HarvesTimes

The journal for agricultural professionals

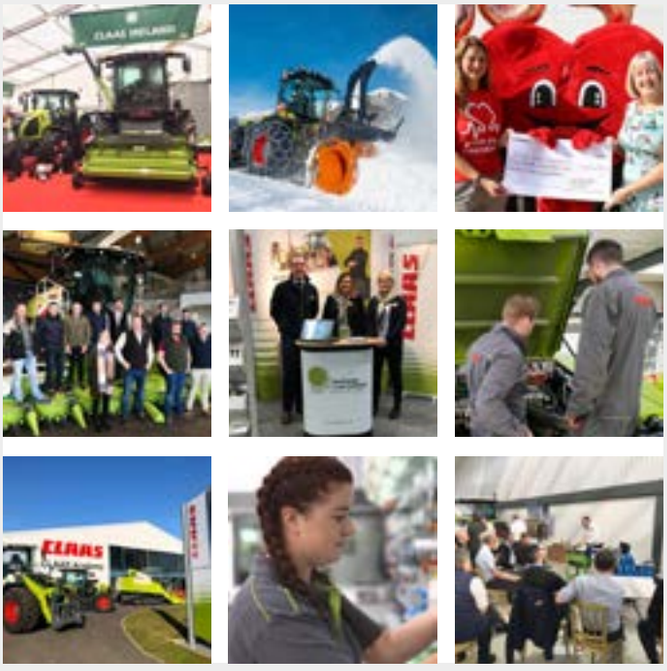
04.19

CLAAS and product news
Customer and dealer stories

CLAAS

Get involved with CLAAS UK on Social Media

Make sure you are always informed about all that's new in the world of CLAAS UK – new products, shows, demos and special offers. Follow Throwback Thursday and see how our products have evolved over the decades. Hear what our customers have to say and watch their video footage, there are some great testimonials taken in the workplace. And follow your local dealer on their facebook page too to find out about local job opportunities, events and machine demonstrations closer to home.



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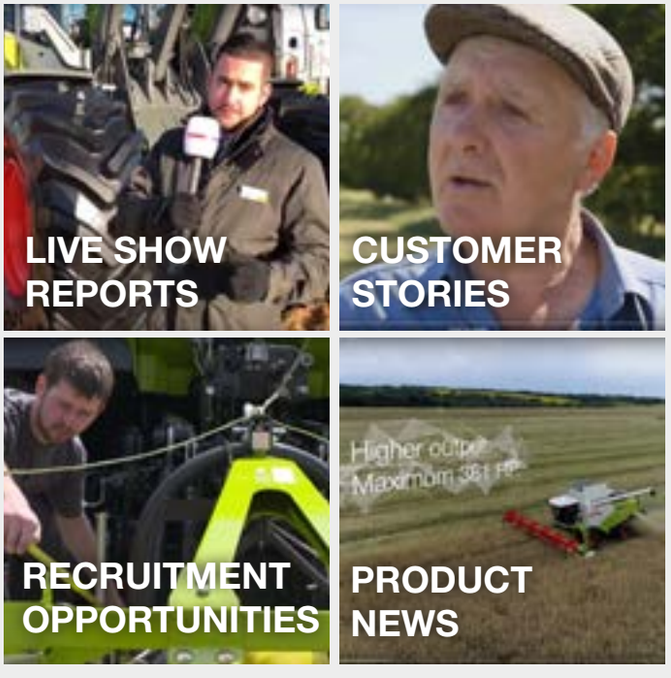


Website

claas.co.uk

YouTube

http://bit.ly/CUK_youtube

Contents

MANNS have moved in

MANNS has now moved into Phase One of the redevelopment on its existing Saxham site and can now boast having one of the most modern agricultural workshops in the industry. State of the art facilities include a fully manoeuvrable 5 tonne overhead crane, 10 working bays in a fire station layout for ease of access, a pneumatic oil dispense system and a unique internal covered wash down area. Health and safety has also been a prime consideration. The vast workshop is light and airy and comes with many new facilities for the engineers including a new shower block and break out rest room.

"We consider this a showcase dealership offering the very latest in both employee and customer experience," states Richard Vaughan, Director – Retail Operations . "We are very proud of what we have achieved and the investment will certainly bring long term benefits to the business as our customer base expands.

"The second phase is now under way with anticipated completion in March 2020, and will include a totally new Parts operation for MANNS, in line with the most modern dealerships today."

Contact us on: 01284 763100
Email: cuk.reception@claas.com
or visit claas.co.uk
www.facebook.com/CLAAS.UnitedKingdom

MCCARTHY celebrate 25 years

Congratulations to MCCARTHY who celebrate 25 years in business this year. Based at Carrigtwohill near Cork McCarthy opened a second branch at Lisavaird near Clonakilty in 2013. To mark their 25 years milestone MCCARTHY hosted a two day open house event in March at Carrigtwohill, to thank their loyal customer base for their past business and to welcome new customers, showcasing the very latest products from CLAAS and their key franchises.

The RICKERBY Show comes of age

The RICKERBY Show, an annual event at the Carlisle headquarters, always takes place during the first full week of March, and has become a definite 'go to' event on the calendar for farmers and contractors in the North of England. The show never ceases to please, with over 4,000 customers passing though the Carlisle branch this year over the 2 days, where RICKERBY had an impressive line up of the very latest CLAAS kit on show.

Visitors were greeted by an impressive line-up of JAGUAR forage harvesters.

Centre stage was a new JAGUAR 880 carrying the special 40,000th branding.

The 'calm before the storm'. An extensive range of CLAAS machinery was ready for visitors to this year's show.

Dealer excellence recognised

Colin Blow of CLAAS EASTERN (right) receives the CLAAS Platinum Dealer Excellence Award from Christian Radons (President Western Europe, CLAAS Service & Sales).

The CLAAS Dealer Awards recognise the outstanding level of Sales, Service and Support that their dealers across the UK and Ireland attain every year. The awards recognise overall dealer performance for both CLAAS products in general and also specifically for tractors.

One Platinum and two Gold Dealer Excellence Awards were awarded along with two tractor specific awards - one for CLAAS Tractor Sales Performance and one for CLAAS Tractor Sales Growth.

The Dealer Excellence Awards recognise the considerable investments made by the dealers in Training, Parts and Service Support, as well as Sales, Finance and Management. They take into account all aspects of the dealer's business, and the company's commitment to its staff and to the CLAAS franchise.

CLAAS EASTERN WIN PRESTIGIOUS AWARD

The highest Platinum Dealer Excellence Award was presented to CLAAS EASTERN, which has a total of seven branches covering Lincolnshire, Nottinghamshire and Yorkshire. For a dealership with so many branches and over 100 employees, to win this highest level award is a considerable achievement. Each dealership was individually evaluated using a number of assessment criteria and every branch reached the platinum standard in CLAAS EASTERN.

HAMBLYS AND RIKERBY COLLECT GOLD AWARD

Two further dealers HAMBLYS and RICKERBY were presented with Gold Dealer Excellence Awards. With a total of six and eight branches respectively, both qualified for the prestigious gold award this year.

For the third year running the CLAAS Tractor Sales Performance Award was won by a dealer from Ireland. This Award recognises the CLAAS dealership that has achieved the highest level of tractor sales per branch in 12 months, and was presented to ASHFIELD & WILSON, a single branch family dealership based in Dungannon Co. Tyrone.

TRACTOR AWARD FOR RIVERLEA

The Tractor Sales Growth Award recognises the dealer that has achieved the highest growth in CLAAS tractor sales in the UK and Ireland. This was awarded to RIVERLEA, also a family run dealership, operating from three branches across South Wales.

"This year's CLAAS Dealer Awards again highlight the professionalism within our dealer network throughout the UK and Ireland," stated Trevor Tyrrell, CLAAS UK CEO. "That three of our largest multi-branch dealerships in the UK should achieve such high appraisal ratings across the whole of their businesses to win their Platinum and Gold Dealer Excellence Awards is evidence of the commitment these dealers have made in their businesses. It is also encouraging to see so many family run dealerships receiving awards, as it reflects the obvious loyalty that these businesses have within their local farming community, and the success that this has brought them."

Nicola Jones of RIVERLEA (right) receives the CLAAS Tractor Sales Growth Award from Alister Lamb (CLAAS Tractor, Director Sales & Marketing).

Ken Conley of RICKERBY (right) receives the CLAAS Gold Dealer Excellence Award from Christian Radons (President Western Europe, CLAAS Service & Sales).

Steve Barrett of HAMBLYS (right) receives the CLAAS Gold Dealer Excellence Award from Christian Radons (President Western Europe, CLAAS Service & Sales).

Nigel and Karon Wilson of ASHFIELD & WILSON of Dungannon, Co Tyrone receive the CLAAS Tractor Sales Performance Award from CLAAS UK CEO Trevor Tyrrell, for the highest number of sales from a single branch in 12 months.

Outstanding Training Recognition

CLAAS were delighted to receive from the Agmachinery Trade News Excellence Awards the 'Manufacturer Excellence Award for Training Support' in recognition of the excellent level of training provided by CLAAS, and the company's commitment to providing an industry renowned training programme for service engineers.

The CLAAS UK 'Engineer your Career' campaign has also been very well recognised within the industry.

CLAAS Academy Manager Andrew Dunne was presented with the award at the Concord Experience at Manchester Airport, where the winners and guests were able to tour the iconic aircraft. The awards were created to recognise and reward excellence within the farm machinery industry and winners are voted for by those working in the industry.

