

“The GORDONS support is second to none”

James Biggar (left)
and Collin Dodds



“Collin Dodds, had never used a CVT before but now really likes it. The ARION spends a lot of time on the road, so it’s ideal for that, but also with the diet feeder because the feed out is far more consistent.” James Biggar.

GORDONS

Whether it's for livestock or machinery, the latest electronic data recording and management technology has a lot to offer in terms of improving efficiency, believes James Biggar.

"We are prepared to invest and make full use of technology across the whole business, partly because of the benefit it provides the business, but also to make life easier and less stressful for those who work in the business," explains James.

Chapleton Farm near Castle Douglas is home to the Biggars' well known pedigree Aberdeen Angus and Beef Shorthorn herds, which run alongside a further 240 commercial cross cattle, bred using their own genetics. Although mainly grassland, the Biggars do also grow 52ha of cereals for their own use.

They have run CLAAS tractors for a number of years, the latest being an ARION 660 CMATIC with touchscreen CEBIS, which has a maximum boosted power output of 205hp. The tractor has full auto steering, using CLAAS' new SATCOR correction signal controlled through the latest S10 terminal with full ISOBUS compatibility.

During the winter the ARION is used to haul the farm's 20m³ Trioliet mixer, but come spring and summer it does a wide range of jobs from slurry and fertiliser spreading, to ploughing or mowing with front and rear mowers.

"Having full auto steering on the tractor allows us to apply products far more accurately, which is not only environmentally beneficial, but also saves money. It's very easy to set-up and store the A-B lines. Since the arrival of the ARION 660 we have changed our fertiliser spreader for a new Kverneland Geospread, which we run using ISOBUS through the S10 terminal for both variable rate application, but also for section control and shut-off at the headland using the ISOBUS TC SC function on the terminal," explains James.

Unlike the ARION 640 that it replaced, which had a 24x24 HEXASHIFT transmission, the new ARION has been specified with the CMATIC CVT transmission. "Collin Dodds, who mainly uses the ARION, had never used a CVT before but now really likes it. The ARION spends a lot of time on the road, so it's ideal for that, but also with the diet feeder because the feed out is far more consistent."

"He really likes the CMOTION control and the fact that everything is at his fingertips. The new touchscreen CEBIS screen is also very user friendly and intuitive to use. It's very easy to alter things like the hydraulic flow or engine settings, which is important, because if it's not easy then the functions won't be used, so is a complete waste of money. Collin certainly finds it far more relaxing to use, especially for jobs such as slurry injecting."

"The reason we run CLAAS tractors is GORDONS. We don't buy CLAAS tractors, we buy tractors from GORDONS.

We obviously look at other makes, but the support is second to none and we have an excellent working relationship with the whole team there. With often around 1,000 cattle to feed we don't need to worry, because we know we have their support. We are not in the habit of changing tractors regularly and tend to run them to about 8,000 hours, but the new ARION has full warranty and service, so we know it's covered and what our costs will be."



CLAAS ARION 660

CLAAS

