Technical

The reasons for this problem can be many: such as a damaged net from poor handling when loading into the baler - creating broken threads that can be caught. More likely will be the poor cutting action in the baler as the net roll tension is not set correctly, which presents a slack web of net for the knife to try and cut, creating a poor and un-even net tail.

This series of pictures shows how easily one thread can be pulled from the netwrap web. splitting the net into two. The long franze thread in the second picture is typical of what might be found after a poor cutting action in the baler.







Very often, when this happens it is easy to see

the franze thread having been pulled out of the net, making the net come off the roll in two or

more pieces. Unfortunately, the loose thread can

which can guickly lead to the stitch being pulled

out and the net separating

to pull the entire net back onto the rollers causing it to wrap around the feed roller. If the baler produces a bale with part of the net missing, as we have seen, the correct action would be to stop baling, remove the net tail from the baler feed system and pull off any net that has begun to split, cut cleanly and re-insert into the baler. If the problem persists, the net tension system should be inspected and tension increased on the net roll to ensure the net is held tightly at the point when it is cut, this will ensure a clean and uniform cut of the net, avoiding long tails.



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Partners in Production and Development





It just got cheaper to produce the perfect bale TÁMA Launche's 3600m Netwrap.

It is often an unfortunate reality in farming that circumstances beyond your control seem to conspire against you, directly effecting profitability. The all too obvious oil and fuel cost increases are a good example and have a direct impact on your business bottom line, the squeeze on profits continues as costs increase, effecting all levels of your work. Prices of stretchfilm, twine and netwrap have continued to rise on the back of these increases, making future purchasing decisions more critical. Is there any good news at all, or anything that can help reverse this trend? Leading netwrap manufacturer Tama Plastic Industry thinks so by bringing down the cost when using TamaNet Edge to Edge".

During 2005, a quiet revolution in round bale netwrap was taking place, as Tama's pilot programme to lower baling costs for their customers was began. The 2006 season will see the full launch of the most revolutionary netwrap ever, TamaNet Edge to Edge"Pro-tec 3600 --which will directly reduce the cost of baling, by significantly lowering the cost of netwrap per bale. The roll of net has an amazing 20% more net

than a standard conventional 3000m type of net. This huge step is possible by the use of advanced raw materials and manufacturing technology. With a guaranteed 3,600m on every roll, Pro-tec 3600 will, at a stroke, increase baler output by reducing wasteful down-time; reduce your purchasing and handling of so many rolls and, most importantly, significantly reduce your baling costs by giving a lower cost per bale than standard 3000m netwrap, from the much higher output per roll.

Tama Plastic Industry, as well as being leading plastic producers and manufacturers of the patented Edge to Edge netwrap, are also serious farmers themselves, the business being part of a sizeable kibbutz in their home country Israel. The kibbutz farm raises hatching poultry, has fruit orchards, beef and dairy cattle and has one of the most modern automated dairy units available today. The farm has a considerable demand for baled crops for feed and bedding, which means that as well as being netwrap producers they are also netwrap users. This unique position means that Tama have the best possible understanding

of what an end user is looking for from a roll of netwrap. They too are caught in the price increase trap that all UK and Irish farmers are currently suffering. Fortunately, they have worked hard to find a solution, which will bring the cost of baling down, bringing huge benefits and savings to their customers; and to their own farm as well.

To understand and appreciate this huge benefit now possible, it is important to change the way you may think about your netwrap purchasing habits. Remember, it is not the roll that wraps the bale, but the net on the roll, so it makes no sense to simply compare roll prices, as it is the actual cost of the net on these rolls that should be compared.

Consider carefully if you are comparing like-for-like , what length are the netwrap rolls







and can they promise a guaranteed minimum length in the roll, not just an estimate? This all seems very logical, of course, but how many of you ever consider the number of bales per roll you are getting, when really you are thinking much more about the price of the roll? If a cheaper priced roll does not produce as many bales as you are able to achieve with the more expensive type of netwrap, then this will effect your cost per bale, of course.

For example - to make 10.000 1.2m diameter round bales will require at least 34 rolls of standard 3000m netwrap if the standard roll is able to make 300 bales (this is assuming that

Yield per roll of net

£112/roll. Another very important consideration is that being a longer version of TamaNet Edge to Edge, the new Pro-tec 3600m net actually covers the bale fully, without leaving any exposed shoulders on the bale, unlike many cheaper alternative makes of net. This begs the question why would anyone consider a cheaper alternative net if it costs more to use and cannot do as good a job? If the measure of a good bale is its value either to the end user in feed value for the cattle. or as an example of the quality of work the contractor can offer, a fully covered bale is vital. Now, with 20% more bales possible the best bales have just become even cheaper.

Make your cost comparison now

5' Bale (1.5m)

4' Bale (1.2m)

of the new net and will mean that end users will see very little difference in the new net to that they have used before, except for the massive increase in bales possible from every roll. As mentioned. Tama's unique position as an end user of net as well as being a producer of net is the reason for their constant innovation of the product. The many unique features included on TamaNet are designed to assist the end user. which have all come from direct experience of handling and using the rolls. In fact, every extra feature available on any make of netwrap today. from the now common red-end roll warning, to left/right roll indicators were all Tama innovations that other producers have now copied, showing once again that

6' Bale (1.8m)

Tama is the only

manufacturer to

understand the

market from an end-

user perspective

and who is doing

something to help.

The latest features

included on all rolls

of TamaNet have

been the moulded

plastic pallet

cradles, to securely

hold each roll on the

pallet, making

transportation and

stocking easier and

much safer and the

roll handles. These

clever additions to

new Tama-Carry"

standard 3000m net rolls actually do have 3.000m on them!) By comparison, with a guaranteed 3,600m on every roll, a full 20% more net. TamaNet Protec 3600m will make 360 bales per roll, reauiring only 28 rolls to make the same number of bales. In other words, for every 5 rolls of cheaper standard 3000m net you would only need to buy 4 rolls of the Protec. Clearly, buying the cheaper roll becomes false economy.

