

Hedgecutting using RTK

Hedgecutting may not immediately spring to mind when you think about RTK, but its ideal for the job.

Contractor Carl Eggleston explains that for a job that requires you to ideally look in two directions at the same time, using RTK is both safer and far less stressful. Setting an A/B line leaves the tractor to follow that line, allowing Carl to concentrate on the mower head or on approaching traffic when on roadwork.

Another big advantage in this autumn's wet conditions is adding an offset for each pass. This avoids running in the same wheelmark, preventing soil damage and rutting.

"It's probably the last job that the designers thought the S10 terminal would be used for," concedes Carl. "But in fact it's fantastic and so much easier being able to leave the tractor to look after itself. On grassland, because the left hand wheel which carries all the weight is not following the same wheeling on each pass, farmers have been very surprised by how little damage there is, despite the wet ground, and I have actually picked up additional work because of that.

KEEPING IN-LINE

"However, on arable where the ground has been cultivated, I set it to exactly follow the same wheeling for each pass, so then it's easy for the farmer to go back through and pull the wheeling out. Also this autumn, I was doing clearing work for HS2 where for some reason I was not allowed closer than 2.0 metres to the hedge line, which was easy to do having set an A/B line. Likewise, I did some motorway verge mowing last year so again it ensured I stayed safely in the coned-off hard shoulder."

While all four of A&S Eggleston's tractors are fitted with steering systems, Carl's AXION 820 CEBIS which was supplied by CLAAS Eastern, is the only one with RTK, using a signal from the EE mobile network. The rest, including an AXION 800 CIS, all use Egnos.

In addition to spending around six months and nearly 1,000 machine hours hedge cutting using an 8.0m reach Shelbourne Reynolds 875, Carl also uses the AXION 820 for cultivations, drilling, umbilical spreading with a 24m dribble bar, mowing and loading bales.

RTK ADVANTAGES

"I am a great believer in the use of technology and the benefits this brings. Having the S10 terminal I now try and use it for every job I can. What I like about the S10 is that it's so easy to set-up, use and save jobs. It's also very simple to save favourite settings for things like drop markers, A/B lines, path adjust, borders or A/B Contour.

"The benefits are numerous. One of the first jobs I used the S10 for was power harrowing where because there were no overlaps, I could travel 1kph slower, so do a better job, use less fuel but still finish quicker than before. Also I like the repeatability of RTK for jobs such



as drilling, where I can follow exactly the same wheelings when rolling afterwards.

"But also as a contractor, by using RTK it means the work you do looks professional, that you care and that you take a pride in the work you are doing for your customers. Customers respect that and our drivers also appreciate that we are providing them with the technology to make their job easier and enable them to be professional."