In recognising CLAAS for its apprenticeship and general training, one of the nominees stated:

"As concerns over the availability of skilled engineers to meet the demands of working on highly technical equipment is raised, such initiatives by CLAAS UK are essential to deliver an efficient and safe UK agricultural industry." This is summarised by a quote from Andrew Dunne; "Apprentices are our future and they're essential to our business growth. Growing up in our company, they have practical hands-on skills, theoretical knowledge and really understand the needs of our customers".

Andrew Dunne was presented with the 'Manufacturer Excellence Award for Training Support' by Amanda Latham of sponsors De Lacy Executive.

CLAAS Scholars

Congratulations to Harper Adams University students, Lewis Hamilton and Will Flittner who were presented with their CLAAS Scholarship certificates by Paula Gwinnett, Senior Lecturer for Engineering at Harper Adams University.

Lewis, who was the 2016/17 winner, is now back at Harper Adams for his final year of studies after a year working with CLAAS. 'During the course of the year Lewis had the opportunity to work in Spain and East Germany field testing machinery.

From this summer, Will will begin work with CLAAS, firstly at the UK headquarters in Saxham and then for 12 months at the CLAAS headquarters in Harsewinkel, Germany, alongside other students from around the world.

The CLAAS Scholarship is a personal award from Helmut Claas that was launched over 10 years ago. The award is open to students at a number of agricultural engineering universities in Europe, including Harper Adams University.

The award is open to second year engineering students, the winner receiving £3,000 for the second and subsequent years at university. They are also awarded a work placement for a year with CLAAS, working both with CLAAS UK at Saxham and at the CLAAS Group headquarters in Germany.

Harriet Simpson – CLAAS Parts Apprentice 2018 graduate

Last autumn saw 25 students receive their CLAAS Agricultural Apprenticeship graduation certificates at a ceremony held at the CLAAS Academy at Saxham.

Included in the 25 was Harriet Simpson, who having completed the CLAAS Parts Sales & Marketing Apprenticeship, is now working as a Parts technician for CLAAS Eastern at Markham Moor. In addition to her certificate, she also received the overall 'Best Vehicle Parts Apprentice' award from Reaseheath College.

Although not from a farming background, Harriet says that when looking at apprenticeship options, the CLAAS course appealed to her because it offered something different.

"I looked at various apprenticeship options and just thought that the option of the parts apprenticeship with CLAAS EASTERN looked interesting because it was different."

"The training element at Reaseheath was really good and enjoyable. CLAAS look to really help you progress within your career by providing further training. Everyone is really helpful and you feel like you are part of the CLAAS family."

"The company invest a lot of time and money in each individual to help them get the most out of their training and allow you the flexibility to make your own path as you progress."

"No two days are the same and I enjoy meeting the different types of customer, whether they are from a large estate or smallholdings, and sorting out their requirements when they come in."

For more information on career opportunities with CLAAS go to: **claas.co.uk/company/jobs-careers-uk**

ENGINEER YOUR CAREER with a CLAAS Apprenticeship

ENGINEER YOUR CAREER™
Call: 0800 0234414

"Agriculture is an exciting industry, with machinery that uses state-of-the art technology on a par with aerospace" explains Trevor Tyrrell, CEO of CLAAS UK.

Pushing the boundaries of technology in agricultural machinery is at the heart of everything family-owned company CLAAS does.

The combination of strong family values and industry-leading engineering also means its 500 worldwide vocational trainees are on an exciting career path.

Supported to engineer their career from the moment they start, many of the companies 308 graduate apprentices have progressed to senior roles within their dealerships or with CLAAS UK.

"It's an exciting place for young people to prosper. I should know. Many years ago, I joined CLAAS through its university graduate management trainee programme. Agriculture has embraced the internet, satellite technology and computers like no other as we continue to develop machinery to help farmers feed an ever-growing population. Joining as an apprentice is a real opportunity shape the future of agriculture," adds Trevor Tyrrell.
Ambitious young service engineers can join a CLAAS dealer straight from college as a qualified service engineer or enrol on the four-year renowned CLAAS Agricultural Apprenticeship Scheme.

STRUCTURED HANDS-ON TRAINING

Now in its eighteenth year, the CLAAS Agricultural Apprenticeship Scheme has become one the agricultural industry's leading apprenticeship schemes.

25 students graduated from the CLAAS Agricultural and Parts Marketing Apprenticeship courses in 2018

CLAAS Master Technicans – our most qualified engineers on a trip to the factory in Harsewinkel.

Service engineer apprentices can enrol at either Reaseheath College in Cheshire or SRUC Barony in Scotland. For their first three years, trainees gain invaluable hands-on experience at a CLAAS dealer whilst attending college on a block release basis. In their final year before graduating they gain further insight into CLAAS as a company with leading industry training.

The growth in the CLAAS Apprenticeship scheme is evident, with 76 students currently on the Landbased Service Engineering apprenticeship scheme. At the end of programme, graduates achieve either a Landbased Service Engineering Technician Level 3 standard from Reaseheath or an IMI Extended Diploma in Landbased Technology Level 3 from Barony.

The management and availability of parts is also an integral process in the aftersales support system, offering fantastic career prospects. In 2014, CLAAS were one of the first manufacturers to offer a two-year Parts Sales & Marketing Apprenticeship at Reaseheath. Upon graduation apprentices achieve an IMI Level 3 in Vehicle Parts Operations award.

A CHANCE TO ENGINEER YOUR CAREER

As a CLAAS graduate apprentice, the future is exciting. Equipped to provide the highest levels of product sales, services and support to customers, they feel ready and supported to engineer their own career path.

Training and continual learning is a way of life at CLAAS. Graduate apprentices can accelerate their career with annual training, progressing to higher level Master Mechanic and Master Technician roles, and senior management roles if they wish to do so.

You don't have to look far within CLAAS UK to find those in senior sales, service and support roles, either at Saxham or within dealerships, who started their careers as an apprentice or graduate trainee.

The opportunity is here today to Engineer Your Career for tomorrow.

For more information on career opportunities with CLAAS visit:

claas.co.uk/company/jobs-careers-uk

We are currently recruiting for our Apprenticeship placements in Landbased Engineering for the 2019 / 2020 intake in September.

Call Kerry Peck, Apprenticeship and Placement Coordinator, for an informal chat and some further details on 01284 777649, or email kerry.peck@claas.com

Record results

CLAAS has announced record results for its 2018 financial year. Sales rose to a new record of €3.889 billion from €3.761 billion in 2017, while profit before taxes increased to €226 million, up from €184 million.

- **Sales rose 3.4% to €3.88 billion**
- **Profit before taxes rose to €226 million**
- **Record €233 million investment in research and development**
- **Number of employees increased to 11,132 with 714 trainees**

“We have continued our growth in a volatile market environment and once again significantly improved our profitability. A strong impetus originated from Germany and Western Europe in particular,” said Hermann Lohbeck, speaker of the CLAAS Executive Board.

The global market for professional agricultural technology developed stably this year, in line with expectations. CLAAS noticeably improved revenue in core countries including Germany, France and the United Kingdom. In Eastern Europe, a slight project-related decline in sales could be observed. A mixed picture emerged in the countries outside of Europe. While sales in North America increased in the local currency, China recorded a decline as a result of market uncertainty.

The investments made in research and development reached a new record of €233 million and have doubled over the past ten years. Major innovations launched during the past year include the JAGUAR 960 TERRA TRAC, which is the first forage harvester with an integrated crawler track system and the new ORBIS corn header that provides an optimal crop flow. Also launched was the latest generation TUCANO combine harvester range with an expanded range of models and the option of hillside versions. Completing the line-up of new machinery were the ROLLANT 540 round baler and the DISCO MOVE front mower.

CLAAS has also been investing in its fixed assets, including the modernisation of the main assembly line at the Le Mans tractor factory and a new high-bay warehouse is being built in Hamm, which will double capacity to 58,000 pallet bays. A new test centre for machine components has been completed at Harsewinkel and in addition to the redevelopment of the CLAAS UK headquarters at Saxham, a new distribution centre is also being built in France.

Looking forward, CLAAS expects stable development in the global agricultural engineering markets for the current 2019 fiscal year, resulting in a further rise in sales revenue and a stable result before taxes.

Customer Factory Visits

The visitor centres at both the CLAAS headquarters at Harsewinkel and the CLAAS Tractor factory at Le Mans regularly play host to groups from CLAAS UK dealers and their customers. In all, some 60 customers have visited Harsewinkel over the past year and 280 have been to Le Mans, including groups from SELLARS in Scotland and KELLYS in Ireland (pictured).

The factory visits are always a great success and give customers a chance to see just what it takes to manufacture a combine, a forage harvester or a tractor and at the same time, allowing our customers the opportunity to relax and enjoy some CLAAS hospitality.

200 combine deal for Iraq

In a sign of the returning stability within Iraq, CLAAS has won a Ministry of Agriculture contract to supply 200 new DOMINATOR combine harvesters, along with the associated aftersales service and spare parts support. Historically CLAAS machinery has sold well in Iraq, but that came to a halt in 2005 as the country and its economy spiralled into decline due to war and civil unrest.

