

Machinery/Technology

Deere tracks bale moisture on the go

By DAN CRUMMETT

JOHN Deere's new on-the-go hay moisture-monitoring system earned this month's unanimous Editors' Choice award as the pick of new products for May.

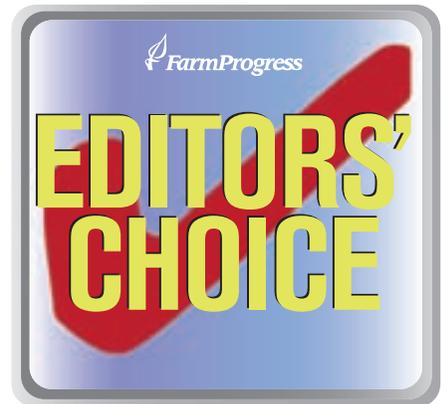
Whether running at night or ahead of a thunderstorm, the system keeps track of forage moisture as it's being baled. By

maintaining moisture in a given range, producers can cut down on moldy hay and "composting" in the barn that can cause spontaneous combustion and hay fires.

The instrument has many features, including multisensor technology for readings displayed in 0.1% increments; a large, illuminated LCD display and keypad for day-and-night operation; an operating

range from 8% to 30+%, depending upon the type of baler used. It's easily installed on Deere's small square and large round balers, and works with all brands of machines.

The tester also allows the operator to make plus or minus adjustments, depending on the type of hay and baling conditions, and to set high and low mois-



ture-reading limits. Also, the tester can be recalibrated between bales to ensure bale-to-bale accuracy.

The new monitor is introduced along with another John Deere monitor that keeps track of local weather in real time, and keeps the operator abreast of temperatures, humidity, the boundaries of incoming weather fronts, etc.

For more information, visit www.johndeere.com.

Tom Bechman, Indiana Prairie Farmer: "Where was this hay tester when we baled 35 years ago? The hay moisture tester introduces a whole new level of sophistication into haymaking."

Richard Davis, Carolina-Virginia Farmer: "Ain't technology grand! Like GPS navigation, for example, I love little tricks that can wind up saving you lots of money. This hay moisture tester looks like it falls into that category. If it saves your hay from becoming moldy once or prevents one spontaneous fire, it could quickly pay for itself many times over. It looks handy and easy to calibrate."

Lon Tonneson, Dakota Farmer: "Precision farming comes to forage production! Pretty cool. Anything that makes it easier to know exactly when hay is too wet or dry to bale seems like it would be a good investment. It may take some of the art out of making good hay, though."



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MOISTURE METER: John Deere's new moisture monitor provides hay producers on-the-go readings of forage moisture running through the baler.