



CLAAS ARION 650

GORDONS

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Maximising milk production from high quality forage is key to John and David Brewster, whose Boclair herd of Holsteins was crowned the Holstein UK Premier Herd in 2017, with cows in their herd yielding in excess of 19,000 litres.

To ensure timeliness and optimum quality, the Brewsters take up to three cuts of silage a year, plus an additional 26ha of whole crop, all harvested using their own foraging team. To further maximise output this season the decision has been made to invest in a new JAGUAR 840 forager from GORDONS, together with a new 185hp ARION 650 CIS+ and DISCO front mower, to work in combination with their current 3.0m DISCO rear unit.

“The rolling average is 12,800 litres with 3.82% butterfat and 3.18% protein, and they are currently averaging 42 litres a day, with the aim being to maximise yield from home grown forage,” explains John Brewster. “We have invested in the new foraging machinery to keep ahead of the weather. The new JAGUAR 840 should have double the daily output of our old JAGUAR 800 and will enable us to clear the 110ha of first cut in two days.”

The new ARION 650 replaces a 5-year-old ARION 640 that had done 5,500 hours. It was bought specifically to provide extra horsepower to run a front/rear DISCO mower combination, to ensure optimum output when the grass is at its best.

“We have run CLAAS tractors since GORDONS moved to Strathaven and started selling them. Over the years they have proved extremely reliable, have done us well and held their value pretty well,” states John, who also runs a further two ARION 620s and an ARES 557. They also have a TUCANO 420 combine. “Any problems have been quickly sorted, the support we receive from GORDONS, and just as importantly the backup they get from CLAAS, has been excellent.”

The new ARION 650 has been specified with the latest CIS+ operating system which, says John, gives them all the higher specification they need, such as electronic spools and the ability to allocate functions to F keys, which previously were only available with the CEBIS specification level.

“The CIS+ specification is ideal for us and gives us everything we had with the old TIER 3-era CEBIS; we certainly don't need all that the full CEBIS now offers. It's a very user friendly tractor and all told we have so far been very pleased with it and the driver also really likes it.

“We have naturally looked at other makes, but the ARION and GORDONS have done us well and it's impressive to see how the ARION range has progressed over the years. I recently visited the factory with GORDONS and was extremely impressed with the investment CLAAS are making and their attention to detail, to ensure tractor reliability.”

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