The 200 new DOMINATOR combines ordered by the Ministry of Agriculture will be distributed to regional warehouses, from where they will mainly be used by contractors. As part of the order, the combines have been specified with 175hp engines and the grain tank has had to be mounted 20cm higher than normal. To support the machines, a team from Iraq has also visited Harsewinkel for technology training, that can then be passed on to local teams in Iraq.

Delivery of the new combines has been completed in three batches.

The initial batch of 50 machines was followed by a further 131 and then the final 20, including an additional combine for training.

Working with an Iraqi sales partner, the combines were firstly transported by train and road to northern Turkey, from where the sales partner arranged security and escorts for the more dangerous onward leg through northern Iraq.

Meeting in Virtual Space

With 11 production plants spread across the world, ranging from Omaha, USA in the west to Gaomi in China, until now communicating between teams, especially when developing new products involving a number of plants and teams, has been time consuming and often involved a considerable amount of time travelling between countries.

However, all that looks set to change thanks to the use of Virtual Reality (VR) headset technology that has been trialled at the CLAAS production plants at Vélizy and Le Mans in France, Omaha in the USA and at Harsewinkel.

Like a lot of technology finding its way into industry, the use of virtual rooms and VR headsets originates from the gaming industry. The VR concept is not new and has been around for many years, but what has changed is the processing speed, mobility and the cost of the technology.

Using virtual rooms and VR, rather than team members having to travel to a single location to discuss a new product or component, from their own office or a meeting room by using virtual space and VR headsets, individual members are able to see or project a virtual image of the component or product. The items can be turned around and inspected from all sides with all the team members being able to see and discuss the project in real time.

And it doesn't stop there, just as simulators are increasingly being used in industries such as aviation, motor racing and the military, so we are starting to see the development of driving simulators with real system responses which will revolutionise product and operator training in the future.

40,000th JAGUAR rolls off the

The 40,000th JAGUAR to be manufactured since production started in 1973 recently rolled off the production line at Harsewinkel.

Over the last 46 years, the JAGUAR has become the world's leading self-propelled forage harvester and the name is synonymous with high output, cost efficient forage harvesting. This success is also down to the innovative solutions introduced over the years, the latest of which is the new TERRA TRAC version, which won a gold medal at this year's SIMA show.

The origins of the JAGUAR forage harvester go back to 1969 when CLAAS bought Bautz, who were based at Saulgau and manufactured mowers, tedders and rakes. Soon after this they also had the opportunity to buy out Speiser, who had developed a tractor drawn forager for harvesting grass and maize.

This coincided with a rapid increase in maize cultivation and it quickly became apparent that mounted and trailed foragers were reaching their performance limits. CLAAS was quick to recognise the potential and in June 1973 unveiled a high-performance self-propelled forage harvester, the JAGUAR 60SF, powered by a 120hp engine. In 1975 this was joined by the 213hp JAGUAR 80SF, which introduced features such as the ability to separate the chopping cylinder and the intake roller, a discharge blower and an automatic guidance system.

Eight years later in 1983, the next generation of JAGUAR forage harvester was launched, which brought to the market new features such as an accelerator in the chute, a corn cracker for maize and joystick control of all the main functions. Initially comprising four models, the JAGUAR 690, 685, 680 and 675 went on to become the market leader in Europe with sales of more than 7,000 units. Five years later, the SL and MEGA range brought the range to six models with engine outputs between 354 hp and 215 hp. New features included a V-type drum and staggered knives.

The JAGUAR 800 model series made its debut in small-scale pre-series production in 1993. Unlike previous models, the engines of the

production line

1969
CLAAS buys forage harvester manufacturer Speiser

1973
Launch of the JAGUAR 60SF (120hp)

1975
JAGUAR 80SF (213hp)

1977
JAGUAR 70SF (150/175hp)

1983
JAGUAR 690, 680, 685 and 675 (300-173hp)

1988
JAGUAR 690, 685, 680 and 675 (300-173hp)

1993
JAGUAR 880, 860, 840, 820, 800SL and 800S (481-310hp)

1994
10,000th JAGUAR
RU450 row independent maize header

1998
15,000th JAGUAR

2001
JAGUAR 900, 890, 870, 850 and 830 (605-321hp)

2003
JAGUAR SPEEDSTAR (40kph)
ORBIS 600 and DIRECT DISC headers introduced

2005
JAGUAR GREENEYE

2006
20,000th JAGUAR

2007
JAGUAR 980, 970, 960, 950, 940 and 930 (884-428hp)

2008
25,000th JAGUAR

2009
AUTO FILL launched

2011
30,000th JAGUAR
DYNAMIC POWER introduced

2014
JAGUAR 870, 860, 850 and 840 (585-408hp)

2015
SHREDLAGE concept

2017
JAGUAR 980, 970, 960, 950, 940 and 930 (884-462hp)

2018
JAGUAR TERRA TRAC 880 introduced for UK & Ireland'

2019
40,000th JAGUAR

new model series, whose outputs ranged from 310 hp to 481 hp, were fitted transversely behind the steering axle. This simple, direct drive system, which is still at the heart of JAGUAR foragers today, ensured maximum power transfer with minimal losses, an optimal supply of cooling air and easy access to the interior of the machine.

This innovative configuration set the standard for the advanced forage harvesters used around the world today. Thanks to the favourable drive axle loading, it became possible for the first time to fit eight-row maize front attachments. An accelerator was placed directly behind the Corncracker to speed up the flow of chopped material.

By 2001 and the arrival of the JAGUAR 900, power output reached 605 hp and it featured a completely new design of cab in which all the main functions could be easily adjusted and monitored via a terminal. The 2003 season saw the launch of the high-speed SPEEDSTAR version with a top speed of 40 km/h. The legendary GREEN EYE, launched in 2005, delivered 623 hp along with numerous innovations for even greater efficiency and user convenience.

The next big step in the JAGUAR story came in 2007 with the introduction of the JAGUAR 900 series which offered outstanding performance and supreme chop quality. The new models were equipped with a wide range of engine outputs, a new intelligent engine control system, continuous moisture measurement, the convenience of the CEBIS system and a new V-MAX chopping cylinder. The AUTO-FILL automatic filling system in the JAGUAR 900 was awarded a gold medal at Agritechnica 2009. Another new introduction was DYNAMIC POWER which matches power output to demand.

The current JAGUAR 800 series was launched in 2014 followed in 2017 by the latest JAGUAR 900 range, featuring an infinitely variable front attachment drive, a further enhanced crop flow system and a new chassis concept.

A new world first was introduced in 2018 with the development of the JAGUAR TERRA TRAC, plus the new 626hp JAGUAR 880 was introduced specifically for the UK and Ireland.

New KAWECO tank system for CLAAS XERION

On 5th March this year, a team from Kaweco came across to the UK to put the first Kaweco polytank system for CLAAS XERION tractors sold in the UK, to work. This new slurry tank system has been supplied by WESTERN Dorchester to Phil Trim Contractors in Bere Regis.

The day started with technical training and full operating instructions for the CLAAS service engineers as well as the staff from Phil Trim Contractors. The Kaweco 16,000L polytank is specially designed for the CLAAS XERION saddletrac, which is fitted with a front docking arm with a centrifugal Turbofiller. The 12,000 l/min Vogelsang lobe pump is fitted at the back of the tractor and can be demounted without lifting the polytank.

After lunch the group went into the field in order to fill up the XERION with its first loads of slurry. Phil Trim and the CLAAS service engineers then tried several functions and set-ups of the new tank. Altogether it was an interesting day and an opportunity to get familiar with the system.

We wish Phil Trim and his team a lot of success with their new XERION 4000 Kaweco system.

The Dutch manufacturer Kaweco is building a full range of slurry tankers for the CLAAS XERION tractors, including the 16,000L polytank in addition to swanneck tankers from 21,000L up to 30,000L that can be customized.

If you want more info about the Kaweco range, contact your local CLAAS dealer, or contact:

Wilfried Buiël sales support GB Tel. +31653165546 or go to KAWECO.COM

EASY on-board app now with Task Controller basic

The latest version of the EASY on-board app that allows ISOBUS enabled machines to be operated using an iPad, now also incorporates the ISOBUS Task Controller basic (TC BAS) documentation function.

The TC BAS documentation function can be used with any AEF-certified field maps. Job data is exchanged by email in ISO-XML file format, so ensuring that a scheduled job file can be easily imported into the app or a completed order exported to the Farm Management system for further processing.

The TC BAS function in the EASY on-board app is AEF-certified, which means that it is compatible with any AEF-certified Farm Management software. Compatibility can be checked in the AEF ISOBUS database (www.aef-isobus-database.org).

An extended range of functions is available when the EASY on-board app is linked to 365FarmNet. Data is exchanged directly via the Internet, eliminating the need to send email attachments. This makes it possible to create jobs in 365FarmNet, then access and process them in the app. Alternatively, new jobs can be created, processed and saved in the app, then viewed in 365FarmNet. This means less time is spent on documentation and it can be done straight from the machine.

TURN AN IPAD INTO AN ISOBUS TERMINAL

The EASY on-board app turns an iPad into an ISOBUS terminal (UT). All that's needed is the tablet with the app, a mount in the cab to hold the tablet and the CLAAS Wireless Interface (CWI). The CWI wirelessly connects the iPad to ISOBUS, allowing the driver to control selected functions directly from the machine using the iPad. The ISOBUS function buttons in the tractor or on the joystick can also be configured using the ISOBUS auxiliary function (AUX-O) in the cab. A connection kit for easy ISOBUS wiring is available for older tractors.

