

How to Change the Netting on the OptiMizer



Tools Needed

- 7/16" wrench—preferably a ratcheting socket wrench
- Tape, preferably masking tape
- Scissors or sharp knife
- Permanent marker
- Net replacement kit—new net on a loading ring, instructions, 4 nuts, and 4 washers

Step 1 Removing the Net Assembly

1. Empty hay out of the OptiMizer.
2. Leave the slide arm open and unclipped from the latch.
3. Working from the left side of the OptiMizer, use the permanent marker to place marks on the U-rod on each side of the two U-bolts (this is to help you re-install the U-rod in the correct position).



4. Remove the 4 nuts & washers on the U-bolts using the 7/16" socket or wrench.
5. From the inside of the OptiMizer, remove the 2 U-bolts and plastic spacers. **Keep the U-bolts and plastic spacers to re-use.**
6. Lower the U-rod to the ledge, part way down the inside of the left side of the OptiMizer (this will release the legs of the U-rod from the right side)

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7. Lift one leg of the U-rod out of the feeder through the wide notch in the top rim and place the end of the other leg back through its mounting hole.



8. Slide the entire assembly about 8" towards you and then lift it out, left side first.
9. Move the entire assembly away from you to release the second leg and set it down diagonally across the top of the feeder.



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Step 2 Replacing the Net



1. Pull the slide arm off of the U-rod. Remove the original hay net from the slide arm, feeding it over the latch loop.
2. Slide the net off the U-rod.

3. **The new net is on a plastic loading ring. Do not cut the ring until indicated.** Place the bottom of the new net inside the OptiMizer. Align the plastic loading ring to an end of the U-rod. Use the plastic loading ring as a guide to feed the netting on to the U-rod.
4. Slide the bundle of net around the first corner of the U-rod to the middle of the base of the U-rod. Cut and remove the plastic loading ring.



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5. Spread the net around the U-rod and align two of the white tape tags with the two corners and the other two white tags with the ends of the U-rod (this will distribute the net equally).
6. Using a short piece of tape, temporarily tape the two white tags at each corner to the U-rod (make sure you leave a tag of tape loose to be able to remove it later).



7. Pick up the slide arm and start feeding the fourth side of the net on to the straight end of the slide arm. As the net approaches the latch loop, pull 4 pieces of the mesh to the left side of the latch loop. Install all of the fourth side of the net on the slide arm.
8. Place the slide arm back on the end of the U-rod and push it to the bottom of the U to be ready for installation back in the feeder.

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Step 3 Reinstalling the Net Assembly



1. Working from the right side of the OptiMizer, pick up the net assembly, and align it correctly to the right side of the OptiMizer (the latch loop on the slide arm is now facing you and is closer to your left hand than your right hand). Pass about 6" of the right leg of the U-rod through its mounting hole to the right of the latch recess.
2. Lower the right side of the assembly into the feeder followed by the left side of the assembly until it is resting on the ledge partway down the inside of the feeder. Slide it along the ledge until both legs of the U-rod are back inside the feeder.
3. Insert both ends of the U-rod in their mounting holes and pass about 6" of rod through each hole.



4. Recombine one of the U-bolts and plastic spacers close to one set of alignment marks on the U-rod. **Be sure not to entangle the net in the U-bolt or behind the plastic spacer.**
5. Raise the U-rod to its working position and pass the U-bolt through the matching holes on the OptiMizer. Install new washers and new nuts to finger tight on the ends of the U-bolt on the outside of the feeder. Repeat for the second U-bolt and plastic spacer.
6. Adjust the position of the U-rod to align the U-bolts between the marker lines on the U-rod. Tighten the lock nuts with the wrench, just enough to have a small amount of thread pass through the nylon insert of the lock nut. Remove all the tape. You're done!