2 turns	2.5 turns	3 turns	2 turns	2.5 turns	3 turns	2 turns	2.5 turns	3 turns
295	236	196	236	189	157	196	157	131
£ 0.30	£ 0.37	£ 0.45	£ 0.37	£ 0.47	£ 0.56	£ 0.45	£ 0.56	£ 0.67
£ 0.31	£ 0.39	£ 0.46	£ 0.39	£ 0.48	£ 0.58	£ 0.46	£ 0.58	£ 0.70
£ 0.32	£ 0.40	£ 0.48	£ 0.40	£ 0.50	£ 0.60	£ 0.48	£ 0.60	£ 0.73
		_						
4' Bale (1.2m)		5' Bale (1.5m)		6' Bale (1.8m)				
2 turns	2.5 turns	3 turns	2 turns	2.5 turns	3 turns	2 turns	2.5 turns	3 turns
360	288	240	288	230	192	240	192	159
360 £ 0.28	288 £ 0.35	240 £ 0.42	288 £ 0.35	230 £ 0.44	192 £ 0.53	240 £ 0.42	192 £ 0.53	159 £ 0.64
360 £ 0.28 £ 0.30	288 £ 0.35 £ 0.38	240 £ 0.42 £ 0.45	288 £ 0.35 £ 0.38	230 £ 0.44 £ 0.47	192 £ 0.53 £ 0.57	240 £ 0.42 £ 0.45	192 £ 0.53 £ 0.57	159 £ 0.64 £ 0.69
	2 turns 2 0.30 £ 0.30 £ 0.31 £ 0.32 4' E 2 turns	2 tums 2.3 tums 295 236 £ 0.30 £ 0.37 £ 0.31 £ 0.39 £ 0.32 £ 0.40	2 ums 2 sums 3 ums 295 236 196 £0.31 £0.39 £0.46 £0.32 £0.40 £0.48	2 ums 2 sums 2 ums 2 ums 295 236 196 236 50.31 £0.37 £0.45 £0.37 £0.32 £0.40 £0.48 £0.40 4' Bale (1.2m) 5' l 5' l 2 tums 2 sums 3 tums 2 tums	Zums Zums <thzums< th=""> Zums Zums <thz< td=""><td>Zuma Zuma Zuma Zuma Zuma Zuma Zuma Zuma 295 236 196 236 189 157 £0.30 £0.37 £0.45 £0.37 £0.48 £0.56 £0.32 £0.40 £0.40 £0.50 £0.60 4'Bale (1.2m) 5'Bale (1.5m) 5'Bale (1.5m) 2tums 25 tums 3 tums 2 tums 25 tums 3 tums</td><td>Zuma Zuma <th< td=""><td>Zums Zums <t< td=""></t<></td></th<></td></thz<></thzums<>	Zuma Zuma Zuma Zuma Zuma Zuma Zuma Zuma 295 236 196 236 189 157 £0.30 £0.37 £0.45 £0.37 £0.48 £0.56 £0.32 £0.40 £0.40 £0.50 £0.60 4'Bale (1.2m) 5'Bale (1.5m) 5'Bale (1.5m) 2tums 25 tums 3 tums 2 tums 25 tums 3 tums	Zuma Zuma <th< td=""><td>Zums Zums <t< td=""></t<></td></th<>	Zums Zums <t< td=""></t<>

pricing, bale diameter, number of turns applied and accuracy of netwrap application system.

EXAMPLE: A roll of 3000m Netwrap costing £ 95 per Roll is more expensive to use than a roll of 3600m Netwrap costing £ 14 per roll more, based upon a 4' bale using 3 turns of Netwrap.

If we assume that a

roll and the new TamaNet 3,600m roll may be as high as £112 per roll — a huge £18 per roll difference, the higher price roll will still be cheaper in the long run as, with a higher number of bales possible, the result is a lower cost per bale. See for yourself: 34 rolls of the cheap net, at £94/roll, will cost £3,196, compared to only £3,136 for just 28 rolls of Edge to Edge Pro-tec 3600 at

standard 3000m roll may be priced at £94 per To achieve this great step forward, Tama has the roll, which are easily removed, make worked long and hard to bring together advances in raw material technology, to guarantee a stronger net as well as vast improvements and innovations in production techniques to guarantee that the longer length rolls are still within the 30cm roll diameter required for use in all balers. These two points have been critical to the successful development

handling and carrying the roll safer and more comfortable.

At a time when every baling and wrapping expense needs to be carefully controlled. lowering your cost per bale is critical in helping to achieve savings on the farm.



Troubleshootina

Technical

Every season contractors and farmers experience troubles with netwrap or film when baling and bale wrapping. Most, if not all of these are a result of a fault in the system of baling or wrapping. The system being everything involved in the process of baling and wrapping - from the crop and weather conditions, to the machine and even the operator; and not forgetting the netwrap of stretchfilm.

However, experience has shown that the majority of the problems are wrongly attributed to the netwrap or film and, whilst the problem seems to happen with the both products, it is not necessarily the fault of the product more the way it is being used. In any given year we can guarantee that one or two problems show up time after time, with many seasoned contractors having experienced them at one time or another. In the coming issues, we will be showing some of the most common troubles, why they happen and how to over-come them should they happen to you. We begin here with a very common netwrap problem:-

NETWRAP SPLITTING

This problem appears to the end user that the net is split into two or more widths on the roll. no longer feeding into the baler as a complete width of net. The result of this often means net wrapping on the feed rollers or bales only partially covered. Of course, this is a fault in the net . --- WRONG!

