

# John Foley

AXION 870, & 830 CMATIC

Leighlinbridge, Co. Carlow, May 2022



## Farm Facts

Farranafreney Farming Ltd,  
Leighlinbridge,  
Co. Carlow

## Machinery

2 x AXION 870 CMATIC  
1x AXION 830 CMATIC  
LEXION 7400

## Cropping

Winter wheat  
Winter and Spring barley  
Oats  
OSR  
Spring beans

## Staff

John Foley, brother Tom Foley and  
William Walsh at peak times.



# CLAAS CMATIC – Geared for Growth

**W**hen it came to getting a third tractor to meet an expanding workload, Carlow grower John Foley decided to see what his local CLAAS dealer had to offer.

The main duties for the new tractor would be spraying and spreading fertiliser on the arable enterprise, while two other tractors would tackle the cultivations and drilling as well as the bulk of the haulage work.

## Why CLAAS tractors?

“I have known Maurice Kelly from KELLYS of Borris for a long time and there is a lot of trust there. They have a great deal of experience with the products they are selling and with their scale will never see you stuck.

“We have run various CLAAS combines for a good few years, so CLAAS tractors were certainly worth a look. I needed something that was value for money as this tractor would be staying on its narrow wheels all year round pulling a trailed fertiliser spreader and sprayer, the other two tractors would do the heavy work.”

So in 2015 the first CLAAS tractor – an ARION 650 HEXASHIFT– arrived on the farm and has performed admirably. When it came to replacing one of the other more powerful tractors, the decision was an easy one – another CLAAS and the first AXION, an 870 with CMATIC stepless transmission. This has since been joined by another 870 to pull the wider cultivators and drill that demanded more power.

## Why CMATIC?

“The CMATIC transmission just adds to the comfort, reducing the stress and workload. You never have to think about changing gears as the tractor is constantly doing this for itself. I just set the target speed and it runs to the maximum pre-set engine revs which I tend to set at 1,900 to 1,950 rpm.

“The ease of use has to be the biggest benefit of the CMATIC box and you are always running at the right speed. Even with different operators, the tractor always works the way you want it to and you can change the ranges and settings while the tractor is under load.

“Working together, the CVT gearbox and GPS auto-steer mean less fatigue allowing the quality of work and implement settings to become your primary focus – the tractor practically drives itself.”

The experience of owning and running the CVT-equipped 870 meant there was no debate when it came to changing the business’ powershift ARION 650. Earlier this year it was replaced by an AXION 830, also fitted with a stepless CMATIC box. Partnered with a new, larger 6,000-litre sprayer and a bulk spreader which can hold up to 10 tonnes of fertiliser, it is now always on top of the job.

“The smoothness of the CMATIC transmission has already proved to be a real benefit when spreading fertiliser, as it smoothly slows down when approaching the headland giving the spreader time to maintain the rate and the same when returning back to work. I can easily flick between range one for the

headland turn and range two when back in work and get quickly back up to 16 km/hr.”

## CEBIS Touchscreen

All three AXION tractors have the CEBIS terminal, the newest 830 with the touchscreen version. The ISObus-compatible display is also used to operate the spreader and sprayer, with the application map shown on the larger S10 terminal and the machine controls on the CEBIS screen.

“Both screens are just so intuitive to use with little prompts to help you – you don’t need to read the manual to operate these tractors. I can easily assign the different functions to the F-keys so I never have to take my hand off the CMOTION joystick.

“With all three tractors now running similar controls, you get to know how to operate them to get the best of their abilities.”

“We’ve seen how CLAAS tractors have really moved with the times. Each one we’ve had has been nicer again. With little changes and improvements, they are just getting better all the time.”

“You shouldn’t be married to one service provider, but it is hard to beat CLAAS machines and the service from KELLYS of Borris.”



Dealership  
KELLYS

“The ease of use has to be the biggest benefit of the CMATIC box.”

**CLAAS**