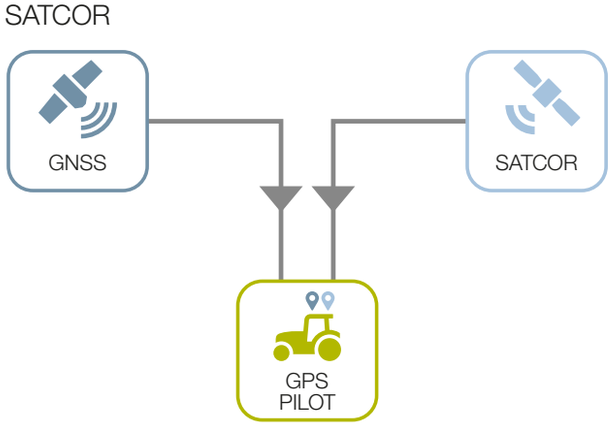
New SATCOR correction signal

CLAAS has to launched a new satellite-aided correction signal. Called SATCOR, it is available worldwide and suitable for virtually all agricultural applications from drilling to harvesting.

The SATCOR correction signal is transmitted by geostationary satellites. The signal supports both GPS and GLONASS and is compatible with the European Galileo system. No additional receiver hardware is required. A CLAAS steering system with S10 supplied from April 2017 or S7 terminal supplied from October 2018 onwards is all that is needed to receive the signal. The suitability of current terminals to receive the signal can be easily assessed by checking their hardware number.

SATCOR has an accuracy of better than 15 cm and is suitable for grassland, cultivating, fertilising, drilling cereals, and crop protection as well as for combine and forage harvesting operations. This makes it a reliable alternative to correction signals that are freely available but sometimes usable only to a limited extent.

With SATCOR an initial investment in additional hardware is not required if an S10 or S7 terminal is available. An annual licence for SATCOR can be obtained from your CLAAS dealer. The signal becomes available for steering correction as soon as the licence number is entered in the S10 or S7 terminal.



PROACTIV front suspensio

The NEXOS narrow-width tractor is now available with a suspended, 4-wheel-drive front axle. The PROACTIV suspension ensures greater comfort both for fieldwork or when travelling on the road, and is available for the VE, VL and F NEXOS models.

The new PROACTIV front axle suspension uses two slanted, outwards-facing suspension rams that support the tractor's weight, which are located behind the axle to protect them from damage. These provide passive roll stabilisation when cornering and guarantee optimal driving comfort when travelling along roads or rural tracks or when working in the fields. Journeys when carrying or towing heavy equipment are also made safer, as the tractor and its attachment are less likely to rock.

The double-action suspension offers 80 mm of spring travel, so absorbing most of the shocks to which the tractor is subjected when in use. The turning circle remains the same as that of the standard front axle. The suspended front axle can be driven in three different modes from the cab: automatic, manual and deactivated. In manual mode, the height can be adjusted with the help of a potentiometer. This helps make it easier, for example, when attaching equipment. Automatic mode counterbalances load changes and keeps the suspension in a central position for optimal spring travel.

The NEXOS range comprises 14 tractor models with different outputs and dimensions. All models have a smooth-running FPT 4-cylinder engine which features a high torque and extremely low vibration. Engine output ranges from 75 hp to 112 hp, or up to 103 hp in the NEXOS VE which is designed for use in particularly narrow vineyard rows. In the top NEXOS 250 VL and 250 F models with CLAAS POWER MANAGEMENT (CPM), the 103 hp engine delivers a boost of up to 9 hp during PTO and transport work and achieves a maximum torque of 440 Nm.

PUSH BUTTON ENGINE SPEED ADJUSTMENT

With electronic common rail injection, the NEXOS has an engine speed memory as standard and a second engine speed memory is available as an option. The engine speed can be adjusted accurately at the touch of a button. For work with PTO-driven implements, this guarantees the right speed and high efficiency at any time. In these new engines, the service interval is also extended to 600 hours.

n for NEXOS

NEXOS ENGINE DATA

Model	Max. output* (hp)	Max. torque* (Nm)
NEXOS 250 (F and VL only)	112 (including 9 hp boost with CPM**)	440
NEXOS 240	103	406
NEXOS 230	92	366
NEXOS 220	85	334
NEXOS 210	75	309

* ECE R 120

** CPM (CLAAS POWER MANAGEMENT): Additional engine output (boost) available in CLAAS tractors in certain operating situations.

Overall widths for the NEXOS range from 1.0m for the narrowest VE model, to 1.26m for the VL and 1.45m in the F model for orchard work. All the models have a narrow waist to allow a higher steering lock angle, resulting in a much smaller turning radius. The front overhang has been reduced by 88 mm and the wheelbase extended by 50 mm to make the tractors even more manoeuvrable and give maximum directional stability. An optionally available automatic four-wheel drive system with steering angle sensor, which automatically switches off the four-wheel drive function from a certain steering lock angle, for example at the headland, contributes to the outstanding manoeuvrability of the NEXOS tractors.

DRIVER COMFORT

The low transmission tunnel, optimised layout of the controls and digital colour display in the instrument panel afford more space and greater comfort for the driver. In addition to the cable feedthrough at the rear, the NEXOS has a cable feedthrough to the front as standard so that front-mounted implements with their own control systems can be operated without opening the cab window.

NEW TRANSMISSION

Five different transmissions based around 4 gears in 3 ranges are available in the NEXOS, including a new option of a 24 forward and reverse ‘box with mechanical splitter and REVERSHIFT clutchless reverser.

The NEXOS is available with two different hydraulic outputs. A hydraulic pump with a delivery rate of 60 l/min provides an efficient supply to all hydraulic consumers. For demanding hydraulic drives and combined applications, a hydraulic system with a 60 l/min pump for the spool valves and a 27 l/min pump for the rear linkage is available. Up to four mechanical spool valves are possible and four electronic spool valves can also be installed to extend the range of spool valve capabilities, operated by two electronic rocker switches and the ELECTROPILOT four-way control lever. All the electronic valves come with flow control, and the rocker switches also have time control.

The front-mounting option offers many detailed solutions for greater flexibility. Additional hydraulic connections for a spool valve and a free-flow return line directly on the front linkage are optionally available in all models. As an alternative to the conventional PTO with 1000 rpm, an economy PTO with 540 ECO rpm for front-mounted implements is also available on NEXOS tractors.

An all-round forage service

As farmers needs have changed, so Alvis Contracting has also adapted and now looks to work more closely with its customers, including providing advice and helping them to gain more from their crops.

Based just south of Bristol, Alvis Contracting started life in the 1980s as a machinery division within farmers and cheddar cheese producers Alvis Bros, who produce some 3,200 tonnes of conventional and 1,300 tonnes of organic cheddar a year.

Today, harvesting grass silage for the company's 1000 dairy cows accounts for about 15% of the annual silage workload. The remainder is spread over a range of conventional and organic farms, covering an area from the Severn Estuary up onto the Mendip hills.

"The relationship we have with our customers has changed a lot over the last few years," says Daniel Harding, who joined the company as a machinery operator in 1989 and now co-owns it with Alvis Bros.

MAXIMISING FEED FROM FORAGE

"No longer do we look to just turn up, put silage in the clamp and go. A lot of dairy farmers are wanting to maximise their feed from forage as it's a cheap way to produce milk. They are looking to take multiple cuts, little and often, which means that instead of traditionally starting in May, we now start in early April and finish later, which is good for us.

"We look to work closer with them, providing them with advise and help on things like overseeding, ley management and how to manage their forage systems in order to help them achieve their aims. We also supply seed and a soil sampling service, and have recently taken on Matthew Green who is a trained nutritionist and general manager within the farm services team."

To handle this workload and to ensure that they can provide a prompt, timely service, Alvis Contracting run a team of three JAGUAR foragers, led by a JAGUAR 950, with support from two 870s. An older 870 is used as a back-up machine. The three lead JAGUAR foragers were bought new in 2018 from CLAAS WESTERN at Frome as part of a multi-machine deal that also included a set of DISCO 9400 reverse drive mowers, two LINER 3600 rakes, a LINER 2900 rake and a QUADRANT 4200 baler.

DEALER SUPPORT

"We have been running JAGUAR foragers since 1989 and have had 15 during that time," states Daniel. "The JAGUAR has always been a good forager and holds its value very well. But just as important is the service support we receive from CLAAS WESTERN and occasionally HAMBLYS when further south, which is key to us. You can't knock the support both provide, no matter where we are, and the ability they have to obtain parts overnight."

"The JAGUAR 950 will be the first forager to go out at the beginning of the season and the last in at the end," says Farm Services Manager James Ball. "Having tried it on our previous foragers, any two JAGUAR foragers can be equipped with SHREDLAGE processors, as many of our customers have found there is a considerable benefit. The longer chop length has enabled them to avoid needing to use straw in the diet. However, here again we have needed to work with them and explain the benefits and why they should change to SHREDLAGE."

DYNAMIC POWER

Having DYNAMIC POWER on all three machines and automatic engine speed reduction at the headland on the JAGUAR 950, all helps reduce fuel use. "We work across a wide range of farms and crops, from smaller farms and fields in the valley to nice big 20+ha fields on the Mendips. Crops also vary considerably, from lighter crops on organic farms to heavier yields from new sown leys, so the ability with DYNAMIC POWER for the engine to match power output to the crop works extremely well," explains James.

