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# Twine Choice Drives Business Success

**Reliable twine underpins successful baling operations as one Gloucestershire farmer/contractor knows all too well**

CHOOSING the right bale twine cuts down-time, speeds outputs and avoids damaged bales, with an eye on environmental sustainability, and all at the right cost per metre.

That's the opinion of **Brian Brazington**, who runs a successful contracting operation alongside his own sheep and grass enterprise at Farmington in the heart of the Cotswolds near Cheltenham, Gloucestershire.

**“It makes it easier for us to use the right twine for the job, which is good for customers.”**

Three balers produce over 8000 bales a year, with a four-string 80x90 Case/New Holland 332 and a six-string 90x120 Fendt being particularly well suited to the work. Around 60% of the



baling is forage and 40% straw, the latter including spring barley, especially tough to bale when picked up right behind the combine on a bright sunny day.

Having tried various twines Mr Brazington settled on TamaTwine+ a few years ago. “It was popular locally, and is available through the farm Co-op, and the fact that leading baler manufacturers market it with their own branding gave me the confidence to use the product,” he says.

The option of purchasing XL spools clinched the switch. “I prefer larger spools. I'd say 95% of baling string problems occur with spool changes. Even if you make every effort to join the ends with a small knot with short tails it can still come undone. Or the knotter can tie on top of the joint, with the same result – the string fails. Nobody wants to be crawling under a baler getting a shirt-full of barley awns, so we definitely prefer longer spools. They cut downtime.”

### Tama Assist

Understanding the best twines to use in different situations made a big difference. Tama's Warren Tatton helped a lot, drawing on Tama Assist's knowledge base, which includes a twine selection tool, an on-line guide to pre-season baler set-up and baler-specific trouble-shooting tips, backed by a team of in-field experts. “It gives me real confidence that they're always there should I ever have a problem.”

For hay Mr Brazington uses **LSB Long**, a twine that goes a long way in lower density forage baling, with 3000m in a twin-pack.

For most other baling he uses **LSB Power** twine, ideally suited to high density baling in all crops and balers. It comes in 2800m twin-spool packs, or larger XL spools holding 1650m each.

For tougher conditions he uses **HD Extra** twine, designed for more demanding situations including difficult crops. In barley straw, especially in harsh conditions, it goes on the outside knotters. It comes in 2600m twin-spool packs or larger XL spools holding 1450m each. “It means we can

produce 450-500kg straw bales.”

“I’ve also noticed how little set-up the balers need with Tama twine, they’re just ready from the start of the season.” That’s not so surprising, given the company’s close co-operation with baler makers throughout the development of new baling equipment.

Indeed, switching from twine to twine during the season has proven easy too, with no need to adjust baler settings or knotters. “It’s important. It makes it easier for us to use the right twine for the job, which is good for customers.”

### Twines by colour

To aid product choice Tama’s twines are colour coded, including the three used by Mr Brazington: LSB Long (green segment), LSB Power (orange segment) and HD Extra (red segment). Complementing those are blue segment LSB Max for light baling conditions, where maximum length is the priority with 3200m/pack, and range topping brown segment HD Prime for the most challenging conditions, with 2200m/pack or 1350m XL spools.

### Better twine, less plastic

An enhanced blend of raw materials and finer tolerances

“I’ve noticed how little set-up the balers need with Tama twine”

means TamaTwine+ uses around 25% less polypropylene, so weight and twine diameter can be reduced, while twine strength is maintained and performance in the baler’s knotting mechanism is enhanced.

“If the twine isn’t right you can’t make good bales, and you can’t capitalise on your investment,” says Mr Tatton. “We have a full range of twines and can advise on the correct twine to deliver the highest output and best performance from your baler, in all conditions.”

“It gives me real confidence that they’re always there should I ever have a problem”

### Old-tech competitors

Old-fashioned bulky, heavy twines, based on old manufacturing technologies, not only put more plastic into the environment for the required strength, but are also more prone to knot slippage, since knots struggle to hold the sheer bulk of twine.

A further downside of heavier twine is that due to limits on spool dimensions, fewer metres are possible on the spool, so they need re-loading more often, meaning more product packaging, pallets and pallet wrap for the same number of bales.

Something Mr Brazington experienced with other brands was spools wound so tightly at the centre that the twine becomes fractured and breaks when used. “We’ve never had that problem with Tama.”

### Packaging reduction

But cardboard around spools has been a frustration. “The packaging is generally very good, with pallets very easy to move between sites, which is important for us. But I hate waste and it’s amazing how much packaging waste can build up. I’m glad that in future there will only be a plastic sleeve – not having the cardboard will help reduce waste considerably.”