Netwrap is knitted with a raschael stitch, the same kind used in pullovers etc. and. consequently, the stitch can be pulled out in the same way. This is exactly what has happened when you make a bale like this.



Because of the way the net is knitted, the risk of a stitch being pulled out may be guite high, if there is the opportunity to do so.

Netwrap is made up of a web of franze and shuss (warp and weft in household terminology), the franze being the long chains that run the length of the net and the shuss being the zig-zag joining threads. If a franze thread is left longer than the rest of the net web, after a poor cut of the net in the baler example, it can be pulled from the net very easily. For instance, after the net is applied

to the bale and cut, a short tail end of net is left hanging in the chamber ready for the next bale. If this tail of net has one or more long threads hanging as the result of a poor cut, the stitch can be pulled out splitting the net.



After the net has been cut, at the end of the wrapping cycle, the tail of net should be uniform across its entire width



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Straw baling 2005

Harvest 2005 is now a distant memory and, for most, it seemed that everything finally fell into place just right — for a change.

The gods played fair for the combines in 2005, with one of the longest settled spells of weather we have enjoyed at harvest time for many years, which was reflected in the yields many achieved. As a consequence of the better weather and speed at which the grain was harvested meant conditions and time for straw baling were better than usual, which lead to an estimated 40% increase in the volume of straw baled and taken from the fields. One unfortunate consequence of this was a shortage of big bale twine in some areas, as local supplies were exhausted, having been caught on the hop by the extra demand. For those with twine, however, market conditions and the law of supply and demand meant that trading in twine was good business for some.

Baled straw prices are maintaining a fairly healthy level, in a good market so far, with barley realising up to £53 per tonne and wheat currently trading around £48 per tonne. However, these are down on the 2004 levels of approximately £78 and £66 respectively, when poor weather created shortages in supply and good quality bales could demand a higher price than normal.

It is a brave man that will forecast next season this far ahead, certainly those concerned with supply of twine and net for the coming season s straw baling are already polishing their crystal balls to try and predict expected requirements, as to get this wrong can have huge implications for any business. It s not just the farmer or contractor whose business can suffer from errant weather patterns, the producers and importers of crop packaging products also need to have some good luck - extremes in weather and demand for product is difficult to get right and a surplus at the end of the year can be just as damaging as a shortage of supply in season. Remember, the shortages of twine in some areas could have possibly been avoided by more accurate ordering by the dealer. However, this can only be achieved if the buyer is aware of expected demand from forward order expectations from the end users, so remember, support your dealer and supplier a little, he is there to try and help you.



News

Pricing Prediction 2006

At the beginning of 2005, the Crop Packaging producers will be purchasing raw material months Association predicted major rises in prices of crop packaging products — Silage Stretchfilm, Round Bale Netwrap and Polypropylene baler twines.

The UK and Ireland demand curve for Crop Packaging Products follow the months of March through to August with peak supply months being April, May and June. In order to meet supply, For 2005, raw material had increased by approx. 30% over 2004 and prices were forced upwards. For 2006, the average increase over 2004 is nearly 50%, coupled with higher transport costs, and very little stock carry over from 2005, the price of the final product will be higher again in 2006.

Higher demand for silage stretchfilm and round bale netwrap from other developing world markets are ensuring manufacturing capacity is kept busy, coupled with the reduction of emphasis on agricultural products from some major suppliers, discounts on these products may be scarce during 2006.

Crop Packaging Association Price predictions 2006 based upon orders of pallet quantities

United Kingdom — Prices exclude VAT

Product	Specification	2005 Average price (Actual)	2006 Average price (Predicted)	% Increase
Stretchfilm	750mm Green	£40.50	£44.00	@ 8%
Stretchfilm	750mm Black	£39.50	£43.00	@ 8%
Netwrap	3000m Plain	£85.00	£92.00	@ 8%
Twine	Big Bale 7200	£20.50	£24.50	@18%

Ireland — Prices exclude environmental levy and VAT

Product	Specification	2005 Average price (Actual)	2006 Average price (Predicted)	% Increase
Stretchfilm	750mm Green	€58.00	€63.00	@ 8%
Stretchfilm	750mm Black	€57.00	€61.50	@ 8%
Netwrap	3000m Plain	€118.00	€127.00	@ 8%
Twine	Big Bale 7200	€30.50	€36.00	@18%

These prices are predictions only and are based solely upon recognised raw material increases as at January 2006. Prices may fluctuate depending upon supply and demand conditions and future raw material levels.

DEAL LOCATOR SERVICE can help you find the most competitive prices

A new service launched to farmers and contractors across Ireland and the United Kingdom will help facilitate finding the most suitable deal on Crop Packaging products within your local area.

The New Deal Locator Service, launched by the Crop Packaging Association provides a Freephone telephone line enabling you to give details of the quantities and types of product you will require for the forthcoming season. The service can then identify selected retailers within your area, allowing them to quote for your requirements from the details obtained.

Whilst this service cannot guarantee finding the cheapest price, it will offer a choice and ultimately enable you to select the deal that is best for your business.

Some Crop Packaging Association approved suppliers may offer special support in line with the Deal Locator service over and above retailer prices offered.



DEAL LOGATOR SERVICE Find the best deal on Baler Twine, Netwrap & Stretchfilm

UK - Freephone : 0800 0689914 Ireland - Freephone : 1850 272 272

Call now - let us help you find the right deal.



UK and Ireland Netwrap end-user survey

Since its inception almost 6 years ago, the Crop Packaging Association has evolved into an acknowledged and respected body, representing all the various levels of the crop packaging industry. This means everyone from the contractor or farmer in the field, right up to the manufacturer of the product, and all in between. It is, therefore, specifically tailored to your crop packaging needs, informing and advising on the activities that can effect your business in this market, which represents a huge annual investment.

