

Kansas Twister Makes Quick Work Of Breaks

“This tool makes it almost fun to splice wire,” says Leon Sowers, farmer/inventor from Kingman County, Kansas. He says he can make a wire splice in 30 seconds using his lightweight tool.

The Kansas farmer says he invented the the Kansas Twister after years of gouging his hands and ripping his clothing, only to end up with a poor splice. “It seems like we’re constantly having to splice electric fences due to breaks caused by cattle and especially deer,” Sowers says. “Hand-wound splices never have good electrical conductivity. I knew there had to be a better way, and I actually had this idea in my mind for a couple of years before making the first model.”

Sowers built several prototypes in his farm shop, then eventually partnered with a machine shop to perfect the tool and build them in quantity. The current version is made from aircraft aluminum to keep it light and free from rust.

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Using the Wire Splicer requires an overlap of about 6 in. of wire, and a needle-nosed vicegrip to hold the wire tight during splicing.



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overlap of about 6 in. of wire and a needle-nosed vice-grip to hold the wire tight during splicing. The tool makes a tightly wound splice that conducts electricity as well as unbroken wire, Sowers says. “The splice is also as strong, or stronger, than the original fence wire. It will never unravel.”

The Kansas Twister costs \$25 plus \$5 shipping. A splicer is now available for both 14 gauge and 12 1/2 gauge wire.

He says several customers have used the 14 gauge tool to splice together two rolls of baling wire for wire balers. Sowers hopes to build a website for the fence splicer and maybe produce a YouTube video that shows how the Kansas Twister works.

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Photo courtesy Morgan Frederick/3 Mill Ranch

Uniform black color of these Spanish goats is the result of five decades of selective breeding.

Syfan Superior Spanish Goats

3 Mill Ranch black Spanish goats are unusual in a breed that normally comes in a variety of colors. The uniform black color, while maintaining all the hardy qualities of the Spanish meat goat is a result of five decades of selective breeding.

The 3 Mill Ranch has been raising sheep, goats and cows in the Central Texas Hill Country since the early 1950’s.

“They’re not ‘big’, but fast growing. They weather very well against varmints and predators,” Tom Syfan said about his Spanish goats. “They are very agile and will climb a tree to get something to eat. They eat all kinds of noxious weeds.”

3 Mill Ranch is known for their superior black goats, which start at \$300/billy and \$250/nanny. Some goats still have a badger face (brown lines) that is common in the breed. Tom Syfan was inspired to breed the

all black goats when he saw a uniform herd of goats at an auction many years ago. He started with seven black billies, some of which had badger faces. Color was only a fringe factor for him. His first priority was always to breed goats that maintained the hardy qualities of the Spanish meat goat.

3 Mill Ranch continues to carry out the pure Spanish selective breeding program. The goats are agile, very protective mothers, are fast growing, thrive on weeds and brush, are drought resistant, adjust to climates from South Texas to Canada, and have good meat goat conformation.

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