TELEMATICS

TELEMATICS has also been specified on all the new JAGs. "The ability to look at idle time and the overall efficiency of each machine is a great benefit," says James. "On longer hauls, it's easy to see that we need more trailers if the forager is obviously spending too long sat there idle."

"Another benefit is that farmers now often have crops in more than one place," adds Daniel. "Using TELEMATICS it's easy to keep track of all the work we have done for a customer, including the little bits they often ask you to do 'while you are there' and the roadwork between fields, which we can then overlay against the DEFRA Magic Maps to ensure accuracy."

YIELD MAPPING

Yield monitoring has also been fitted to the JAGUAR 950. "It's early days and there as an extra service," says James. "But we have already had three customers who are using the information to gain an accurate picture of what they have in the clamp and the feed value for their winter ration. For the future, the yield mapping information could also be used as a basis for variable rate fertiliser application. Again it's all down to providing customers with a complete service," he concludes.

James Ball (left) and Daniel Harding
Contractors | Somerset

“The JAGUAR has always been a good forager and holds its value very well”

Daniel Harding

By Alistair Chambers

“The CARGOS allows us to collect fresh grass for our herd all year round with the ease of a one man show”

Michael McDonnell
600 dairy herd
Co Louth

Based near Termonfeckin in County Louth, the Cannontown dairy herd, owned by Michael McDonnell, is an impressive operation. From the minute you arrive on the farm you can see the precision and attention to detail that Michael insists on in his business.

This exactness is carried all the way through to the machinery on the farm, and by Irish dairy farm standards the size and quality of the machinery being used is second to none. The CLAAS brand is visible in all areas of the forage collection system. There is a CLAAS JAGUAR 850 which is used to collect the majority of the grass and maize that is pitted on the farm, to feed the 1500 head of cattle and the 600 milking cows that are milked 365 days of the year.

The JAGUAR picks up about 800ha of grass and chops 72ha of maize per year. The grass is mowed using a CLAAS 9200C DISCO butterfly unit on the back and a CLAAS 3200FC DISCO PROFIL on the front of a 2015 CLAAS AXION 850.

He said that this outfit gives him the “amazing output he requires when the weather plays ball”. All the grass is tedded using a CLAAS VOLTO and put back in the rows using a CLAAS LINER rake. The front mowing unit is also used in conjunction with the farm’s other piece of forage collection gear, a CLAAS CARGOS 8300. This pair of machines are used all year round to bring fresh grass to the herd and to collect some of the lighter crops where the ability for one man to get grass in is a major advantage.

QUALITY FODDER

Michael believes that the CARGOS has collected 3,000 loads of grass in its 3 years on the farm totalling around 400ha per year. Depending on the dry matter of the grass the CARGOS carries between 6 and 12 tonnes of grass per load. When the CARGOS is working full days, it can easily bring 24ha per day from the field to the yard. Speaking about the wagon Michael said “it allows us to collect fresh grass for our herd all year round with the ease of a one man show”. On the occasions when the CARGOS is used to help the JAGUAR with the pitting of grass, Michael said that the quality of the wagon fodder is comparable to the harvester chopped grass.

Michael has a long history of CLAAS tractors on the farm with the first one arriving in 2006 and only leaving at the beginning of 2019 to be replaced with a new ARION 610. The original tractor was a CLAAS 697 which gave the farm 20,460 hours of near trouble-free service.

Michael said, “all it got during its time on the farm was servicing, diesel and tyres, an amazing machine”. This tractor and its amazing reliability is a large part of the reason that Michael has stayed loyal to the brand since.

The service of his local dealer, LEINSTER FARM MACHINES is also a major factor as to why there is a lot of CLAAS green in the yard. He said that they have provided him and his business with “amazing service 24/7 365 days of the year” which is what this very busy all year-round business requires.

NEW FOR 2019

For silage 2019 there will be a new bigger CARGOS 8400 replacing the current CARGOS 8300. In the 3 years that the wagon has been on the farm, it has become an essential part of the system, keeping this large business using its main forage crop to its maximum potential. Michael’s most important factor when it comes to machinery is that they need to “work for the business literally every day of the year” and he finds that his CLAAS machines are fulfilling his requirements.

“We find the new S10s very easy to set-up and use”

Stuart Meeson | **Limestone Farming Company** | **1,950ha** | Lincolnshire

The ability to share A-B lines across all Limestone Farming Company’s main tractors helps ensure efficiency and consistency.

Like many farming businesses, recent years have seen the Limestone Farming Company progress from LASER PILOT on their LEXION, to simple light bar guidance systems on the combine and tractors, to full RTK based highly accurate auto steering.

Based near Caenby Corner in Lincolnshire, Limestone Farming farm 1950ha of which 1200ha is down to combinable crops. There’s 320ha of grassland for a 320 cow suckler herd and various horse enterprises. The farm also has a 0.5MW AD plant using slurry from a large pig unit, and it uses maize grown on the farm and sugar beet pulp.

AUTO STEERING

“We first started down the auto steering route five years ago as I wanted to get away from LASER PILOT and light bars,” explains manager Stuart Meeson. The first step down this route was to buy a CLAAS S7 terminal when they bought a new LEXION 770 from CLAAS Eastern in 2014. When not being used on the combine, this is swapped over for the rest of the year to their ARION 650 tractor. Three years ago a new AXION 950 was added to the fleet, which was fitted with an S10 terminal and a further S10 was bought last year for use on a new tracked Challenger 755.

ONE TERMINAL FOR EASY COMMUNICATION

“By just staying with the one make of terminal across the main tractors, this means they can all share the same information and A-B lines, which works well especially where we have put in beetle banks as part of mid-TIER,” says Stuart. “With different terminals you would lose the ability for the terminals to talk to each other and we find the new S10s very easy to set-up and use.

“We work to a 32m system, but rather than go down the full controlled traffic route, we just try to avoid compaction as far as possible. The farm is roughly a third limestone soils and two-thirds heavier silt. We mainly use a non-inversion system on the heavier land and just plough the lighter ‘Cliff’ land for maize and sugar beet.

“As our main cultivations tractor, the big AXION is fitted with 900 Bridgestone Ultraflex tyres, mainly running at 12 psi, while the Challenger, which does the bulk of the drilling with an 8.0m Vaderstad, has 30inch tracks. The smaller ARION 650 is used with our 6,300 litre Kuhn AGT 6032 boom fertiliser spreader, but during harvest is also on the chaser bin and we also have a small Weaving drill to use behind it.

“By keeping overlaps to a minimum there is a definite fuel and time saving when cultivating of around 10% and certainly ensures more efficient working.”

“The ATOS has been fantastic”

Located at 1,284ft, the views from England’s highest golf course at Kington in Herefordshire can be quite distracting for the players, as can the added hazard of sheep!

Built in 1925, Kington Golf Club is a par 70, 5,900 yard links type course on Bradnor Hill, 140ha of common land owned by the National Trust with long reaching views over Herefordshire and the Welsh borders.

The common is also home to 600 sheep, or as head greenkeeper Alan Crichton refers to them, his 600 ‘fairways mowers’. While this takes away the necessity for mowing the fairways, another daily task takes its place and that’s blowing off the sheep droppings with a large Trilo BL960 blower powered by a 102hp ATOS 340.

ATOS 340

Supplied by REES AGRI in 2016, the ATOS is also fitted with an FL80 loader and replaced a ’52 plate Renault Ceres that, says Alan, had done some serious work. “The Renault served us well but had a lot of hours on it and was not really big enough for the blower. Before we bought, we looked at all options. Not only did we like the ATOS but James Rees was very approachable and came up with a good package to support it, which is important.

“Apart from wanting a slightly larger tractor for the blower, as we had no means of mechanically handling materials, having a loader on a larger tractor allows us to buy and move materials in bulk and so save a considerable amount of man handling.

“The ATOS has been fantastic and the support from REES AGRI is excellent. The tractor can be out working for anything up to eight hours a day and for the 20 weeks or so that we need to blow the course, it will be doing over 50 hours a week.

OPERATOR COMFORT

“It’s really comfortable to operate and it’s great having air conditioning – the ATOS was certainly in demand last summer to help keep cool. The high temperatures meant we were out blowing from about 3.30 am through until 9.00 am, after that it was getting too hot and there was a danger of scorching and damaging the grass.

FRONT LOADER

The FL80 loader has a lift capacity of 1890kg and uses the FITLOCK latching and MACH hydraulic coupling system. “To reduce weight and damage to the course we only have the loader on for handling work, so we take it on and off all the time, but it couldn’t be simpler. Having the loader, for which we have a set of pallet forks and a one tonne capacity bucket, has made such a difference and it’s used for all sorts of things around the course. We have our own riddle, so instead of buying dressings we now just have lorryloads of topsoil delivered that we load into the riddle using the bucket.

“Operating the tractor and loader couldn’t be simpler. The ATOS is very manoeuvrable and the shuttle reverser is ideal for loader work. Although we don’t often take it on the road, we do occasionally borrow machinery from other courses, so when we do having the 40kph road speed is great,” concludes Alan.

Alan Crichton | **Kington Golf Club** | Herefordshire

“The ATOS has been fantastic and the support from REES AGRI is excellent. The tractor can be out working for anything up to eight hours a day and for the 20 weeks or so that we need to blow the course, it will be doing over 50 hours a week.”