During 2005, the Crop Packaging Association was commissioned by leading netwrap manufacturer Tama Plastic Industry to carry out a survey in the UK and Ireland on the features you find most important in a roll of netwrap. In a market that consumes well over 150,000 rolls annually, it is important to know and understand exactly what buyers are looking for and what they should expect from their chosen product and, judging by the results, some producers must fall well short of the mark.

Interestingly, the point of netwrap roll prices was not at the top of the list, instead the results clearly showed that reliability is by far the most important requirement you are looking for in your netwrap, with more than 97% of respondents to the survey placing this as the most important point. In the baling contracting business this is a major influencer, as reliability saves time and time is money.

Obviously, the cost of your netwrap is important, however the point only ranked joint second, alongside yield per roll and the importance of full

Ireland Netwrap England Netwrap **Survey Results Survey Results** 1400 260. 1200 1000 A00 600 400 20/ Carry Handles Roll Cradles ELeft / Right indicator for loading Red End Warning Consistency Yield per roll Night Flash Covers Edge to Edge Price

bale coverage; showing very clearly that the quality and performance of your netwrap is equally or more important than the actual roll price. With yield and reliability being major influences in your netwrap needs, it is obvious that you are all very conscious of the need to achieve maximum output from your baler, either in avoiding hold-ups or obtaining the maximum number of bales possible from the roll, both of which are major factors that influence costly down-time.

These results clearly illustrate the value of certain key elements necessary in a good quality netwrap, and re-enforce Tamas belief that benefits to the end user are the most important factors in determining netwrap choice. Highly distinctive ZEBRA net marking and easy to use carry handles on each roll add to these benefits, as do the purposeful moulded cradles that hold rolls safely and securely in place on the pallet.

The need to maximise baler output and reduce valuable down-time clearly spelled out as the most important pre-requisites for a netwrap, the introduction of Tama s Edge to Edge Pro-Tec 3,600m netwrap should provide the end user with what he s looking for. The new extra long, 3,600m rolls are a full 20% longer than standard white netwrap, meaning 4 rolls can now bale what takes 5 rolls of standard white net! Think of the time and cost saving there....





Feature

Bad bales still seen

The long and reasonably settled days of this season s harvest provided many contractors with ideal conditions to complete the majority of their combining and straw baling, almost without interruption. This, most welcomed, opportunity did mean that many fields of bales remained insitu for quite a time before being carted back to the farm, or sold off the field, as the harvesting continued. However, a look over hedgerows or in field entrances around the country did show a huge variance in the quality of round bales being made.

When netwrap was introduced almost 20 years ago, most users quickly realised the benefits over twine, in significantly reducing the time taken to bind a bale; two or three turns being more preferable to the timely twine option of 8 to 10 turns per bale. Likewise, in those dim and distant days, any bale wrapped with net produced a considerably neater packaged bale than the twine alternative and thus, with two benefits in one, the decline of fine twine almost into extinction had begun in earnest. Nowadays, however, it would appear than for many users, things have not progressed beyond this first generation netwrap that was so keenly welcomed in the mid 1980s, judging by the many bales still to be seen that continue to resemble a burst mattress.

The one real benefit claimed by netwrap producers, when it was introduced, was the ability of net to provide infinitely more protection to the bale that twine ever could. This is, indeed, so, although in 20 years things have progressed to a point that bales still wrapped in original first generation netwrap fail to offer anything like the level of protection that is available from some producers. It is a fact that the exposed shoulders on a poorly covered bale can represent up top 15% of the entire bale s width, meaning the equivalent of one entire bale left un-covered in every seven bale wrapped.. The action of net on the crop produces a sort of roof effect on the bales, by flattening down the crop to protect itself against rain and weathering. Though, obviously, where the net fails to cover the bale, moisture contamination increases considerably, which is further exaggerated when bales are stacked alongside one another and in pyramid style, leaving many gutters for the moisture to be caught and drawn into the edges of the bale from the exposed shoulders acting like a giant wick.



The laws of mathematics prove that disproportionately more volume of the bale is contained in the outer layers of a bale and, subsequently, at risk from moisture contamination, as this diagram below illustrates.:



The outer 10cm of the 1.5m diameter bale contains 25% of the entire bale s volume. However, this figure increases dramatically for a relatively slight increase in bale depth — with the outer 30cms of the bale containing over 60% of the entire bale s volume. Knowing this brings into question the amount of crop that is at risk by being left exposed from poor spreading netwrap, unable to cover the entire bale width.

Many netwrap manufacturers companies have tried to address this problem of poor bale coverage, which is a difficult problem to overcome, bearing in mind that the knitted net web will naturally narrow when it is put under tension during application to the bale. This is the reason that traditional net starts out at 1.23m wide on the roll but never maintains this on the bale. One early option was to produce wider rolls of net, however, this option excludes many of the current balers that cannot accept a roll of 1.30m wide.

In 1999, Tama Plastic Industry launched Edge to Edge netwrap, which, featured an innovative and unique method of construction. This edge to edge construction process is patented by Tama and alters the way the netwrap reacts under tension, be able to maintain its full width on the bale, and so eliminating the risk of crop loss in the exposed shoulders. This unique manufacturing technique is limited exclusively to Tama s full range of zebra-striped nets and has also been licensed for use in Winner Advanced netwrap, a product of long established Italian manufacturer Novatex. Tamas s patented edge to edge technology is also featured John Deere CoverEdge netwrap, the revolutionary netwrap produced exclusively for John Deere, which actually wraps over the edge and down the side of the bale. The effect of this over the edge netwrap is to produce a bale with no exposed crop at all on the edges, making an almost totally weather-proof package that becomes fully safe to store outside.



