

# Using a DewPoint Steamer to Minimize Leaf Loss During Hay Baling

**Logan Staheli, Staheli West - Cedar City, UT USA**



Logan Staheli grew up on a large hay farm in Southern Utah. After graduating high school, he became a missionary and was assigned to live in Germany for 2 years. When he returned home, he worked for the family business while attending Southern Utah University where he graduated with his Masters in Business Administration. Over the past 10 years he has worked in many different areas at Staheli West. Now as one of the owners, he wears many hats. However, his main roles are in marketing, parts, and other business development tasks.

Staheli West, located in Cedar City, Utah, manufactures 2 versions of hay steamers. The DewPoint 331 hay steamer is used in the 2-tie, 3-tie, and round bale markets. The DewPoint 6210 is used in the large square bale market. Both machines use a boiler and diesel fired burner to turn water into steam. The steam is applied to the cured hay during the baling process through a series of distribution manifolds mounted onto the baler. The steam is injected into the hay at the pickup of the baler and further as the hay passes through the feed chamber. Steam application during baling significantly reduces leaf loss compared to baling with natural dew. Researchers at the University of Wisconsin conducted field experiments on the effects of steam on hay during the baling process. They found that compared to dew rehydration, steam re-hydration reduced baler leaf loss by an average of 58% for large square balers and 43% for 3-tie balers. In another study from the University of Wisconsin, leaf percentage was shown to account for 71% of the variation in alfalfa quality. Reducing leaf loss is important and baling with steam is proven to be very effective.