burrell, who's the fourth generation family member to operate the half-century old business that bears his name. "People want this tool because they can fix a belt while it's on the baler, on the ground, or on a pickup endgate. All they need is this tool, the rivets, the Alligator rivet lace, and a 1-lb. hammer."

Burrell says the rivet tool is available in a 7-in. version for belts up to 7 in. wide and a 14-in. tool, which does belts from 4 in. to 14 in. He sells the more popular 7-in. rivet tool bar for $160. The tool uses self-setting rivets that fit belts from 1/8 to 7/32 in. thick. The connecting pin is a .140 in. dia. hardened spring made of stainless steel to resist corrosion and withstand heavy use.

"We call the rivet lace a heavy plate fastener because it will last 10 to 20 times longer than the old clipper wire lace," says Burrell. "It's more resistant to lace pull-out because the metal is clamped to the rubber belt with big rivets."

Most baler manufacturers now use the rivet lace type fastener on their belts, except Deere, which uses the mato lace. The Deere Mato lace repair tool costs $1,000, but the Flexco Alligator tool also works on Deere belts.

Mark Burrell says his Flexco Alligator Rivet Tool can be used to fix a baler belt in minutes, without the need for a vice or tool bench.

"My customers can get the 7-in. tool, the lace and rivets to repair two belt ends for just a little over $200," Burrell says. He also sells a number of older style clipper tools and wire lace for older balers. His largest seller by far is the Alligator, which works on Deere belts and all others in the marketplace except older model Vermeers with 3-in. rollers.

Burrell says with a laugh, "I have a Mato lace tool in the back room, but it's covered with an inch of dust because people don't want to spend that kind of money to repair belts."

Burrell Implement is also known for its large supply of repair parts for vintage grain drills, a business his father started in the 1960's. "We've got parts for many of the old time machines either in the yard or in the warehouse," says Mark. "I'm trying to phase out of that business, but people around the country keep calling and I just keep answering the phone. People who restore or still use those old machines are on a mission to find parts and often we're the last ditch desperation call," Mark says.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Burrell Implement Co., 24120 Hwy. 60, Fairview, Okla. 73737 (ph 580 227-4494; bsmburrell@gmail.com; www.burrells.net).

"Feed From Outside" Bunk System

With the Barron Feed System, producers have the convenience of feeding livestock from the outside of a building, wasting less feed because of a protective roof and speeding up cleanup time with hinged polymer bins.

The system attaches to the side of a building. At feeding time, the producer simply pushes a button to open the feeder's roof and fills the bunk with hay or from a TMR.

Besides saving time, there is less wasted feed because the roof can be closed when it rains or snows. The hinged 6-ft. long trough sections can be tipped to the outside for easy cleaning.

The system is the most recent innovation by Tom Barron, who has come up with other equipment to feed calves on his Ruthton, Minn., farm. He and his son, Andrew, worked with engineers to manufacture the user-friendly bunk system.

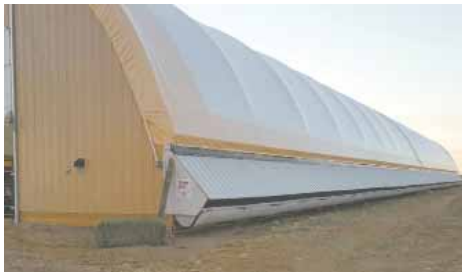
"We custom fit to the length of the building," Andrew Barron says, noting the system works on all types of structures including wood, metal and hoop buildings. Their longest system was 228 ft., with the roof divided in two sections. "They've been geared for sheep and cattle so far, but it would work for dairy cattle and goats too. We can set the bunk as low as 12 1/2 in. off the ground and as high as needed."

Customers appreciate the time they save feeding and the fact that they don't have to get in the barn with the animals to feed them. At the same time, while the animals are eating, producers can check them out and treat them immediately if they see any health issues.

Producers also use the feed system roof to improve ventilation by keeping it open for good cross-ventilation. Plus it provides shade for feeding animals.

Costs vary according to length and design and options, such as a wireless remote to open and close the roof. Call for an estimate.

Barron Built also sells a full line of livestock feeding equipment including free standing as well as pull-type hay and self-feeders.



Bunk system attaches to side of building and comes with hinged polymer bins and a roof. Operator pushes a button to open roof and then loads feed into bunk.

Photo shows sidewall open and bunk tipped upside down for cleaning.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Barron Built, 7-221st St., Ruthton, Minn. 56170 (ph 507 658-3391; info@barronbuilt.com; www.barronbuilt.com).