Likewise, full bale coverage is just as important when silage making. Many contractors, wrongly, assume that as the bale is being wrapped in film, the quality of bale coverage by the netwrap is unimportant. This could not be more wrong, as to leave un-covered shoulders on the bale will allow air pockets to form when the silage film is applied to the bale. Understanding and appreciating this becomes even more critical when using an in-line baler/wrapper combination or a combi baler/wrapper, where the bale is ejected and then wrapped out of direct sight of the operator.





News

Black to Green and 6 layers continues

Ever since the hot summer of 2003, the notion of wrapping silage in green film has become more and more accepted. Where once green or white film was preferred only for high Dry Matter haylage, and the less critical silage made do with the cheaper black alternative, things are changing rapidly.

As the prospect of further hot summers to come seems more and more probable, according to the scientists and weather forecasters, a realisation of the risks associated with black film should be considered, if not already understood, to de-mystify the subject and convince some of the doubters amongst you. Firstly, the obvious, from which all subsequent points are taken --film temperature. In June and July 2003, when davtime temperatures were at their peak, a roll of black film, in direct sunlight, could reach a surface temperature of 50 degrees or more within an hour, whilst green film, by comparison, remained below 30 degrees. The effect of this huge temperature rise on the black film had the effect of altering the performance of the film, making it, at the same time, much more pliable and easier to stretch and stickier to touch, as the active tack ingredient in the film migrated to the film surface much quicker in the warmer conditions. These factors produced the ideal conditions for secondary-stretch to occur, with the result of increasing the film neck-down as it was stretched through the PSU, so narrowing the width of film applied to the bale. This narrower film web applied to the bale then made it impossible for each successive application of film to over-lap the previous by the required 50% of its width. From this, the classic case of too few film layers on parts of the bale would occur. However, with black film this mis-application of film was never seen, as the bale was still overall black in colour.

Another factor of increased temperatures on black film is the effect it has on the wrapped

bale. With higher surface temperatures possible with black film, so the bale will expand more as the internal gases heat up quicker, causing a positive pressure situation. Consequently, when the bale contracts, at dusk or during a rain shower, so the gases contract creating a negative pressure within, which has the effect of being able to draw any moisture that might be present on a bale, in between film layers — one of the causes of water in bales and spoilage.

So it can be seen that the move from black to green is not some cynical ploy by film manufacturers to make you buy more expensive film, but actual common sense. It is fact that the base raw material for coloured film is naturally more expensive than black and, due to the traditional demand of black film in our market compared to coloured film; some producers may have weighted their production for the UK and Ireland towards black creating the situation of a greater cost differential between each colour. On the continent, the use of black film is significantly lower than the UK and Ireland, for the reasons already mentioned. But this market is ahead of us again in another area of bale wrapping, that the UK and Ireland has yet to wake up to fully that of producing far better guality bales through the application of more film.

It is a well documented fact that increased film layers on a bale reduce spoilage and increase the value of the bale, either in nutritional terms or purely monetary value if selling at market. Two years ago CEDAR - The Centre for Dairy Research of The University of Reading, conducted extensive trials on this subject, with the conclusion that, on average, 9% of a bale wrapped with 4 film layers was lost to spoilage, through air or water contamination; compared to almost nil when wrapped in 6 layers. Calculating this out, one can see that the extra cost of film required to apply 2 more film layers is still far below the reduction in value suffered by the bale from having in-sufficient layers applied. Again, this is not some cynical ploy by film producers, but actual, scientific fact.

In Europe, it could be argued that their move to wrapping with a minimum of 6 film layers, and this is just a minimum (many parts of Europe apply 8 or even 10 film layers where crop or bale value is concerned), may have been a result of understanding the facts of wastage, but also by appreciating that often bales with 4 film layers applied were not being wrapped correctly, which was seen easily through the use of light coloured films. Remember, with black film, you are unable to see the mistakes made during film application, for what ever reason. So, by increasing the film layers to 6, the bale was definitely wrapped to provide at least 4 film laver everywhere - this is an important fact to remember when wrapping square bales, as the bale shape presented to the film web during wrapping is constantly changing, unlike a round bale — which remains constant.



Note how a darker area on the wrapped bale is clearly visable when using green film. This is due to uneven or incorrect application of 4 layers

So, before you place your order for film this season, think why so many other end users throughout Europe choose green film and realise that is probably why your neighbour chose to do so too.

Crop Packaging Association Solway helps farmers recycle plastics

New regulations and rules on agricutlrural waste are coming into effect shortly. Be prepared and stay within the law.

The new legislation is one of a series of measures that the Government will introduce over the next few years, bringing agriculture closer to the legislation applied to commercial industry. Farming will be forced to become compliant and accountable for its waste and the many causes of pollution. The waste legislation already applies in Scotland where farm waste is treated as commercial waste. And very shortly the Agricultural Waste Regulations 2005 will apply in England and Wales.



In short, the new laws will make it extremely difficult to justify burning or waste plastic, and importantly as a producer of waste you now have a statutory duty of care. This means all farm waste plastic must now be disposed of correctly, which includes an accurate description of the waste to the waste collection contractors and ensuring the final recipient of the waste (land fill site, incinerator or waste processing company) is licenced or permitted to accept farm waste plastic by Environmental Agency (EA) or the Scottish Environmental Protection Agency (SEPA). In turn, the collection contractor must provide a waste transfer note or consignment note for special hazardous waste.

