

Krone Comprima Baler/Wrapper

“Hay makers never know what side of the bed Mother Nature is going to get up on,” says Brent Raines, northern region product manager for Krone North America.

“The increasing use of baleage by farmers and ranchers is a change I’m seeing. Long practiced in Europe, the use of plastic-wrapped high moisture forage is becoming increasingly popular in the U.S. as growers face increasingly unpredictable weather,” he explains.

“In late May some of our customers in Ohio faced a 60% chance of rain when they started their day, only to see forecasts drop that percentage to 20 by midday, and then saw the evening weather report put the chance of rain at 40%,” he says. “Growers throughout the country face this kind of uncertainty, and the heavy rains many faced last season forced them into dealing with baleage to feed their cows.”

As the winter show season progressed, Raines says he noticed increasing numbers of questions about baleage to skirt the uncertainties of the weather. He also noted the increasing use of cover crops — tillage radishes, clovers, rye and others — also are offering growers new opportunities to take additional forage as baleage options.

“Everyone’s trying to do more with less, and in an unpredictable window, so they want to shorten haying from a week’s work to a couple of days and they’re looking at plastic wrap as the way to do it,” he explains.

Raines says Krone’s Comprima CV150 XC baler/wrapper allows one operator with one tractor to make wrapped bales on the go. “We used this combination at a recent field day in Columbia, Mo., over a 7 day period,” Raines explains. “During that week, only 2 days were without rain and the machine ran every day.”

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