



CLAAS CMATIC – Geared for Growth

Andrew Harris

ARION 660 CMATIC

Near Faringdon, Oxfordshire, May 2022



aving run CLAAS tractors for decades, when Oxfordshire grower Andrew Harris decided to scale back his arable operation, he was keen to increase efficiency with a move to CLAAS CMATIC transmissions. Not only has this lead to

improved productivity, but has made for far more relaxed days in the seat.

“The real beauty is that it’s such a relaxed drive and so simple to operate.”



Farm Facts

Total Farm Ltd, near Faringdon, Oxfordshire

Farmed area

202 ha

Cropping

Winter wheat 100 ha Spring beans 20 ha
Winter barley 50 ha Spring linseed 10 ha
Spring barley 20 ha

Machinery

ARION 660
CLAAS LEXION 650

Staff

Andrew Harris full-time plus one other at harvest.

Why CLAAS tractors?

“I started out down the route of CLAAS tractors 20 years ago when we were farming a much bigger area, purely off the back of having run CLAAS combines. The back-up is superb and the build quality is just brilliant – nothing rattles and bangs, it’s all just bolted together properly.

“Our dealer – CLAAS WESTERN – have been absolutely brilliant to me over the years. When I first started out contract farming, they supported me like you wouldn’t believe. I wasn’t always able to buy new kit but they looked after me just the same as anyone else. If we had a breakdown, they were in the field straight away and if it needed more time, they’d have a back-up machine straight out. It’s the same story today.”

Why an ARION 660?

“With the 660 pumping out over 200 hp and weighing under 8 tonnes CLAAS have come up with a really punchy performer with the perfect power-to-weight ratio.

“That means for top-work like spraying, rolling and fertiliser spreading I’m not dragging unnecessary weight around, but if I do need a bit more traction for jobs like cultivating and drilling I can just hitch the weight block or press on the front linkage.”

Why a CMATIC gearbox?

“For years we ran HEXASHIFT powershift boxes in our tractors which proved pretty bomb-proof and did the job just fine.

“But times have moved on and CVTs can now offer extra efficiency and just a more comfortable day in the seat. My last tractor – an ARION 650 CMATIC – did 4,500 hours without missing a beat so there was no doubt that its replacement would have the same transmission.

“I love the fact that I just get in, select my pre-set cruise speed and let the tractor sort things out for itself. It’s a set-and-forget system that means the engine and gearbox are always running in harmony with revs and transmission ratios constantly adjusting to match the load. It’s really clever stuff that makes my operation so much more efficient – that’s critical when margins are increasingly squeezed.

“The real beauty is that it’s such a relaxed drive and so simple to operate.”

How easy is it to set up?

“The new CEBIS touchscreen has made a huge difference in making adjustments to how the tractor is set up. Having run CLAAS combines for decades I was used to the old familiar click-clack CEBIS controls but this new version really is a step on.

“It’s really user friendly and easy to swap between the different run screens depending on what job you’re doing.

“I’ve also got the S10 GPS screen which I swap between the tractor and combine. It’s a ten minute job and means I can genuinely justify the outlay on ultra-precise steering.”

“It’s a set-and-forget system that means the engine and gearbox are always running in harmony.”

Andrew Harris, May 2022



Dealership
CLAAS
WESTERN

CLAAS

CMATIC

