

# CLAAS CMATIC – Geared for Growth

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**A**s winners of the 2019 Scottish Beef Farmer of the Year award, Kingan Farms is a business where detail matters. As such, the operation pays close attention to its partners and suppliers – one of which is local CLAAS dealer GORDONS, which it has had a relationship with for more than seven decades.

For Kingan Farms, run by Alistair Kingan, his wife Suzi and parents Margaret and Russell, this dealer relationship has resulted in a whole raft of CLAAS equipment purchases over the years, including foragers, combines, grassland equipment and tractors.

“We’ve been running CLAAS machinery in all the time we have dealt with GORDONS,” says Alistair. “As the CLAAS product range has grown over the years, we’ve kept adding CLAAS machinery to our fleet which now includes three CLAAS ARION tractors – a 660 CMATIC, 550 CMATIC and a 510 HEXASHIFT.”

Based on the Solway Coast at New Abbey near Dumfries, the farm’s machinery fleet is put to good work across its three sites, totalling 1,500 acres. Predominantly a beef finishing enterprise, Kingan Farms’ portfolio also includes renewables and contracting ventures, along with a holiday cottage letting business.



# Alistair Kingan

ARION 660 & 550 CMATIC

New Abbey, Dumfries, May 2022



## Why CLAAS tractors?

“Historically, it was foragers which made up the mainstay of our CLAAS machines. We then progressed onto combines and more recently tractors,” says Alistair.

“The main reason for choosing CLAAS is down to our dealer, GORDONS, and the confidence we have in them. Equally as important is the feedback from our operators, which often determines which tractors we purchase.

“We got our first CLAAS tractor in 2009 – an ARION 640. Compared to those previous generations, these latest ones are leagues ahead – comfort, looks, build quality and ease of operation have all improved massively,” says Alistair.

“We also make use of CLAAS TELEMATICS, which is particularly useful for monitoring machine location and fuel levels, helping us plan jobs. GORDONS also have access to the system and will use it to plan servicing, monitor any error codes and diagnose any issues.”

## Why CMATIC transmissions?

“It was the type of work that the tractors do – fertiliser spreading, spraying, drilling, mowing and baling – which prompted our shift to stepless transmissions,” says Alistair.

“For these jobs, the CMATIC CVT offers much greater control over speed. Although previous tractors with powershift gearboxes did do the job, the seamless CMATIC gearbox means every task requires that much less effort and concentration from the man in the seat.

“Fully on-board with getting the most out of the machines, our operators will set the tractors up to work at their fullest potential. Because of this, the

CMATIC tractors are easier on fuel compared with previous powershift tractors.”

The move to CMATIC gearboxes has proved popular with Kingan Farms’ team.

“Since getting the CMATIC 660, I don’t think I’d want to drive anything else now – it’s just so unbelievably user-friendly. Everything is well laid out and it is super comfortable,” explains ARION 660 operator, Ryan Little.

“With the CVT gearbox there’s no jumpiness – it is really smooth. It makes life so much easier – you don’t have to use any pedals, I tend to operate it mainly via the stick. I have driven other brands of tractors with CVTs but I prefer the CLAAS.

“The CEBIS touch screen makes it easy to setup the transmission to your preferred driving style or to the job. You can’t really go wrong with it – it’s got everything you need at your fingertips.”

“I really rate these latest CMATIC tractors and when Alastair asks me what I want next, there’s no doubt it’ll be a CLAAS.”

## How do you rate your dealer backup?

“I can’t fault the service and backup we get from GORDONS. I’m proud of our family business and I believe GORDONS has the same mentality, attention to detail and passion for the job. It’s a relationship we’ve had for more than 70 years and I don’t see that stopping any time soon,” says Alistair.

“Even the backup we get from CLAAS UK and Germany is fantastic. Many years ago we had something go wrong with a forager and they sent a taxi with the parts to get it going again – that’s just outstanding service.”



### Farm Facts

Kingan Farms, New Abbey, Dumfries, Scotland

#### Work undertaken

Main business – Beef finishing. Other businesses: Renewables, contracting, holiday cottages

#### Cropping

300 ha cereals used as feedstock

#### Machinery

ARION 660 CMATIC  
ARION 550 CMATIC ARION 510 HEXASHIFT  
JAGUAR 850 forager  
LINER 2600 rake  
VOLTO 800 tedder  
LEXION 520  
LEXION 5400

#### Staff

Alistair Kingan, wife Suzi and parents Margaret and Russell plus four full timers – Gordon McKenna, Murray White, Michael Clingan and Ryan Little



Dealership  
GORDONS

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Alistair Kingan, May 2022