Alan Crichton

by Mick Roberts

VOLTO tedder helps make haylage in catchy conditions

After Cornish farmer, Barry Vickery, borrowed a neighbour's CLAAS VOLTO 55 to ted his grass to make haylage, he was so impressed with the results he bought his own machine.

Now semi-retired, Barry doesn't farm on the same scale as he has before. But he still has about 50ha of mainly grass and looks after five fishing lakes at Killock Farm, Kilkhampton, near Bude where he also rears 110-120 calves he takes to big stores, at about 20 months.

"I don't have any slurry handling facilities here so I make haylage – rather than silage – because it has a higher dry matter. Along with straw bedding, from large square bales, it makes it much easier to handle and manage the muck," he explains.

WEATHER DEPENDENCY

With Cornwall's temperamental weather and the farm being located just a few miles from the coast it's not easy to make silage, and presents a real challenge for those looking to make the higher dry matter haylage.

"I watch the forecast and look for a spell of settled dry weather before mowing," explains Barry. "My disc mower doesn't have a conditioner, so I ted the grass as soon as it's cut and then up to four times before baling.

"Last year my own tedder was on its last legs, so I borrowed my neighbour's CLAAS VOLTO 55. I could see straight away how well it worked and how the angled tines were doing a really good job of lifting and spreading the swath," he says.

What Barry noticed was the proven MAX SPREAD crop flow concept, which was first introduced on the larger tedders and is now used on the new VOLTO 55.

MAX SPREAD spreader arms are angled at 29°, which unlike the conventional straight ones, collect more crop with a longer sweep. This produces a wider, more even spread pattern with fewer lumps promoting faster, uniform drying.

Working for 33%% longer than straight arms, the angled versions pick-up more grass and help improve the machines output.

The VOLTO 55 is equipped with four, 1.5m diameter rotors, providing a working width of 5.2m. Each rotor is fitted with heavy-duty 10.5mm tines, with the spreading angle adjustable between 12° to 16°, to suit crops and conditions.

Drive to the outer sections is transferred via the simple PERMALINK system, which provides positive drive and allows the outer rotors to fold up 180° for transport.

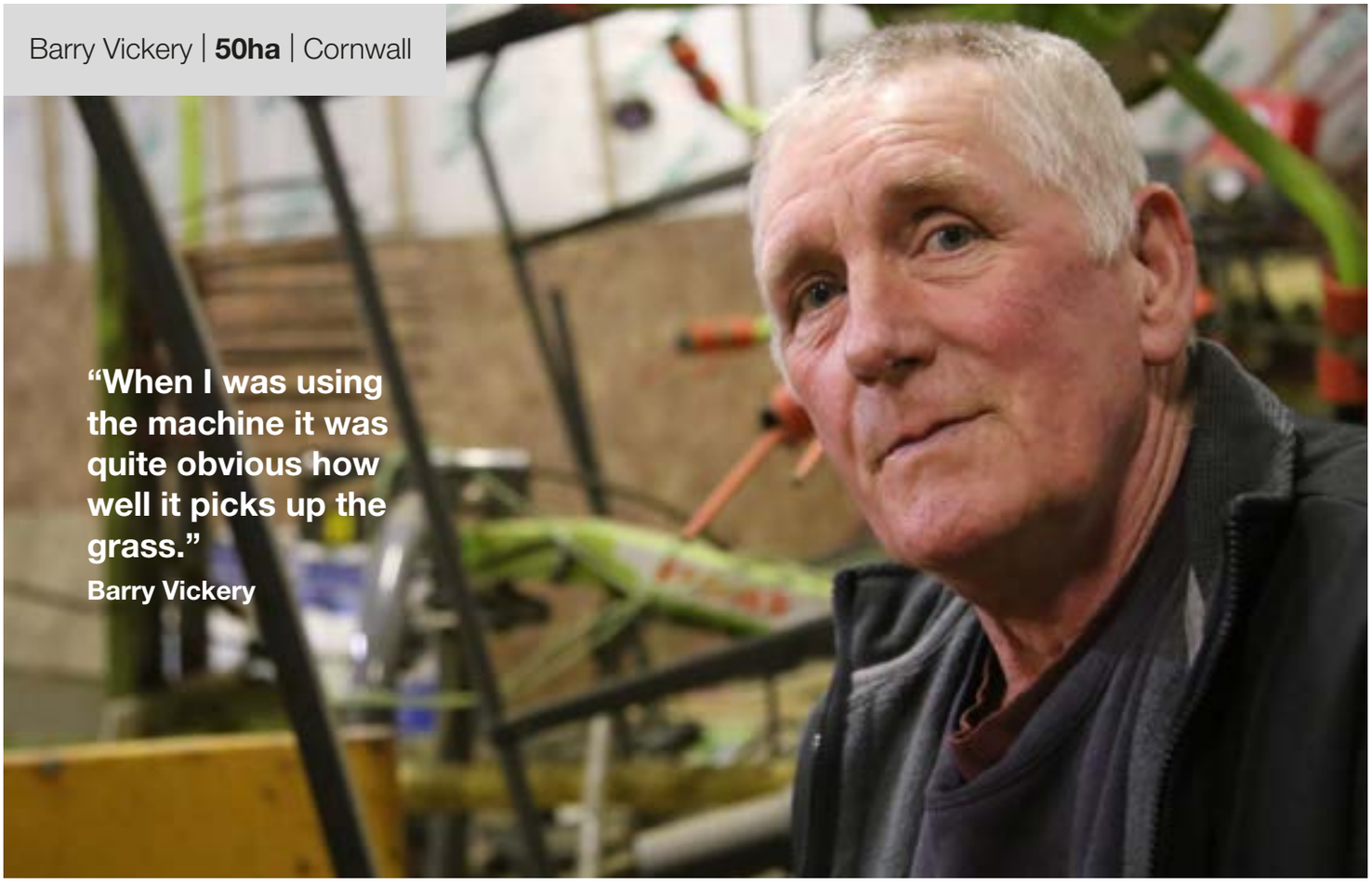
"When I was using the machine it was quite obvious how well it picks up the grass and, at the same time it throws and spreads it much more evenly than my old machine," says Barry.

To row up ahead of the baler Barry turns back to his neighbour and borrows his CLAAS LINER 470 S rake.

While farmers on the North Cornwall coast can't control the catchy weather, Barry Vickery says he can make the most of every opportunity by using his new VOLTO 55 to help quickly dry his grass for haylage.

Barry Vickery is impressed at how evenly the VOLTO 55 spreads grass, which he turns into haylage for stores on his farm on the North Cornwall coast.

Barry Vickery | **50ha** | Cornwall



“When I was using the machine it was quite obvious how well it picks up the grass.”
Barry Vickery

Spreader arms angled at 29° on the VOLTO 55 produce a wider, more even spread pattern with fewer lumps promoting faster, uniform drying.

PERMALINK connection provides positive drive and allows the outer rotors to fold up 180° for transport.

“Cost savings have to come from being more efficient.”

Matt Pickering likes The S10 because it is simple and easy to set-up and operate, plus its easy to transfer data between terminals.

Using the latest S10 terminal, F Pickering & Sons have been the first in the UK to use section control with their 8-row Vaderstad Tempo maize drill, resulting in considerable seed and cost savings.

When the latest version was introduced in 2017, the CLAAS S10 terminal was one of the first terminals to bring together the standard ISO UT (Universal Terminal) and ISO AUX (ability to allocate actions to F functions), with functions such as TC Basic (task management), TC Geo (mapping and variable applications) and TC SC (section control), which until then had required a separate terminal.

The TC SC option provides section control on up to 32 sections on a single boom, eg a sprayer, or for 50 sections on implements with multiple booms, with control of up to five different booms possible.

Based near Gainsborough in Lincolnshire, F Pickering & Sons annually drill around 720ha of maize, mainly for AD plants. When it came to changing their maize drill two years ago, a key reason for buying the Vaderstad Tempo was its ability to individually shut off each of its eight seed hoppers using TC SC.

“On a half mile long field with a half drill overlap at the headland, without being able to shut off rows you can quickly lose a bag of seed,” states Matt Pickering. “On a small acreage this is not too noticeable, but on larger areas it soon mounts up. AD plant operators look very closely at their costs, so the ability to save seed and cost by using section control was attractive.”

As ever with these things, during the 2017 drilling season transferring control from the drill’s iPad based control system to the S10 was not straightforward. Helped by the team from CLAAS EASTERN, however, and plenty of patience, they eventually cracked it.

“For 2017 we ran both the old and the new drill. At times it was very frustrating but you could see the potential and by the end of the season, customers were just asking for the new TEMPO drill.

MASSIVE SAVINGS

“For 2018 we only ran the Tempo and the section shut-off through the S10 terminal worked a treat. It was really, really good. The ‘ins and outs’ took a bit of fine-tuning but it has been brilliant.

“As a result we have seen a massive saving in seed costs for clients – at least 10%, which over a large acreage is quite significant. It also ensures greater accuracy and efficiency and our customers have been really pleased with the results. Having seen the results we have achieved with the TEMPO, our 8.0m Vaderstad drill is now up for replacement so we will be looking at using variable seed rate and section control with its replacement.”

The TEMPO is run behind an AXION 830 which is one of three 830s run by the Pickerings. They also have two XERION (a 3800 and a 4000) plus a new AXION 950 and an ARION 650 and 640. All the tractors are fitted with RTK steering, using a range of terminals from two S3s on older tractors to an S7 and five S10s on the newer tractors.

