

205hp powerhouse



Bob Crump with sons Tom and Joe

The ARION 660 with CMATIC transmission and CEBIS touchscreen terminal is in a different league for Bob Crump who, with his wife Brenda and sons Tom and Joe, runs a mixed farm and contracting business, specialising in hay and straw.

"It's a fantastic tractor," enthuses Joe who mainly drives the tractor. "It's the first time I have had a vario gearbox but I would never go back to a gear shift again. Everyone who has sat in the cab with me has commented on how smooth the tractor is; for hedgecutting and baling it's brilliant. Also the new CEBIS touchscreen terminal is great and so much easier to use than the old style terminal."

He adds that it is also extremely noticeable how powerful the tractor is and the large amount of torque the latest Stage 5 compliant engine generates. With a rated power output of 185hp with a CPM boost to 205hp, maximum torque is 849Nm at just 1,500rpm, which is held over a wide engine speed range so ensuring constant output and power delivery when under load.

NOTICABLE GRIP

The other noticeable difference between the ARION 660 and their other two ARION tractors is the grip it generates, and how efficiently the 660 transfers power to the ground through its 42-inch rear and 30-inch front tyres. "It puts a lot of power down to the ground and will easily outpull the 650 on 38-inch tyres," states Bob.

"Overall the ARION 600s have served us really well, have proved cost

effective to run and hold their value well. The ARION 660 replaced a 17-plate ARION 650 that had done 4,800 hours and overall cost us just £6.50 depreciation per working hour. You can't get much better than that. With the 660 we have also opted for a 5-year warranty to fix our costs."

In addition to a 55-cow suckler herd and rearing bucket-fed calves, the Crumps grow 60ha of cereals on their 160ha farm at Clifton-upon-Teme. In addition to general contracting, they also buy a further 240ha of standing straw for baling using a QUADRANT 3200, which is sold to farms throughout Wales along with 120ha of hay made each year.

The new ARION 660, along with a 13-plate ARION 650 CIS with a loader and a second 14-plate 650 CEBIS are the latest Le Mans built tractors going back to a Renault bought in 2000. The first CLAAS tractor was an ARION 630 bought in 2013 and since then the tractors have been joined by a SCORPION 7040 and a DOMINATOR 118 MAXI, in addition to a DISCO 3500C mower and LINER tedders, all bought through MORRIS CORFIELD at Hereford.

OUR DEALERS WILL BEND OVER BACKWARDS

"We get on really well with all the guys at Hereford. If we need something I know they will bend over backwards to sort the problem, or in a worst case will lend us something to keep us going," states Bob.

"Service and support like that counts for a lot for the job we are in. Jason (Parkes) is also very good on the sales side and will always come back to me. He is currently on the lookout for a good used combine to replace the DOMINATOR and I know I can confidently leave it with him and he will let me know when he has found something that he thinks will be right for us."