

LEXION 8900

“Consistently through the years CLAAS has produced the highest capacity machines on the market and this new 8900 takes them ahead of the game once again.”

Andrew Tetlow

FARM AWT Farm Services LLP, Cambs, Suffolk, Essex borders

FARMED AREA 2000ha (4942 acres)

CROPPING winter wheat 1000ha (2470 acres)
oilseed rape (OSR) 300ha (741 acres)
winter barley 360ha (890 acres)
spring barley 140ha (346 acres)
winter beans 46ha (114 acres)
spring oats 140ha (346 acres)

STAFF Andrew Tetlow, Anthony Wiseman and John Latham plus two full-timers and another three at harvest/drilling

LEXION HISTORY

2003	480 Evo
2005	600
2008	600TT
2010	750TT
2011	770TT
2013	760TT
2014	780TT
2019	8900TT





The LEXION featured in this image is a Pre-Series 8900 badged as a 780.



“The whole new touchscreen CEBIS set-up is a real leap forward. The menus are so much more easily and quickly accessed.”

Ben Latham

...the 8900 takes just over a minute to empty its 15,000-litre hopper.”

Over the last 20 years AWT Farm Services has seen its cropped area grow from 688ha (1700 acres) to 2000ha (4940 acres). In that time the requirement for harvesting capacity has grown accordingly with CLAAS combines consistently fulfilling that role.

Until now two LEXION (a 780 and a 760) have been employed to gather the business' mixed cropping, but the arrival this harvest of a 790hp pre-production 8900 has given the partnership confidence that the ultimate goal of moving back to one machine might well be possible.

How has it performed?

“On this new machine virtually everything has grown – drum, concaves, sieves, augers and of course the engine. With 790hp it's certainly not short on power, we've seen a really substantial increase in output to the point that I think we could realistically drop the 760 for next harvest and run one big one on its own.

“It's great having all this capacity, but the machine's got to be capable of producing a decent sample as well. This pre-production 8900 has taken us completely by surprise in that department – it's chomping through a huge amount more crop in an hour and the grain is significantly cleaner than before.

“That's got to be down to CEMOS Automatic getting it right – it can adapt to changes in crop conditions so much faster than any operator. It's constantly adjusting itself to see what it can do better and the result is quite startling.

“It's really noticeable when a trailer takes one load off the 760 and another off the 8900 – the difference is like night and day.”

Unloading

With its monster appetite the 8900 has had to have a significantly updated discharge set-up. After all there's not much point having all that capacity if the machine has to sit waiting for trailers.

“With twin augers in the bottom of the tank and a much bigger spout the new combine takes just over a minute to empty its 15,000-litre hopper – it's quite phenomenal,” explains operator Ben Latham.

“The new driveline is so much quieter than before and being able to switch between unloading at 180-litres/second and 90-litres at a flick of a switch is just brilliant. I tend to run it flat out to begin with and then top off the trailer at half speed. That way you take the pressure off the tractor drivers and avoid any spillages while ensuring they're always getting a full load.

“With such huge quantities of grain pouring out of the spout it's pretty important to make sure you're hitting the target. Having the auger able to swing even further forward than before means you're not craning your neck to see and can keep an eye on what the header's doing at the same time.”

Cleanliness

“We tend to blow off the combine every morning as a matter of course and that job has become so much easier on the 8900 with so many fewer lips and ledges for dust to get hung up on.

“The elevator sucker-blower keeps things really clean down below, while the flat pan under the engine bay means a quick blast with the air line clears it right out.”

CEBIS and CEMOS

“The whole new touchscreen CEBIS set-up is a real leap forward. The menus are so much more easily and quickly accessed – I just hit the relevant part of the combine graphic on the screen and the settings menu for that function pops up.

“And it's the same story with CEMOS Automatic. Now integrated into the CEBIS screen, you tweak it in just the same way.

“Not that it needs much adjusting. I've found that it's just a case of inputting the crop type and then letting the combine sort itself out. I can't get more output or a better sample than with the CEMOS settings.

“It is a true set-and-forget system that leaves me to concentrate on what's coming up whether it's laid crop, badger sets or lunch...”

Why CLAAS?

“Consistently through the years CLAAS has produced the highest capacity machines on the market and this new 8900 takes them ahead of the game once again,” says Andrew Tetlow.

“We need that capacity to get over our acreage and to get us to our ultimate cost-saving goal of going back to running just one combine. This new machine looks like that might really be possible.

“More important than that is the back-up – our MANNESMANN fitter Peter Basset has looked after us for almost half a century. What he doesn't know isn't worth knowing.

“We opt for MAXICARE and lease the combine because we like having completely fixed costs so that we can budget accurately and never have any nasty surprises.”





“The 8900 has taken us completely by surprise – it’s chomping in an hour and the grain is significantly cleaner than before.”



through a huge amount more crop

Andrew Tetlow

CLAAS