USER FRIENDLY

“The newer S10 terminals are very user friendly. We have everyone using them from 21-year-olds to my father, who originally said there was no need for steering, until he drove my tractor one day and by the next day had bought a steering system for his tractor!

“We cover a large area, ranging from Lincoln up to the Humber, but get a good strong consistent signal from the CLAAS RTK mast network. I like it that with the S10 it’s easy to save all your A-B lines and field boundaries and because we all run the same system, using a memory stick to transfer data between screens we can all run off the same A-B lines. We also have cameras linked into the screen.

“We are also starting to use variable rate P & K running the mapping through the S10 terminals. The latest terminals also all have AUTO-TURN, which is great when cultivating or drilling. Being able to set it to miss every other breed means you are not turning so tightly on the headland. Again it all comes back to accuracy and efficiency.

TELEMATICS

“We also have TELEMATICS on our two LEXION 770 combines and the newer tractors. Apart from being able to see where machines are in real time and check that they are all right, it’s handy to be able to see things like fuel and AdBlue levels. The automatic field recognition and documentation transfer facility makes record keeping so easy. The ability to automatically import information into Gatekeeper is excellent.

“As contractors we have to embrace technology and we have to keep ahead - we want to be the first in, not the last. Machinery has to be run efficiently to be cost effective. Everything is considered, but our operating costs are fairly set so any cost savings have to come from being more efficient.”

F Pickering & Sons | **Contractors** | Lincolnshire

“STOP ROCK has been a godsend”

JAGUAR forage harvesters have been central to Hugh Smith & Sons’ foraging operation for the last 39 years and their use of the JAGUAR has closely reflected the development of the range over that period.

Since the delivery of their first self-propelled JAGUAR, a SF70, in 1980, a further nine have passed through the gates at Low Ackland near Dumfries, the most recent being a JAGUAR 840 two years ago.

“That first JAGUAR was the first in the area and replaced an engine-on JAGUAR 60,” reflects Alan Smith. “Looking back it was certainly a backward step in terms of comfort. The cab was very basic and noisy compared to the cab on the tractor we used to pull the trailed JAGUAR.

DEALER SUPPORT

“For me, the main reasons for having always run JAGUAR is the support we get from GORDONS, which is fantastic, and also the comfort and reliability of the JAGUAR itself.

“The service team at GORDONS are superb and because there are so many JAGUARS in the area, it means they really know them backwards. They can hear things, such as a bearing maybe not running quite right, that we would never notice and get it sorted before it causes a problem. They are excellent.

MOVING WITH THE TIMES

“The JAGUAR itself is also very reliable and I like the fact that CLAAS are always improving it and asking users what they would change. They don’t stand on their laurels – they take an interest. The layout in the cab is also very straightforward and user friendly. This is now my third JAGUAR with CEBIS and it’s so easy to use. I am always fiddling with it to get facts and figures out, and if you get in a mess you can just hit escape to get yourself out of trouble.”

Working for a mix of dairy and beef farmers gives Alan and son Martin a good mix of work and a foraging season that lasts from mid-May to early September. Anything after this, such as last year, is a bonus.

Their current JAGUAR 840 they say is the ideal size for their operation and is supported by a set of DISCO 3200 front and rear mowers and a LINER 2900, all of which give them the capacity to clear around 52ha a day.

ALL CHANGE

“Typically I look to change the JAGUAR every three to four years, depending on the deal and the cost to change. And normally when the forager is changed we will also change the mowers and the rake at the same time. It keeps everything simple and becomes a habit, but everything is kept fresh and a matched set.

“For the area that we are in and the type of farms we don’t need a larger forager,” says Alan. “Most dairy farmers don’t want you to start early or finish too late because of sugars. We also farm 440ha with 500 ewes and 350 sucker cattle, so we fit the cattle in first with the aim to start foraging at about 9.00 in the morning and to not finish much later than 9.00 in the evening.

“Also farmers don’t want the silage to come in too quick so that it can be well compacted. We also work in quite a few indoor clamps where you can’t rattle it in too fast.”

STOP ROCK

Of the various developments made to the JAGUAR over the years, the Smiths believe that one of the most beneficial has been STOP ROCK. “This is a very stony area and farmers tend not to be so good about flat rolling fields these days,” comments Alan.

“It takes a bit of fine tuning, but STOP ROCK has been a godsend,” adds Martin. “It has to be one of the best things CLAAS has ever developed. It’s saved us no end of problems and definitely avoids a lot of wear on the knives. It more than pays for itself.”

Alan (left) and Martin Smith find that the JAGUAR 840 is the ideal sized forager for the range of farms they work on.

"STOP ROCK…It has to be one of the best things CLAAS has ever developed. It's saved us no end of problems and definitely avoids a lot of wear on the knives. It more than pays for itself."

Alan Smith

Alan and Martin Smith | **Farmers & contractors** | Dumfriesshire

“I have been really pleased with the new JAGUAR 880”

Ian Ward | **Contractor** | Lancashire

Ahead of the introduction of the new JAGUAR 880 specifically for the UK and Ireland markets, Lancashire contractor Ian Ward had the opportunity to put a pre-series machine through its paces last season.

Ian starting running JAGUAR foragers in 2009 and in recent years has run two machines, with the newest one being swapped every two years. The new JAGUAR 880 replaced an 850 and joins a 2013 JAGUAR 870, all of which were supplied by RICKERBY at Carnforth.

“I look to run one machine hard and then have the second machine as a back-up and for use on smaller farms or where farmers are wanting to do the haulage themselves,” explains Ian. “I was originally looking to replace the 850 with an 870 to gain more output, when RICKERBY asked if I would be interested in the pre-series 880.

“That bit of extra power makes a lot of difference, especially when a pit is empty so you can really push on in the morning and then ease up as it starts to get full and more time needs to be spent compacting. Also the new design of pick-up makes a big difference. Flow into the forager is far better and combined with the JAGUAR’s extra power it handles lumps very well.

MORE OUTPUT

“Overall, in good crops and conditions I reckon the new JAGUAR 880 has given us 30% more output. Typically I would be looking for it to clear around 80ha a day, so potentially we can cover two farms a day. Because of the conditions last year the 880 ended up doing about 80% of the work, but normally I would expect that to be nearer 60%.”

Based near Carnforth, Ian has a complete cross section of customers, from dairy units large and small, some of whom are taking a cut of silage every month, to beef farmers just taking one or two cuts. In addition to harvesting around 2,000ha of grass, he also harvests around 40ha each of maize and whole crop.

“When looking to change I did consider a JAGUAR 900 series, but the 800 suits our system well. The changeable weather does mean that farmers want the silage to come in quicker, but a lot of them still want to do the mowing themselves or to help with the haulage, so we do have to work around them.

“I like to keep the main forager fresh just so as to avoid downtime. We do quite a lot of long hauls and can have eight or so trailers on the go, so any breakdowns mean there are a lot of people suddenly doing nothing.”

Ahead of the JAGUAR 880 Ian runs a LINER 3600 4-rotor rake, though he admits this was at its limit in last year’s lighter crops. “The JAGUAR was not worked hard last year as we just couldn’t get enough grass in front of it. Hopefully in heavier crops this year it will really come into its own. Overall I have been really pleased with the new JAGUAR 880 and the operator loved driving it.”

THE NEW CLAAS ROLLANT 540

A new era of CLAAS ROLLANT balers

CLAAS know that reliability and durability are essential for a good harvest.
That is why we have developed a new fixed-chamber baler with a 1.22 x 1.25 m bale size. The new concept has been developed in the UK and Ireland over a number of years to ensure that it meets our customers' requirements. The new ROLLANT 540 is tried, tested and ready for your harvest.

Call your local dealer for more information or a demonstration or call the CLAAS Hotline on 01284 777666.
claas.co.uk

CLAAS

“The ARION 460 still sits lower than our previous tractor which is important for working in older buildings.”

David Williams

Reputation sells itself

When it comes to buying a new tractor and considering changing brand, dealer reputation is a major consideration for David Williams.

"We don't have the luxury of having extra tractors to hand should there be a problem," says David who last autumn was in the market to replace his 120hp tractor. "As the new tractor will be our only main tractor, I want to be sure that the dealer support will be there if I need it."

David is the fourth generation Williams to farm at Cefn Llech, a 300ha hill farm near Rhayader in central Wales. The farm supports a 1,000 Welsh Mountain and Brecknoch Cheviot ewes, plus 40 Limousin sucker cows, but a more recent addition is a 32,000-bird layer unit, with eggs going to Noble Foods.

"With the laying unit coming into production one of the benefits is the availability of muck, but it does mean we have a lot more that needs to be moved and handled. We have about 100ha of land that can be ploughed, and we grow a rotation of grass, stubble turnips and swede, so the muck is ideal for that and will help improve the soil, and we also supply neighbours.

"It was because of the need to handle this extra muck that I was looking for a more powerful tractor. One of the reasons I approached REES AGRI was because of the reputation locally they have for the service they supply. Reputation sells itself and it's noticeable how many CLAAS tractors there are now within a 7 to 10 mile radius of here, and I am now starting to see them on farms where you would never think they would ever change make.

LOW PROFILE CAB

"I approached three different dealers, one of whom I have still not heard back from! But right from the start, James Rees was very approachable. Also, what particularly attracted me to the ARION was that even though it has the PANORAMIC cab, which is great, the ARION 460 still sits lower than our previous tractor which is important for working in older buildings."

