



## Knots are Not Insignificant

There are dozens of different types of knots used to secure everything from a ship to the dock, a pony to a post, or a tarp over a load. Using the right knot can prevent losing a load of hay bales or having to chase a steer around the fairgrounds. In some cases, the right knot may mean the difference between life and death (rock climbing). For example, the wrong knot used to connect two bales of baling twine on a hay baler can lead to broken bales and the risk of injury when trying to unplug the baler or re-baling the broken bales.

Even though knot tying is largely a lost art, being able to tie a simple square knot can come in handy for everyone. In this activity, learning how to confidently tie a knot, will illustrate that there are correct ways of accomplishing tasks and doing things incorrectly can have serious consequences.

### Procedure:

1. Using a piece of baling twine, show participants how to tie the two ends together.
2. Provide each participant with a section of used baling twine to give them the opportunity to practice.

A square knot provides a secure way to connect two ends of a strong or rope. The harder you pull on the rope, the tighter it becomes. (It can also be very difficult to untie.) If time allows, you may wish to demonstrate how to tie other types of useful knots. (There are several websites that demonstrate knot tying.)

### Materials Needed



Baler twine (one-foot long piece for every person in the class)