Earlier this spring Mr Brazington was concerned that the 2021 growing season could be a repeat of 2020, with a very dry spring limiting grass growth. Hopefully, a nice warm rain will give a big boost to growth before baling time. But whatever the conditions he is confident he has his twine needs all wrapped up – thanks to a wise product switch a few years ago.

# Tama Assist

[www.tama-uk.co.uk/tama-assist](http://www.tama-uk.co.uk/tama-assist)

Tama Assist is a library of information on the Tama UK website and is essentially a tool kit, designed to assist our customers in achieving the maximum performance from their crop baling products.

Doing business with Tama is not only about the highest quality products bringing maximum performance and output to your business, it is the shared experience that makes Tama different. Being a Tama customer brings you access to a world of knowledge and belonging.

With the Tama business being founded in farming, we have a wealth of experience to share in all aspects of the baling business from pre-season preparation and advice, to in-field support, we have the knowledge and the ability to help.

As a part of Tama Assist, these are four of the most commonly used tools:

EXPLORE MORE

Get your order right

Calculate

Choose your right twine

Go

Get your order right

Calculate

Get in touch with us

Send

**Netwrap Calculator**  
Allows you to calculate the exact number of rolls of Tama Netwrap you will need to get the job done.

**Twine Selector**  
Ensures you select the highest performance twine for your needs, reducing your cost per bale.

**Twine Calculator**  
A tool to calculate the exact amount of twine you will need to cover your baling needs so you know your costs up front.

**Quick Contact**  
A easy way to find the member of the Tama Team closest to you, for any field or technical support.

## TamaTwine+

- Stronger quality twine, better knots
- Longer spools, more bales per spool
- Less downtime swapping spools
- Five-segment twine range
- Colour coding aids selection
- Validated by baler makers
- Tama Assist technical support
- Established Service team



## Meet the Team:



### Jonathan Coleclough

Territory Sales Manager & Regional Technical Manager

**Joined Tama:** January 2018.

**Previous Experience:** Worked at Lely Welger as product demonstrator and later in sales.

**Baling History:** Began baling in the UK in 1999 and baled the harvest season in Australia in 2004/5.

# Enviro profile key issue for all

**Green crop baling products are set to become a reality for UK farmers, as a new National Collection Scheme and recycling activities gather momentum and technology starts to bear fruit.**

PRESSURE on the use of single use plastics is rising, but one manufacturer is leading the way in helping farmers and contractors to continue to reap all the benefits of agricultural plastics, whilst reducing the risk of a hefty tax being imposed by regulators.

Twine and netwrap containing both post-industrial and post-consumer recycled plastics are set to be tested on UK farms this season and a stretch-film containing recycled plastic is expected to be commercially available here too.

“Everything is pointing in one direction, the more environmentally responsible use of agri-plastics”

The drive for such crop baling products stems from the combined pressures of Europe’s Green Deal requiring regulators to demand ever greener processes, the strong environmental focus of the UK’s new farm policies, the NFU’s net zero 2040 goal and the desire of food chains to cut carbon footprints.

“Everything is pointing in one direction, the more environmentally responsible use of agri-plastics,” says

independent plastics recycling expert Keith Freegard.

At the heart of the drive for a circular economy approach to reducing the environmental impact of plastics is the goal of using less plastic in the first place, reuse where possible, and recycling at the end of the product’s useful life on the farm.

## Closed loop

“The perfect future situation would be a closed loop, collecting the used netwrap, twine and stretch-film from farms, for washing and re-processing, so the polymer molecules originally sold are effectively recycled back into the same products,” he says.

The plastics industry currently consumes over 50 million tonnes of virgin plastic a year across Europe to make a wide range of plastics products used in almost every aspect of modern life.

Agri-plastics are only a small part of that and play a crucial role in improving the efficiency of farming systems. But the heat is on for European manufacturers to shoulder their environmental responsibility, with a very real prospect of a costly €800/tonne tax on all plastic products containing less than 30% recycled plastic.

“One manufacturer which has very much stepped up to the plate, by backing National Collection Schemes, supporting re-processing plants, and investing in R&D to use more recycled plastic in its products, is Tama,” says Mr Freegard.

## Collection schemes

Tama is supporting the adoption of National Collection Schemes across Europe, including the UK’s voluntary APE agri-plastics collection scheme. Some schemes are doing

very well, with France’s Adivalor voluntary scheme now collecting up to 80% of stretch-film and 50% of twine and netwrap, and Ireland’s mandatory IFFPG scheme running at similar levels.

