

Changing weather patterns highlight need for preservatives to aid quality forage production

An analysis conducted by Harvest Tec of sunshine and rainfall data from the Meteorological office has shown what UK farmers in recent years have suspected: our summers recently have been duller and wetter, making the use of forage preservative, such as Baler's Choice, a prudent precaution when baling to ensure forage quality is maintained.

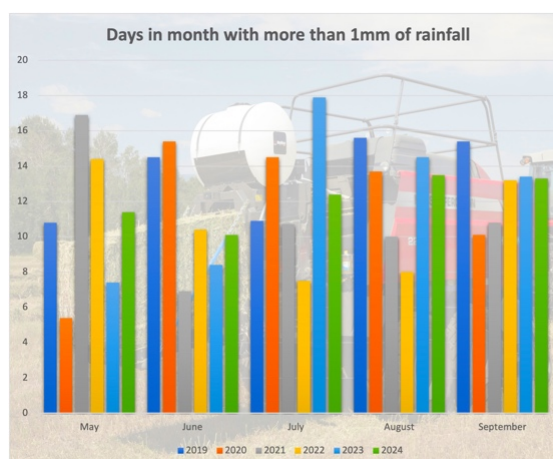
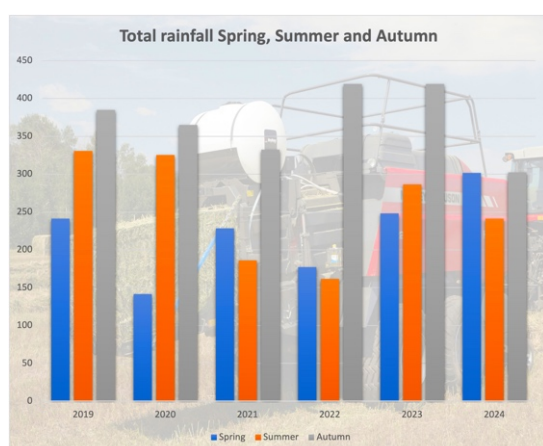
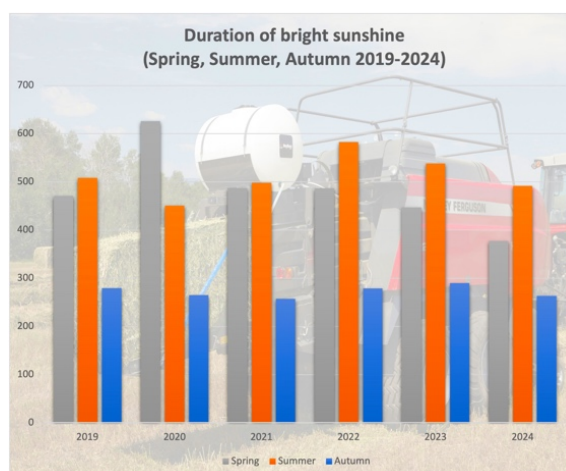


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The analysis looked into both the duration of bright sunshine during the Spring, Summer and Autumn months over the past six years, and compared this with data for total rainfall and the number of days where rainfall exceeded 1mm over the same period.

This shows that in the past three years in particular, there has been a marked 22% drop in sunshine hours during the spring and 16% in the summer. In contrast, the number of days with more than 1mm of rainfall in the spring and summer increased by 47% and 39% respectively, with overall total rainfall during those periods rising by 70% and 49% respectively.



Source. Analysis of Met office data: www.metoffice.gov.uk

For farmers and forage producers in particular, working within these narrowing weather windows has proved a challenge, especially for hay producers where relying on the crop naturally drying down to the optimum 15% moisture content for baling has been particularly problematic. Faced with this challenge, the use of Baler's Choice hay preservative has been a lifeline. From as little as £1.43/bale, Baler's Choice enables hay to be safely baled at moisture contents above 15%, so preserving hay quality without the risk of bales heating up, becoming mouldy or at worst spontaneously combusting.

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Well proven over many years, the core ingredient within Harvest Tec's Baler's Choice preservative is a near neutral, buffered form of Propionic Acid. This retains all the well recognised and proven benefits in reducing heating and stabilising temperature within bales, in addition to the prevention of moulds, dust and loss of bale quality. But being near neutral Ph, it avoids damage to the baler and is safe to handle. This is combined with Citric Acid to aid colour retention and palatability.



For contractors and other baler users, this has the great benefit that when applied at the correct rate, by enabling hay to be safely baled at above 15% moisture, this offers the potential to lengthen the baling day by maybe an hour each end or bale on days when previously the crop would not be dry enough.



Not only is there a financial benefit through higher daily throughput from the baler, but it also helps simplify logistics and planning and also the potential to save on the time and cost of additional tedding, with the associated risk of damage to the crop. For those selling hay or straw, Baler's Choice ensures that bale quality is preserved and potential heating and the development of mould prevented.

The Harvest Tec Baler's Choice applicator systems for large square, round and conventional balers, range from simple, straightforward applicators with manual rate setting, through to the advanced Automatic 700 Series applicator that monitors both baler throughput and real time moisture content of the hay or straw as it passes through the baler to automatically adjust the application rate accordingly.

To provide technical advice, ensure prompt availability of applicator systems and the rapid supply of spare parts throughout the UK, Harvest Tec has established a network of regional technical specialists, supported by Carr's Billington, who in addition to handling sales within their own area, also act as a central distribution hub for Harvest Tec, holding both applicator units and spare parts for dispatch to all other Harvest Tec UK dealerships.

Further information on Baler's Choice applicators and preservative can be found via the Harvest Tec UK website: [VISIT THE HARVEST TEC UK WEBSITE](#)

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