

LEXION 8700

“How CEMOS achieves such a clean sample while getting the output is impressive.”

Neil Armstrong



FARM	JE Armstrong and Sons, near Berwick-upon-Tweed, Northumberland
FARMED AREA	1100ha (2720 acres)
CROPPING	winter wheat 450ha (1110 acres) winter barley 81ha (200 acres) oilseed rape (OSR) 190ha (470 acres) land let for potatoes 65ha (160 acres) vining peas 142ha (350 acres) carrots 20ha (50 acres) plus 100ha (250 acres) permanent pasture and 50ha (124 acres) in environmental schemes
LIVESTOCK	130 Angus suckler cows plus 130 followers
STAFF	Neil, David and James Armstrong plus three full-timers and another two at harvest
LEXION HISTORY	1996 460 2000 460 Evo 2003 480 2005 580+ 4wd 2010 600TT 2015 780TT 2019 8700TT



“Impressively
clean sample...”



The LEXION featured in this image is a Pre-Series 8700 badged as a 770.

...while still getting the output.”

With some 1000ha of crops to clear, often in less-than-kind weather conditions, the Armstrong family have to make the most of the chances they get. To do that they need a high capacity combine capable of getting grain in the shed as quickly as possible.

Up until now the Northumberland-based contract farming operation has run the biggest CLAAS LEXION combines available to achieve this. But this season has seen a change to a mid-range wide-bodied LEXION hybrid – a pre-production 8700.

How has it performed?

“When it came to ordering the machine I was a little concerned that the 8700 would be a bit of a step down from the 780, but that’s proved not to be the case,” says Neil Armstrong.

“Despite being less powerful than the old machine, the new one has the edge over it, generally churning out 10% more grain in a day, even with the green damp straw we inevitably end up in up here in north Northumberland.

“In my mind that extra capacity has got to be down to the technology – the new version of CEMOS is just very clever.”

CEMOS Automatic

“The way CEMOS can adjust all the settings for the drum, concaves, sieves, fan and rotors all simultaneously is just amazing. How it achieves such a clean sample while getting the output is impressive.

“Quite often the grain is too clean even when I have everything set to maximum throughput.”

Unloading

“The new unloading auger set-up is a massive improvement. It’s so much quieter and the rate it empties at is impressive. It’s over and done with in a minute.

“It’s great having the option to shut it down to half speed to top off trailers, making sure they’re properly full each load.”

Daily maintenance

“With auto-lube there is virtually no daily servicing at all. The redesigned engine bay stays a great deal cleaner. I only tend to blow it down every 3-4 days now whereas it was a daily job previously.

Header pitch control

“Being able to alter the angle of the cutterbar from the cab is a real bonus. It’s a real advantage when you get into laid or twisted crops.

“A clever but simple thing, like everything else on these new machines, these latest changes are all designed to make things easier for the operator.”

40kph Transmission

“With our land spread across an 11-mile area, being able to run at 40kph on the road makes a huge difference. Travelling from one block to the other now takes half an hour compared with 45 minutes previously.

“Being able to alter the angle of the cutterbar from the cab is a real bonus. It’s a real advantage when you get into laid or twisted crops.”

Neil Armstrong





Generally we're churning out 10% more grain in a day, even with the green damp straw we inevitably end up in up here in north Northumberland."

Neil Armstrong