David explains they try to do as much as possible on the farm themselves. So in addition to hauling and spreading muck with a West 1600 spreader, the 140hp ARION 460 is also used for mowing, tedding and raking before a contractor does the baling. It also undertakes general work such as fencing, and is fitted with a FL100 2190kg capacity loader to support the farm's mini telescopic handler.

"The PANORAMIC cab makes the ARION a lovely tractor to drive. We spec'ed up the tractor to what we wanted and I did stipulate wider tyres to ensure good traction and stability.

"It's ideal for our needs – on a hill farm you don't want anything bigger. It's a good all-round tractor and has a tight lock which is important. The gear change is extremely smooth and being able to operate both the transmission and the loader using just the (Multi Function) joystick is ideal; everything is to hand and very user friendly."

"The PANORAMIC cab makes the ARION a lovely tractor to drive."

"It's ideal for our needs – on a hill farm you don't want anything bigger."

"[With the] Multi Function joystick everything is to hand and very user friendly."

David Williams

David Williams | **300ha hill farm** | Powys

by Mick Roberts

AXION 870 boosts efficiency for top Cornish grower

Agricola Growers | **1500ha** | Cornwall

photo by Rowan Kitto

With 295hp under the bonnet and its CVT transmission an AXION 870 is helping to improve establishment efficiency on a Cornish farm.

An opportunity to take on more land prompted a Cornish farm and vegetable processor to make a step change in its approach to autumn establishment. Now one operator is responsible for cultivating 900ha for Agricola Growers with a new 295hp CLAAS AXION 870 and a 5.0m wide cultivator.

Agricola Growers was founded in 2004 by Jeremy and Sarah Oatey. Today it farms a total of about 1,500ha at Antony, near Torpoint, with cropping including cereals, daffodil flowers and bulbs as well as potatoes and onions. All the vegetables go to its own HF Produce business, which supplies washed and peeled produce to local firm, Ginsters, to make Cornish Pasties.

"When we took on 200ha of extra land we realised we needed to make a change," explains Jeremy Oatey. "We were already on the edge of efficiency and needed a new system to take over from a 3.0m wide Sumo, which was too slow. With the AXION 870 powering a 5.0m wide Lemken Karat cultivator we now have a one operator/tractor system. This also frees up labour and equipment in the autumn, when we are also busy on potatoes."

Since arriving in October 2017, the tractor has already clocked up 2,250hrs, with the cultivator and a six-furrow mounted plough. "We did look very carefully at buying the new AXION because we did have some 'issues' with some previous models," says Jeremy. "But CLAAS and the dealer HAMBLYS, dealt with these very well. This experience, along with a good deal and warranty, gave us confidence to buy another."

Operator, Lewis Kitto, is delighted with the tractor's performance, comfort and controls. "I'm now cultivating twice the area I was before with the Sumo," he says. "With wide equipment you can't afford not to use auto-steering, which is operated via the optional large screen, S10 ISOBUS terminal. This provides an accuracy down to 2.0cm using RTK NET that replaced the original EGNOS GPS system, which we found had problems receiving the signal in some areas."

The tractor is also equipped with TELEMATICS and Agricola Growers has given permission to HAMBLYS to use this to monitor the tractor. This, adds Jeremy Oatey, allows the dealer to spot any potential problems and should help prevent break-downs.

“It’s also a good security measure,” states Andrew Finnamore, production manager. “I get an email the moment the tractor moves. I can also receive emails about the tractor performance – when its moving, fuel consumption, area worked etc.”

FEATURES AND BENEFITS

The AXION 870 is equipped with the CLAAS CMATIC CVT transmission as standard and Lewis says this is easy to use and set-up and, he feels, responds more smoothly than other CVTs he has used.

Lewis says he mainly uses the multi-function lever, but there’s also an option of an accelerator pedal – with both automatically adjusting the engine speed and transmission ratio. As well as the ability to set three speed ranges in both directions of travel, there’s also a cruise control that can be selected, on-the-move, in each.

With its ability to set any forward speed at any engine rpm the continuously variable transmission also helps maintain the working quality and possibly improve economy, says Andrew Finnamore.

“One of the main reasons for the change was because we wanted to increase efficiency by doing more, but without increasing running costs,” he explains. “The FPT engine provides plenty of power to work the Karat at high work rates and we feel it’s quite economical – it’s not using any more fuel than the previous set-up. We have noticed it does use more AdBlue than expected, which is probably because it is almost always working hard. But it’s not actually a big cost,” he adds.

Up in the four-post cab Lewis appreciates the comfort offered by not only the suspension, but also the ventilated premium air-ride seat. “It’s a large and comfortable cab and I’ve found all the controls are easy to reach and set. It helps the joystick is the same as the one on our CLAAS LEXION 750 TT combine.

“While we do make variable rate applications of seed as well as P and K with other tractors, the S10 terminal on the AXION 870 is mainly used to run the auto-steering. I do map the boundaries and fields and, although it’s ISOBUS compatible, the equipment I use doesn’t require that,” he adds.

As well as cultivating with the Karat, the other main implement is a six-furrow, Lemken Jewel plough, which Lewis says the AXION has no problem handling on its 10.5t linkage capacity. Although the plough has electronic control, it’s not able to run through the ISOBUS.

“I am, however, able to use the tractor’s CEBIS screen to set and adjust the electronic spool valves for speeds and flow rates to make it easier to control. I also like the headland management system and use this all the time to automate the lifting and lowering sequences with the Karat, including the engaging and disengaging the four-wheel drive and diff-lock for the turn,” says Lewis.

Jeremy Oatey, Agricola Growers managing director (centre) with operator, Lewis Kitto (left) and Andrew Finnamore, production manager.

Operator, Lewis Kitto, praises the large, suspended cab with its ventilated premium air-ride seat. He finds the CMATIC CVT transmission operates more smoothly than others.

The 10in S10 touch-screen terminal (lower left) is used mainly to run the auto-steering, which the farm feels is essential to maintain efficiency with wider implements.

by Martin Rickatson

“Our drivers preferred the TORION for

On one of the main farms in an East Anglian producer group, a new TORION 1410 Varipower is helping create the material to grow mushrooms supplied across UK supermarkets, restaurants and caterers.

Over 22.5 tonnes – around 50,000lbs – of closed cup and button mushrooms are produced each week at David Mann’s farm near Bungay in Suffolk, part of the Waveney Mushrooms co-operative of East Anglian growers, supplying supermarkets, wholesalers and caterers. Growing them requires a huge tonnage of compost. The task of handling the materials to make this has, since late last year, fallen to a 9.1t/3.7m capacity CLAAS TORION 1410 wheel loader.

Wheat straw, chicken litter and horse manure, all from local sources, are the key ingredients for that compost, with the addition of lime to neutralise acidity. Once the straw has been wetted over a number of days using a recycling water system, it’s then blended with the other materials through the farm’s mixer/windrower. The mixing is repeated each day over the following two days.

ITS ALL ABOUT THE COMPOST

The mix is then put into one of a pair of walled clamps with aerated floors, and as the material breaks down over the next fortnight, oxygen sensors ensure air is automatically blown through it daily as and when required, replenishing the oxygen consumed and sustaining the aerobic process. Every four days the material is transferred into the other clamp to keep it aerated, and over a three week period the ammonia created during composting turns to nitrogen and a sweet-smelling compost is created. After passing through a subsequent pasteurisation and conditioning process at a lower temperature and given a top casing of peat and chalk, it provides the ideal substrate for mushroom spawn to grow on, and the first flush of mushrooms is picked in around two weeks.

“We don’t need the reach of a telehandler, with our highest lifting being over the sides of lorry bodies when loading spent compost, but we do need a high lift capacity to handle big amounts of compost and the materials to make it.

COMFORT, VISIBILITY AND MANOEUVRABILITY

“I hadn’t dealt with our local dealer, MANNS, before now, but along with a couple of other dealers they lent us a machine to try, and although wary of changing brands, our drivers preferred the TORION for comfort, visibility and manoeuvrability. What also particularly impressed me was the build quality of the machine.”

The TORION 1410’s main operator is Terry Ransome, but Stefan Kubala also takes the wheel at times, and both drivers have been impressed with the machine, after a long line of wheeled loaders from another manufacturer.

“It’s got lots of power for handling loose material, and the engine is arranged perfectly for weight distribution and service access,” says Stefan.

HYDRAULIC CAPACITY

“There’s plenty of hydraulic capacity for lifting the sort of wet materials we deal with, and digging into the compost clamps, and the Varipower hydrostatic transmission is a big step forward from the powershift on our old machine – much smoother and with better pushing power.

“It’s a manoeuvrable machine, and with the 620/75 R26 tyres on which it was ordered, we can get close up to the compost clamp walls with the 2.7m fork we use for moving material.”

With the business operating for 364 days a year to match supermarket demand, the loader is a linchpin of the farm’s operation, points out David Mann.

“With all this material to handle to maintain a constant supply of compost, our handler is an important machine. The TORION was a big change from our previous wheeled loaders, but it’s done exactly what we’ve asked of it so far.”

David Mann | **Waveney Mushrooms** | Suffolk

comfort, visibility and manoeuvrability”

“It’s got lots of power for handling loose material, and the engine is arranged perfectly for weight distribution and service access.”

Stefan Kubala

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