Bin and Liner System

The Crop Packaging Association has examined various recycling schemes, and it has concluded the Solway s long running, Bin and Liner system offers the industry the best deal. It provides a practical and relatively low-cost waste management system. Waste materials such as wraps and fertilizer bags are segregated at source and squashed into a large, specially-designed Bin, which contains a heavy-duty plastic liner. The robust Bin is approximately four feet high and four feet in diameter and it will hold two hundred used wraps. When full, the liners are tied off, and the Bin dismantles easily to allow the liner to be removed. Filled liners then become safe storage units until uplift is arranged.

Farmers taking part in the recycling scheme will receive Waste Transfer Notes and an Annual Recycling Certificate. These can be used as evidence for farm assurance schemes, and other agencies. They show that the correct actions have been taken to recycle plastic and dispose off other wastes. Benefits of the Bin and Liner System

- Keeps waste neat and tidy on a daily basis.
- Contamination is reduced, improving the guality of the recyclate.

• Liners are a unit measure for uplifting plastic from farms.

 Farmers pay a fixed charge per liner.
 Farmers receive Waste Transfer Notes and an Annual Recycling Certificate

• Satisfies SEPA, EA and Farm Assurance schemes

To find out more about The Solway System please contact the Crop Packaging Association.

WHAI MAIERIAI	-2 DO
SOLWAY TAKE?	
Silage wrap	Yes
Silage bags	Yes
Silage clamp sheet	Yes
Plastic baler twine	Yes
Plastic bale netting	Yes
Plastic feed bags	Yes
Fertiliser big bag liner	rs Yes
Fertiliser big bag oute	ers Yes
Seed big bag liners	Yes
Seed big bag outers	Yes
Crop cover/fleece	Yes
Dairy chemical conte	ainers Yes
Livestock medication	۱-
containers	Yes
Pesticide containers	Yes
Tyres	Yes
Batteries	Yes
Cardboard/paper	Yes
Other	Hazardous was





Contractor Profile - John Brewer

For some people, it is not enough to simply take things at face value and accept what is, there are those few who know what they want and are not prepared to compromise. John Brewer is one such person, a farmer and contractor based near Blackburn in Lancashire with a very determined attitude to do a good job, and do it well.

John bales and wraps up to 20,000 bales a year. mostly for contract but does bale and wrap at least 1.000 for himself. He started contracting 39 years ago, at the age of 17, with an old International tractor and McConnell hedgecutter, which he bought for £125. Nowadays, he runs a fleet of 19 Tractors; 5 Round Balers; 1 Self Propelled Forager: 2 Telehandlers and 2 bale wrappers, this is no small operation! John milked 40 cows up until 1985 and beef cattle for a further 10 years but now concentrates on agricultural contracting. With such a proportion of his business being for other end users, quality counts, there is much competition in round baling and wrapping, it is a buyers choice. In wanting to make a good job of his silage baling, a valuable winter commodity when farming in the uplands of Lancashire, John is mindful of what is required, and also how to reduce potential losses. There is a huge choice when shopping for netwrap and film, and it is easy to be fooled by the cheapest price or products that promise the world and then don t live up to your expectations. This is the case when John buys his netwrap, having had an unfortunate experience when he looked to try and save, especially important with a yearly usage of 50-60 rolls.



Having previously used John Deere XL netwrap and appreciated its reliability and ability to cover his bales well, as advertised. John made the decision to try and make a saving, by changing to an alternative netwrap - the name of which suggested similar edge to edge ability, as this product was cheaper than his original net. However, it soon became very clear that the cheaper net was definitely not the same quality and turned out to have been a mistake, one he wouldn t make again. The cheaper alternative would not work well in his balers, giving constant problems and less than adequate bale coverage. In this instance, cheapest definitely was not best, as reliability is essential when making so many bales each year. John quickly had the supplier



collect the cheap net and he went back to his

tried and trusted TamaNet, which he continues

to use. The introduction of the new John Deere

XtraNet 3,600m rolls will assist John further in

reducing down time and increasing the baler

output, giving benefits to him and a continued

quality job for his customers. This is more

important than ever at present as, with more hav

bales made during 2005 than normal, there is

more of John's netwrapping ability on display

than ever around the farms of Lancashire.

From his experience of knowing what he wants

and not just accepting what is offered, John has

become guite an astute businessman, which has

helped grow another part of his business. As well

as baling and wrapping. John has built up a

considerable business in fencing, which has lead

him to appreciate what his customers really need

and also to discover this is not always what is

available. His ideas on trying to improve efficiency



Corporate Profile

market today. The current stretchfilm market boasts many variations of the colour green film, ranging from almost white to almost turquoise blue, and every shade in between. Over the years Rani Plast has formulated and trialled many varying shades of green in the quest to offer the best performance to satisfy a demanding customer base. This process has lead to Rani Plast s distinctive yet effective green film, which offers all the benefits of the correct sunlight reflectiveness required of a green film, without it looking almost white or appearing near transparent on the bale.

Attention to detail is another important factor in the Rani Plast psyche; as it is important that the customer feels completely satisfied with his purchase. Rani Plast packaging, for instance, is head and shoulders ahead of the competition, offering unique features and benefits from their product, designed to help and assist the end user. Each roll is packaged in what is probably the best quality carton on the market today, with cut-outs top and bottom to allow easy storage on the wrapper s spare film carrier and a very useful and highly visible indicator of which way the film un-rolls inside. This is a useful addition that allows spare rolls to be loaded on the spare roll carrier the right way up, for ease of loading on the PSU. As if this was not enough, each box has an easy opening ability, with a perforated tear-strip, on which is printed a tape-measure; meaning each time you change rolls you have the ability to measure the film neck-down on the last bale to ensure you are wrapping correctly.

Whilst the production of silage stretchfilm is a highly advanced and technical process, sadly its use is often very basic, being expected to perform as advertised in all sorts of conditions and climates. It has been said that it is the actual film user who is the final link in the film production chain as, while the film quality might be perfect, it is he who ultimately has the ability to wrap a bale well or... not so well. For this reason, Rani Plast put great emphasis on product research and development, with some of the most sophisticated production methods currently in use in this industry, to be able to deliver a film safe wrapping — the rest is up to you !



