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AN ADJUSTABLE ROPE HALTER

"You don't buy 'em, you make 'em"

At the Junior Livestock Show held at South St. Paul this fall there were many proud young people exhibiting animals that represented their achievements in club work. The animals were not only beautifully groomed and meticulously manicured but many of them wore brand new rope halters. A visitor at the show asked one of the boys where he could buy rope halters. The boy promptly replied, "You don't buy 'em, you make 'em." This interested the visitor, who was somewhat surprised at the reply, so he made inquiry as to where the boy learned how to make a halter from what seemed to be just ordinary rope. The reply from the boy was that he had learned how to make rope halters from Mr. Drew, at one of the club meetings.



J. M. Drew

There are undoubtedly many boys who are enrolled for instruction in Agriculture in the high school who would like to learn how to make an adjustable

rope halter. For this reason Prof. J. M. Drew, University Farm, has kindly prepared the following directions for making a rope halter. The first casual reading may give the impression that the process is very complex. However, if one will follow the instructions, study the pictures, and proceed with patience the process will be readily mastered. At any rate it is a stimulating challenge that should be good for at least one interesting class or club meeting. A. M. F.

MATERIALS TO USE

To make an adjustable rope halter for a horse, a length of about 15 feet of half inch rope is required. For a cow, about 12 feet of $\frac{7}{16}$ inch rope, and for a calf, such as our 4-H boys and girls show at the fairs, 10 feet of $\frac{3}{8}$ inch rope will be about right.

Where a choice between Manila and sisal rope is to be made, as is the case at most hardware stores, it is generally wise to choose Manila rope. It is stronger than sisal and pleasanter to handle.

To make a good lead halter it is necessary to know how to make an eye splice and a back splice or end splice. As the end splice is easier to make than the eye splice, we will begin with it.

Making the End Splice

The end of the rope should first be unlaid about four or five complete turns of the rope. The end of one strand (marked A in Fig. 1) is laid over between strands C and B in such a way that a loop is left in strand A. Strand B is then laid down over strand A so as to lie between the loop of strand A and the end of strand C. The end of strand C is then brought down over strand B and through the loop of strand A as shown in the cut where the arrow head is pointing. Having pulled all three ends up tight we should have what is known to sailors as a crown. This is shown in the fifth picture. The succeeding pictures show the process of splicing the ends back on the rope from the crown. In performing this operation each strand end is placed around the strand in the solid rope which lies next

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THE STAFF

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to it. An easy way to do this is for the operator to hold the crown in his left hand as shown in picture 6, and by untwisting the rope a little and sliding the end of the left thumb under the strand as shown. The loose end of the strand which is shown at A in the picture is then placed against the end of the thumb and drawn under strand B and pulled down tight. This is quite plainly shown in pictures 7 and 8.

To help in making a smooth splice a

little trick is shown in picture 9 which consists in slightly untwisting the strand end which is being placed around the other strand so that it will lie flat somewhat like a strap and will not leave so large a bunch as it would were it not untwisted.

After putting each strand end around the strand of the rope which lies next back of it, as described in the last paragraph, and pulling all the ends tight, we should have something which looks like the picture No. 10. The same process is again repeated with all three strands, then a part of each strand end is left out and the balance of the strand carried around in the same way as before, producing something which looks like picture 12. All of the extra fiber may now be trimmed off and the whole rolled between two pieces of board as shown. Finally, the end should look like that shown in the last picture. This makes a neat end for our halter rope.

Making the Eye Splice

In the other end of the rope we must have an eye splice. To make the eye

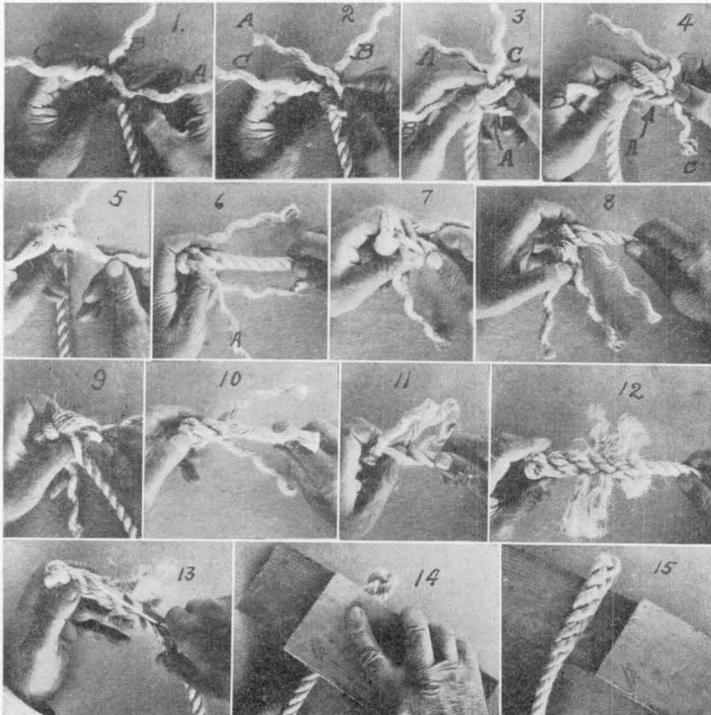


Figure 1

splice the end of the rope is first unlaid about four turns, and two strands, marked C and B, are put through the rope in the following manner: the rope is untwisted enough so that the thumb and first two fingers of the left hand, shown in picture 1, figure 2, can separate the strands somewhat. Strand B is then put around one strand of the main rope, as shown in picture 2. This strand is marked X. Strand

Making the Halter

To form the halter, the rope is opened up as shown in picture 1, Fig. 3, and the spliced eye is pushed through and pulled along so as to form a loop as shown in picture 2. About two inches along on the main rope it is opened up again and the end put through again. We now have a simple halter all made except assembling.

