

## What can you do?

The good news is that Ospreys are very resilient, and this problem is easy to fix:

- ◆ Pick up all used baling twine in fields and on fence posts.
- ◆ Store used twine out of sight—in barns or in 45 gallon drums.
- ◆ Dispose of old baling twine safely out of reach of Ospreys.
- ◆ Spread the word—tell your friends and neighbors.
- ◆ The Ospreys will thank you!



Cattle in a twine-free field



## Project Osprey



Photo: Kate Davis

We would like to hear from you.  
If you would like to help or for more information please contact:

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Photo: John Armitage

## Ospreys and Baling Twine



## About Ospreys

- ◆ Also called fish hawks or fish eagles - 99% of diet is fish.



Photo: Erick Greene

- ◆ Once widespread in North America on rivers, lakes and estuaries.
- ◆ Ospreys nearly disappeared from the US during the 1950's - 1970's due to pesticides.
- ◆ After DDT banned in US in 1972, numbers of Ospreys increased.
- ◆ We are lucky that Ospreys have recovered and are now a common sight in Montana.

## Baling twine and Ospreys

Ospreys line their nests with soft materials, such as moss, grass and lichen. They also love to pick up baling twine left in fields!



Photo: Gary Swant

An Osprey nest with lots of baling twine.



An Osprey nest blew down in a wind storm. It contained over 1/4 mile of baling twine!



Photo: Erick Greene

## Why is it a problem?

- ◆ Baling twine easily tangles in the Ospreys' sharp talons.
- ◆ Baling twine can entangle and kill about 10% of the chicks and many adults.



Photo: Tyler Veto

This chick was tangled in a mass of baling twine and died in its nest.

This adult Osprey died hanging upside down from its nest.