Rani Plast Managing Director Mikael Ahlb ck (left) and Bart Cope, Managing Director of UAT Ltd, shake hands outside Rani s head office on completion of a co-operation film supply for UAT Ltd.

RANIWRAP Effective and Functional.

RaniWrap has been developed for a period of more than ten years in close co-operation with machinery producers and raw material suppliers. Fully UV stabilised, a high tech manufacturing process and the best quality raw materials ensures RaniWrap offers consistency and guaranteed uniformity.

How to achieve successful ensilage with RaniWrap Silage Stretchfilm — Usage

 RaniWrap can be used on all High Speed wrapping machines

The rolls of film should be stored upright and protected from moisture. The ends of the rolls

should be specially shielded from impacts
Check that each roll of film is in perfect condition before using it.

 The Crop Packaging Association recommends application of 6 layers for greater nutrition and higher quality feed results.

Prevent soil and harmful micro-organisms from getting into the bale. Dirt inside the bale may cause mould to form ensilage during storage. Compact bales with a good shape and tight wrapping are essential to ensure trapped air is eliminated. It is recommended to wrap bales within two hours of baling. Storage

The bales should be stacked on their ends, preferably not more than two high. The storage place should be level and free from vegetation and also prevent damage to the bales caused by birds or other animals.

 In the event of damage, repair the film immediately with PE tape. Bales that have been wrapped should be handled as little as possible.
 Durability

 After the wrapping process any film that is left over should be protected from damp, dirt and impacts. If properly stored, spare film can be used the following season.

 Each roll has a label containing a code number which gives important production data. If you have any comments about a particular roll, you should quote this code number.
 RaniWrap is IV-stabilised, which

 Raniwrap is UV-stabilised, which preserves the superior properties of the film twelve months. The film is protected from the sun s ultraviolet rays by additives known as stabilisers. Certain agrochemicals, such as pesticides containing sulphur or chlorine, and pollutants (e.g. high levels of sulphur dioxide in acid rain) can affect the durability of the plastic.





Rani Plast - A tradition of personal service

UAT, leading suppliers of crop packaging products in the UK and Ireland recently signed a long-term agreement with Rani Plast O.Y. for the supply of agricultural silage stretchfilm, giving the Finnish company a strong position in one of Europe s major film markets.

Rani Plast; at present perhaps a relatively unknown name in the UK and Ireland., but a company with a long and proud tradition of quality and efficiency. These have helped it become one of the major film and plastic manufacturers in Europe. The company s vision is to be market leader and its number one preferred supplier.

It all started in 1955, when a young Nils Nick Ahlb ck saw plastic extrusion for the very first time in Sweden. That looks easy, he thought, and began to formulate an idea that would develop into one of Europe s leading plastic producers. Building on his idea, the young Nick, Alf and Ingmar Ahlb ck with Runar Svarts launched Rani Plast — the unusual name derived from the letters of founders first names.



In the intervening years the company has grown beyond all expectations and, one and a half generations later. Managing Director Mikael Ahlb ck is in charge of an international group with a turnover of approx. 150 million euros and exports to some thirty countries. With diverse business in printed and welded films, stretchfilm, packaging, bags, laminates and even prefabricated house manufacturing; this is a far cry from Rani Plast s humble beginnings 50 years ago in a converted house. The current state-ofthe-art production site now covers more than 4 hectares, in Teerij rvi, Finland. We have always kept our feet on the ground, whatever has happened. We have also been open to new opportunities and bold enough to invest in new ideas says Mikael Ahlb ck, with joint ventures established in India. Slovakia. Sweden and the Ukraine

In the very early years, production was plastic pipes intended for sewerage. The locals, still un-

familiar with plastic were not keen initially; fearing that the pipes would be eaten by rats if used in the sewers. Therefore the pipes eventually became more successfully used for irrigation purposes. Along with pipe production, plastic sheet welding and printing machines were installed in 1959, as the popularity of polyethylene bags in stores sped things up. This initially brought an outcry from those employed to manually weld the plastic sheets, as the new machines, which could do the work of 12 manual workers, would put them out of work. Rani Plast s response was quite the opposite as, by 1960, production had increased so much that there was a shortage of workers in the region.



Rani Plast s workforce now numbers over 550 and the machines used on the highly advanced production lines are some of the most modern in Europe. However, it is not just modern technology that brought Rani Plast to its current position as one of the top players in the world. Any company with the investment capacity can purchase equipment, but it takes a special company to fully invest in its workforce.



This staff investment stems from the close and friendly atmosphere that Rani Plast has managed to preserve and make into their trademark. The business, whilst demanding, operates amongst the leaders in the industry but still retains its family values, unlike many Finnish family businesses over the years that are now on the stock market, as Rani Plast is still family owned. My taking over after my father was never a given, it was just a result of natural development comments Mikael. Our parents never tried to steer me or my sister, Ulrika, a fellow Director of the company, we have always been allowed to choose our way — and now we both work in the Group.

In the harsh world of agricultural silage stretchfilm supply, however, it's still business as usual for Rani Plast. In agricultural stretchfilm supply. Rani Plast see the whole world as their potential market for film, but especially in Europe, where they are one of the three major suppliers of film into this extremely competitive sector of the market. Current estimations show that the UK and Ireland combined make-up the biggest single sector of the European market for silage stretch film, with a demand for almost one third of the tonnage in Europe, clearly, UK and Ireland are important markets to be in. Rani Plast is no stranger to the UK and Ireland, however, and its presence will be felt more and more in the coming years as its products and innovations in film production are introduced through UAT and UAT Ireland, under the popular brands of Stablemate Premium Haylage wrap and CropGuard XL, an extra length film which offers 5% more film than the 1500m standard roll length.



