

# “For me Baler’s Choice is a ‘no-brainer’. I couldn’t make quality hay without it.”

## **Baler’s Choice hay preservative and Harvest Tec automatic applicator equipment**

### **Mike Prutton**

*Specialist horse hay producer*

*Stratford St Andrew, Saxmundham, Suffolk*

Mike Prutton prides himself on the high quality hay that he sells, and when your customers include large livery stables, show jumpers and race horse breeders, quality is definitely key.

The Pruttons are long established hay producers and each year Mike makes in the region of 25,000 small and 300 large square bales of hay and straw. Most of the hay is from 3-year hybrid leys but some is also old fashioned meadow hay.

A key element in helping him achieve the quality of hay that he aims to produce and that his customers expect from him, are Baler’s Choice preservative and the Harvest Tec automatic applicators with the extremely accurate moisture meter he has fitted to his New Holland 575 conventional and Quadrant 1150 large square balers

“For me it is a no-brainer and I would not make hay without it,” states Mike, who is based at Stratford St Andrew near Saxmundham. “When you look at the benefits and the ability Baler’s Choice provides to safeguard the operation, for what it does the cost is minimal. Regardless of conditions, I can make high quality hay that I can put in the barn knowing that it will come back out as good as when it went in.”

“The proof is in the bale. A lot of my customers say that ours is the best hay they have ever had and I can confidently say that we have never had a bad bale. Baler’s Choice enables me to produce high quality dust free hay. I don’t have to select bales, and we have never had any complaints or hay returned to us.”

“You can buy a standard bale of hay for £2.50 a bale or ours for £4.00, but my customers will pay the extra and keep coming back for more because they can be confident that its dust free, their horses like it because there’s no waste and they don’t have to soak it first.”



When hay making, Mike likes to work in blocks of 15 to 20 acres and will look for a five day weather window. After mowing, he will typically ted the crop about three to four times before rowing up and baling.

“The Harvest Tec applicator system means that regardless if it is 14, 16 or 18 percent, it’s up to me when I bale. I have control. And if it’s a difficult year I can push it to 23 or 24 percent and know the hay will be fine.”  
“What a lot of people don’t appreciate is how much the moisture content varies down the swath and at the headland the hay could be 3 to 4 percent damper in a shady spot. Humidity also plays a major part and can vary considerably. With the naked eye you would never pick up that variation, but the moisture sensors do and will apply the appropriate amount of Baler’s Choice to avoid hot-spots in the bale.”

“The other great benefit is because we can bale at higher moisture contents, we can start baling earlier and finish later in the day, so the crop is baled quicker and baler throughput is about 20 to 30 percent higher.”

“Some people look at Baler’s Choice as a means to allow them to bale at up to 30 percent and save their hay. But that’s not the way to look at it. It is valuable insurance and enables me to forward plan and produce high quality, well made hay that is of consistent quality.”



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