

“The new ARION 650 is a lovely tractor and very comfortable”

Running 212ha mainly by himself, Graeme McMillan looks to make the most of both large machinery and the latest technology, in order to keep on top of his workload and make the most of suitable weather windows.

When it comes to machinery, reliability and dealer support are key considerations for Graeme, and GORDONS at Whauphill provide fantastic service and support. This is reflected in Graeme's choice not only of tractors, both his main tractors being CLAAS, but his choice of telehandler, a SCORPION 7055, and his combine, a LEXION 630 MONTANA.

The McMillans have run CLAAS tractors for over 10 years on the beef, sheep and arable farm that is split between their main unit near Garlieston and a rented farm 10 miles away at Port William. The first was an ARION 630, followed by an ARION 640, which was replaced last November by an 185hp ARION 650 CEBIS, which joins an AXION 830 CEBIS bought in 2015.

“I was sad to see the 640 go as it had been a superb tractor, but it had done over 6,000 hours so served me well,” says Graeme “Having Whauphill just four miles up the road is ideal and all the servicing is done by them. All machinery at some stage will have a problem, but the team there are very good and I know I can rely on them. The fact that we are now on our fourth CLAAS tractor is testament to the product and dealer. They are definitely fit for purpose. If they weren't they wouldn't be here.

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or so it will do, I have 'specced' it to a high level with things like a heated leather ventilated seat. But it's also the small things like the electric wing mirrors, which are very handy, and the fact that there's plenty of storage so you don't have stuff rolling around on the floor.”

As the main tractor on the farm, the 235hp AXION 830 is responsible for heavy cultivations, spraying, fertiliser spreading and haulage work, while the ARION looks after the press and 3.0m drill combination and spends the winter on the diet feeder and more general work.

“I really like the new CMOTION control on both tractors. It's so easy to use and everything you need is right at your fingertips,” says Graeme.

“The new touchscreen CEBIS in the ARION is far easier to use and makes it very easy and quick to scroll through the various functions. The new front axle is also a huge improvement and so much easier to maintain. I also like the way that the engine cuts revs when idling or when sat mixing on the feeder wagon, which must help save fuel. What is particularly impressive is that for its size, the ARION is extremely manoeuvrable, making it ideal for use with the larger 24m³ diet feeder I have also just bought, which will halve feeding time.”



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