Jack Walker, GA Walker Agricultural Contracting, Northallerton, North Yorkshire

SILVER LINE is keeping our CLAAS machines genuine.



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The business' combines range in age from a 1997 straw walker LEXION 430 to a 2011 750 hybrid rotary. With a total contract cutting acreage of just over 1,000ha, each harvester's individual workload isn't particularly strenuous – they each average 150-200 hours a year.

On the silage side there's a 20-year-old JAGUAR 900 that's done just shy of 8,000 hours and a 2009 JAGUAR 960 that's clocked 6,500 hours.

"We tend to run older combines and foragers that we can fix ourselves. Having had experience of driving and fixing different coloured combines and foragers, it's only CLAAS harvesters that we have the confidence to run beyond the 5,000-hour mark.

"Having sensibly sized machines is essential when you're dealing with small farms with small fields, small grain stores and small silage clamps. Because we're not doing ridiculous acres with our machines and they're well on top of the job, they're not clocking silly hours which means we can get away with running older kit.

"Of course that means we have to be that much hotter on maintenance. Often it's hard to justify replacing expensive components with genuine parts on older, lower value machines."

Frequently the cost of manufacturer-branded parts would make





repairs uneconomic and so the Walkers would often have to opt for non-genuine spares. So when CLAAS introduced its SILVER LINE parts range designed for older machines with lighter annual workloads they were interested to see how the products measured up both in terms of cost and quality.

"With equivalent pricing to parts from non-genuine suppliers or sometimes less we were keen to try some key SILVER LINE bits.

"The first thing we bought was a main drive belt for the JAGUAR 960. When it arrived there was no obvious difference between it and a standard version and after a full season's work it's showing no signs of wear.

"That's given us the confidence to use SILVER LINE parts on the combines too. It just makes sense - we have the benefit of having genuine CLAAS parts but without the expense we would have had previously.

"SILVER LINE parts have the same warranty on them that standard CLAAS spares have and you know they'll be with you the next day. The big advantage is that by ordering through your local dealer you know their parts people can use the machine serial number to source the bits, ensuring you end up with the right parts first time round. That's not always the case with other suppliers.

"At the end of the day these decisions nearly always come down to cost and we're so pleased that we can now use genuine CLAAS parts for our machines. Running older harvesters you have to expect breakdowns but they also need to be affordable to fix. There's a great sense of satisfaction in maintaining your own equipment and doing that with the parts that are the right ones for the job provides a great deal of peace of mind."