In the UK the figure is less than 30%. But Mr Freegard believes momentum will build as recycling facilities gain economies of scale and ‘pull-through’ demand from manufacturers for recycled plastics accelerates. Indeed, the HDPE, PP and LLDPE plastics used in netwrap, twine and stretch-film are all very much recyclable.

“The perfect future situation would be a closed loop..... so the polymer molecules originally sold are effectively recycled back into the same products”

“Tama is doing a lot of work to help farmers do the right thing, by finding and trialling technologies to help with the recycling process, and investing in the R&D so more

recycled polymers can be put back into its products to support the demand side of the equation.”

In initial trials twines containing high levels of recycled plastic have shown equivalent in-field performance, with all quality control tests met. Netwrap, despite being a more technical product to produce, is also looking very promising, he says.

## Consistency & quality

Crucially, the consistency and quality of recycled farm plastic needs to meet stringent manufacturing demands. That means farmers and contractors need to keep post-use plastics collected for recycling as clean as possible, and well-segregated, so twine, netwrap and stretch-film don’t

get mixed or contaminated with other waste material, Mr Freegard notes.

“In the circular economy all the stakeholders in the supply chain have a crucial role to play in a collaborative approach to maximizing material efficiency and minimizing the carbon impact of producing silage and bedding.”

Ultimately, crop baling products of the future may be supplied with a recycling bag to aid storage and collection, with an App to digitally record what arrives on farm, and what is sent off-farm for recycling, creating a fully traceable closed loop. That’s a far cry from the now illegal practice of burning or burying plastic waste – and far more environmentally preferable and lower cost than land-fill.

“Tama is doing a lot of work to help farmers do the right thing.”

## Farm plastics challenge

- UK goal to collect 80% of 44,000t agri-plastics
- Farmers, contractors and suppliers all involved
- Full UK coverage
- Keep used twine, netwrap and stretch-film separate
- Remove crop residues if possible
- Store in a contaminant free area



## Tama’s green credentials

- Stronger products = less plastic: Netwrap = 20-45% less plastic per bale Twine = 25% less plastic per bale
- Zero manufacturing waste goal
- Renewable energy for factories
- Collection schemes supported
- More recycled plastics used

# Leading the Way

CROP baling products bring considerable benefits to UK farming, from extending the growing period to protecting produce and significantly lowering waste. That’s why Tama’s commitment to innovation and responsibility to sustainability became a key focus years ago, something many competitors have still not addressed, says Warren Tatton, Commercial Manager at Tama UK.

“Our strategy has three strands – using less plastic to produce stronger products, developing more environmentally sustainable manufacturing processes and supporting efforts to collect and reuse waste plastic in our products.”

This year a stretch-film containing 30% recycled plastic, from an open-loop supply chain, will be commercially available in the UK. Twine and netwrap containing recycled plastic will also be evaluated on UK farms to ensure performance is not compromised. “We are quite a way down the road with this, and the direction of travel certainly looks very good,” he says.

The plastics-in-the-environment debate isn’t a war on plastics, but a war on plastic waste, Mr Tatton stresses. “Provided the end-of-life processes for this valuable resource are orchestrated beneficially we can continue to use it with all its benefits, with the utopia being closed loop recycling, taking the virgin polymer and recycling it round and round.”

Tama is fully committed to National Collection Schemes, but for closed loop recycling to work the quality of the used crop baling products that are kept for collection, has to improve, Mr Tatton notes, with proper segregation and freedom from contamination.

## Better manufacturing

Innovation and developing lighter products with equal or even better performance has already helped Tama cut plastic use. Netwrap made with old technology weighing more than 12g per meter weighs 30% more than TamaNet+. A similar story is found in Tama’s twine, which uses around 25% less polypropylene than competitor products, significantly reducing the burden of plastic in the environment.

“Tama is leading the way, striving to bring about change and constantly innovating for a more sustainable solution, something other manufacturers just aren’t addressing,” Mr Tatton concludes.





# CYCLED WRAP®



ASPLA, the only Spanish manufacturer of Silage wrap has announced the launch of CYCLED WRAP®, the first eco-friendly film in this sector.

This groundbreaking product is the first 7-layer silage wrap manufactured with a high content of recycled raw material for sustainable wrapping. CYCLED WRAP® is an eco-friendly product, and is manufactured to offer technical properties equivalent to a premium film. Highly purified recycled polymers allow for uniformity of materials without any weak points on the film's surface.

As CYCLED WRAP® is manufactured in 7 layers and is highly resistance to tearing, minimising the risk of film perforation and allowing the bales of fodder to be wrapped and transported with excellent resistance guarantees.

