

CLAAS CMATIC – Geared for Growth

“Having three cruise speeds at the nudge of a button just makes it a pleasure to operate.”

With over 2,300 ha of Winter and Spring cropping to get in the ground, Flawborough Farms' two main cultivations tractors need to be capable of getting the job done, but not at any cost.

The Nottinghamshire business runs a 509 hp CLAAS XERION 5000 alongside a 445 hp AXION 960 TERRA TRAC. As the two biggest tractors on the fleet they're tasked with the lion's share of the fieldwork. But they have one other feature in common – they're both fitted with CMATIC stepless gearboxes, making them both productive and highly fuel efficient in the critical roles.



Tom Hawthorne

AXION 960 TT CMATIC

Near Nottingham, Nottinghamshire, May 2022



Why a CMATIC stepless transmission?

Flawborough's current front-line prime mover is a CLAAS XERION 5000. It produced some pretty astonishing results when it first arrived.

"Having looked around at virtually every option we decided the XERION offered pretty much exactly what we needed, particularly pairing a CVT transmission with a 500 hp motor," explains Tom.

"Immediately it proved itself in that first season, saving us something in the region of 18,000-22,000-litres in diesel over our previous power-shift four-track tractor. By having the ability to back off the throttle when the power isn't needed the stepless gearbox concept makes a huge amount of sense."

That experience gave the Hawthornes the confidence to turn to CLAAS for their secondary tillage tug.

"The way the AXION 960 delivers its power to the ground is really impressive. The CVT gearbox is a big improvement over anything we've had before. It's much more refined and has more than enough functionality to match the sophistication of any other high-horsepower tractor.

"For hard-pull fieldwork the overlaps in the gearbox mean it uses a much greater proportion of mechanical drive – rather than hydrostatic. That's what makes CLAAS CMATIC tractors so much more efficient in the field compared with the competition.

"When it comes to set-up, the new colour touchscreen is super easy to use and simple things like having three cruise speeds at the nudge of a button just make it a pleasure to operate."

The simplicity of the CEBIS control set-up provides the AXION 960 with an extra level of versatility, enabling operators of all abilities to get the most from the tractor. When hooked up to the drill long-serving, ultra-experienced drivers can delve deep into the menu screens to tweak transmission settings and get the tractor running to their liking. Conversely when the big half-track is hitched up to the chaser bin with a less proficient harvest student in the seat, it can be set to run in full auto mode, allowing the computer to take over, always aiming for maximum efficiency.

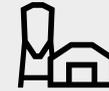
Why CLAAS tractors?

"Having had all makes and models over the years, we really like CLAAS' high-horsepower offering, particularly because they've had a stepless gearbox over 500 hp the longest. That track record gives us confidence in the product. When we were looking to change our big tractor they were the only real contender.

"More important than that is the back-up we get. The team at our dealer – CLAAS EASTERN – is just amazing. They really cannot be beaten for the service they give us.

"We run a CLAAS combine, a SCORPION telehandler and our main cultivations tug is the big XERION 5000. Of course at some point, like any machine, tractors can give trouble. But the difference is that we know we'll have someone who knows what they're doing out to sort the problem within a couple of hours.

"In 21 years of running CLAAS kit we haven't ever been let down. Knowing that they could back us up with a single combine doing over 2,000 ha a year we had no worries about the tractors. They'll throw everything at us just to keep us going. There's always a back-up machine on standby. That's worth a huge amount."



Farm Facts

Flawborough Farms near Nottingham

Farmed area

2,380 ha

Cropping

Winter wheat	Spring peas
Winter barley	Spring barley
Winter rye	Spring wheat
OSR	Spring linseed
Spring beans	Forage maize

Soils

Predominantly heavy clays

Staff

Tom Hawthorne plus another 2 office-based family members (partners), 3 full-timers plus another 3 at harvest.



Dealership
CLAAS
EASTERN

CLAAS

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Tom Hawthorne, May 2022