Traditionally, the UK and Irish market have been predominantly users of black film, until the extremely hot summer of 2003, when many professional users began to question the merits of black film, and all the potential difficulties it can bring when used in particularly hot temperatures. Whilst we may scoff, it would appear that the hotter summer is becoming more commonplace; for these reasons the trend is moving towards green film replacing black. Rani Plast are major manufacturers of black film. however, the Scandinavian market does not allow black film from any producer and other European markets are also predominantly green, which puts Rani Plast, who have a wealth of knowledge and experience in the production and development of green films, at a distinctive advantage in the

Contractor Profile

in this area have lead to great things. Erecting and moving wire fencing is a slow and awkward job, as anyone who has tried it will know. John felt there should be some way to make this easier and more efficient at the same time, as the task is very time consuming, a valuable commodity for any agricultural contractor. What started out as a Saturday afternoon experiment in the workshop has turned into a lucrative business. John and his business partner, engineer Steve Rawcliffe, began by trying to devise a better way to un-roll and tension wire fencing to make the job easier. After three prototypes, they finally settled on the current design of what is now known as the Ouickfencer.

John and Steve applied for a patent to their innovative design in mid-December 2003, and received their confirmation of patent pending just a week before its launch at LAMMA 2004, one week later, where it took first prize as Winner of

Best New Farm Invention 2004.

Considering John classes the Quickfencer as iust a hobby. I m an agricultural contractor really . the business has gone from strength to strength. with over 220 units sold in just 20 months, with growing interest from all over the world. Designed to increase efficiency of the fencing contractor. John and Steve s invention has the ability to use rolls of wire up to 500m long, however, fencing producers in the UK were not keen to change their standard products to cater for the expected demand for longer rolls. Consequently, John was forced to search far and wide until he secured a source of supply of longer length rolls, which is presently 300m long, but he still has plans to go longer, so further increasing the advantages and benefits of the system to the end user.

This fore-sight and innovation sums up well the way those using a product are often best placed

to understand what is needed to bring about improvements, a situation that, co-incidentally, Tama, also understood about production of round bale netwrap. As farmers themselves, with three round balers on their kibbutz farm, Tama were well placed to understand and appreciate the needs of the netwrap user, and are the only manufacturer to have brought innovation to the product to improve efficiency and benefit the end user

With the production of Quickfencer now well established in separate premises, and an ever increasing customer base for machines now designed to drive posts in, reel the rolls back in and even carry 2 rolls of 500m netting at once one might think it would be time for John to put his feet up. Not so, as John, continues to concentrate on being an agricultural contractor, which, after all, is what he is.



Competition

TamaNet goes the full 18 Furlongs

Will your chosen netwrap go the full 18 furlongs?

Since the Crop Packaging Association was set up more than 4 years ago, we have given some top prizes away in conjunction with major machinery manufacturers. The service has now been set up in New Zealand, Germany and Scandinavia. There are even plans to present this service to the French!

Win

For 2006, in conjunction with the launch of the new Tamanet Edge to Edge Protec 3600m, Tama Plastic Industry has kindly sponsored this years prize. It is simple to enter and will give you the chance to WIN a very special VIP weekend away in Ireland for 4 people to watch the Budweiser Irish Derby Festival at Curragh Racecourse.

Currage

This fantastic prizes covers the cost of travel to the racecourse, 2 nights in luxurious accommodation, helicopter ride into the racecourse, VIP service all round for 4 lucky people.

Just complete the prize draw entry form and you could be a winner!

CE

Name

Company (fapplicable)

Address

Postcode

elephone

Fax

Mobile

Emai

a trip to the Budweiser Irish Derby Festival 2006

Curragh Racecourse Saturday 1st July — Monday 3rd July 2006

Nothing in Irish Horse racing makes a heart beat faster than the thunder of hooves in the decisive moments of Curragh great race. This national passion finds no greater outlet than on Budweiser Irish Derby Day - the single greatest event in the Irish Racing calendar.

The Crop Packaging Association has a magnificent prize to give away for our 2006 competition. We have booked Bert House, an excellent 18th Century Palladian Country Manor House Hotel, exclusively for this excellent weekend, for what promises to be a top quality VIP package in terms of Hotel Service, Food, Sport and Entertainment. The lucky winner will win a package for four to the races including:

- Two nights accommodation at Bert House Hotel.
- VIP "Eve of Dinner Party" on Saturday Evening at Bert House.
- Helicopter Flights to the Curragh on Derby Day.
- Members Reserved Admission to the Curragh Racecourse on Saturday.
- Complimentary Racing Post and Race Programmes.
- Champagne reception on Derby Day.
- VIP Private Box Hospitality Package to include food and drinks on the day.
- Return Helicopter Flight to Bert House after a long day at the races for another night s accommodation at Bert House.

To be in with a chance of winning this superb prize, all you have to do is answer the following question, complete the entry form below and send to:

FREEPOST: Return the completed form to to our freepost address:

<u>United Kingdom:</u> Crop Packaging Association, FREEPOST SCE 6386 Alton, Hampshire GU34 1BR FREEPHONE 0800 0689914

Ireland: Crop Packaging Association, FREEPOST FKK37 PO Box 141, Kilkenny FREEPHONE 1850 272 272

Quote competition, your details will be taken & you will stand a chance of winning this fantastic prize. Alternatively, log on to www.croppackaging.com where you can enter on line.

OUESTION — Tamanet are launching Tamanet Edge to Edge ProTec 3600m netwrap for 2006. How many furlongs is 3600m? (a) 10 b) 18 c) 100

Conditions