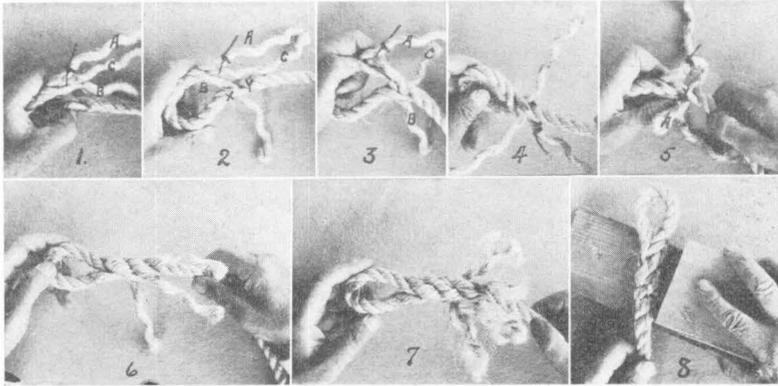


Figure 2

C is started into the same opening through which B was put, but is pulled out the other side of the rope. In other words, C is put under the next strand, Marked Y. This is shown quite clearly in picture 3. All of the strands should now be pulled down tight as in picture 4. From this point on, the process of finishing the eye splice is exactly the same as the case of the back splice already described.

This is done by putting the end of the rope first through the spliced eye, then through the other loop, as shown in picture 4, and pulling it through far enough to form a loop of the proper size to go over the head of the animal to be led. After adjusting it to the animal's head, the end of the rope is slipped up under the part of the rope marked X and then down under itself next to the loop so as to form a sheet bend.—J. M. Drew.

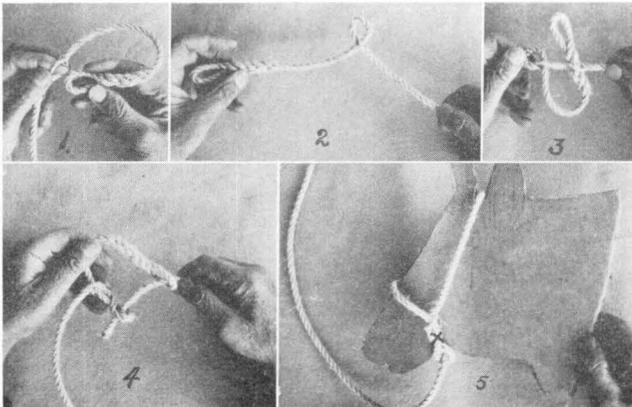
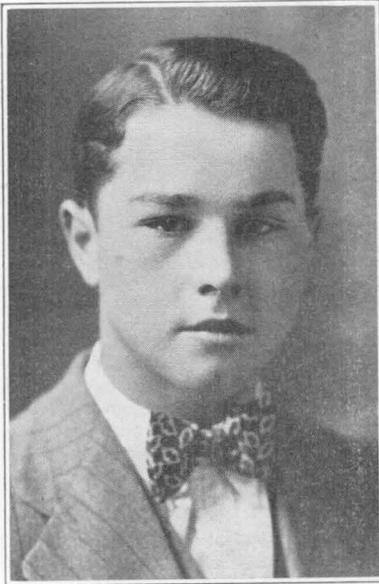


Figure 3

TAXATION IN MINNESOTA

Farm real estate assessment, the tax burden on agriculture, taxation of forestry, and tax delinquency on cut-over lands are among the subjects dealt with in "Taxation in Minnesota," to be published by the University of Minnesota Press on December 1. The book is the work of Roy G. Blakey, professor of economics at this university, and a number of assistants, among who were George Pond, Raphael Zon, J. H. Allison, and Warren C. Waite, all members of the College of Agriculture faculty.

AMERICAN FARMER



Donald Dailey

It is a pleasure to announce Donald Dailey as Minnesota's second American Farmer. The much coveted degree of American Farmer was awarded Donald at its annual national convention of the Future Farmers of America held at Kansas City in November.

Donald Dailey is a graduate from the high school at Pipestone, Minnesota, and holds his membership in the Pipestone chapter of the F. F. A. Congratulations are due Mr. R. J. Knutson under whose guidance Donald achieved the highest honor that can be awarded by the American Association of Future Farmers of America.

Plans are under way to use the entire March issue of The Visitor for presenting the story of leadership, farm practice, and other achievements which won for Donald Dailey the distinction of being selected as American Farmer.

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MERRY CHRISTMAS