It was created to wrap bales aimed both for milk-producing livestock and for horses. The CYCLED WRAP® values are maintained to the highest standard to ensure bales wrapped in CYCLEDWRAP are robustly wrapped and able to withstand long periods of storage equal to a conventional stretch film.

ISCC Plus (international carbon and sustainability) certifies that the renewable polymers used in the manufacture of CYCLED WRAP® meet international standards and that the circular content covers the entire value chain, from origin to the end product.

## The main advantages of using CYCLED WRAP® are:

- Certified by ISCC Plus
- Premium 7-layer Silage wrap for all applications (round and square bales)
- Reinforcing circular economy
- Reducing the carbon footprint
- Taking care of nature
- Patented recycling process



# Tama and NFYFC: Over the years

Tama has been working with The National Federation of Young Farmers' Clubs (NFYFC) for almost a decade to engage, educate and inspire Young Farmers and provide them with a platform to communicate and learn from each other.

One major area of Tama's support has been for NFYFC's Rural+ campaign, which launched in 2014 in partnership with the charity The Farming Community Network (FCN). Rural+ provides information and tools to encourage YFCs to become a strong support network for young farmers who may be experiencing rural isolation and mental health issues. Tama sponsored a video toolkit, a help guide and posters that were needed to launch the campaign and has also helped to produce pocket guides for members that contain useful helpline numbers. In 2019 Tama stepped in again to help fund additional Rural+ training sessions to help increase NFYFC's capability to deliver the training at a club level.

Warren Tatton, Tama UK Commercial Manager explained why he is proud of the long-standing relationship with NFYFC. "I am particularly proud of Tama's contribution made to NFYFC over the years. Several members of the Tama UK team, myself included, grew up being part of a local Young Farmers' Club so we understand the huge benefit of being involved in activities that help guide and support agriculture's next generation. The varied programmes and campaigns, such as Rural+ that Tama has been an advocate of, really help to drive confidence and knowledge for all involved in agriculture today, and tomorrow."

Tama has been involved with a variety of YFC projects over the years, including sponsoring the YFC Travel booklet. NFYFC has a unique travel programme, which offers its members the opportunity to experience rural life in different locations around the world through working scholarships, study trips, volunteering or staying with host families.

The travel booklet helped potential applicants through the application, interview and hosting process. It answered common questions and promoted how valuable the experience is for their future careers.

Tama has also been a key sponsor of NFYFC's membership magazine Ten26 for many years.

And the relationship with NFYFC continues this year. Tama is a proud sponsor of the YFC Achiever Awards 2021 – a fantastic opportunity to recognise and reward the dedication and commitment shown by young people who are supporting the British countryside. Tama is pleased to be sponsoring the Community Spirit Award and is looking forward to celebrating all of the work YFC members have done over the past 12 months to support their local communities during the pandemic.

NFYFC's Chief Officer James Eckley said: "We are extremely grateful for all of Tama's support over the years, which has made many vital projects a reality. Thousands of young farmers have had access to mental health support thanks to Tama's involvement in Rural+ and without them the campaign would not have been such a success. We look forward to developing more work with Tama and continuing our long standing and trusted relationship."



**Community Spirit award**  
Awarded to a YFC member who has gone above and beyond to support their local community – from fundraisers to practical support. In 2021, we particularly interested in those individuals who have supported their rural community during the pandemic.

# Competition time!

## Ensure bale quality with a crop preservative applicator and moisture sensor

Tama have teamed up with PFC Agri Solutions to give you a chance to win a preservative applicator system that includes a moisture sensor option, to help with your baling in the coming seasons!

We have two systems available to win, one for a Square Baler and one for a Round Baler.

The main benefits of this amazing system are below:

### Applicator:

- Supplied with the optional baler specific tank and nozzle assemblies
- Tank capacity for round baler
- 100-220 litres depending on baler type
- Tank capacity for square baler
- 400-435 litres depending on baler type
- Front linkage tanks are optional equipment
- Single gear pump with up to 12 litre per minute capacity
- Designed for acids and water based inoculants
- Designed to keep up with the balers capacity
- PFC Agri Solutions control terminal
- Set time and bale weight
- Setting litres per minute is also possible
- Set litres per tonne to be applied
- Links to tractors 7 pin ISO plug to pause the pump when the tractor is stationary



To be in with a chance of winning this amazing prize, simply go to [www.tama-uk.co.uk](http://www.tama-uk.co.uk) and complete your competition entry.

The winner will be drawn in June 2021 and will be contacted shortly after to arrange delivery.

*Good luck!*

**Tama**  
FARM GROWN SOLUTIONS



Crop Professionals' Association®

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