



Jack Neale (left) and son Christopher with Nealford Monarch.

Good breeding counts

For Jack Neale and his sons Christopher and James, their ARION 440 PANORAMIC offers the best of both worlds. Fitted with a FL100 loader, it's small and nimble enough for jobs around the yard, but out in the field its power means that if necessary it can stand in for their larger ARION 610s.

The 120hp ARION 440 was bought in December to replace a smaller 98hp loader tractor, and is now the fourth CLAAS tractor to have been bought by the Neales.

"The main reason for having CLAAS on the farm is because we have always dealt with HAMBLYS due to the back-up they provide. Also we get on very well with Martyn (Conway) who really knows his product and is very good to deal with," explains Jack Neale. "The tractors we have run over the years reflect what they have sold, and we certainly had no fears about buying CLAAS because of the good name that they have for their machinery, and on the farm we also run a DISCO mower, ROLLANT 340 baler and a LINER rake."

"We initially saw the ARION at the Beef Expo at Exeter last November and liked the look of it. HAMBLYS brought the tractor out for us to try in December and it never went back. We were surprised by how gutsy it is. It also has a very good turning circle and the PANORAMIC cab makes a big difference for loader work. Having everything on the (multifunction) joystick makes it so easy to drive – you just jump in and off you go. For a small tractor it's extremely good."

A LEADING HERD

The Neales farm 280ha at Werrington near Launceston in Cornwall. Originally a dairy farm, but since coming out of milk in 2004 they have gradually built up their Nealford herd of pedigree Limousins, originally established in 1988, which has grown to become one of the leading herds in the country.

In all they run 300 pedigree cattle including calves and are regularly to be seen in the show ring where they have achieved considerable success. "Typically we will sell between 30 to 35 bulls a year for breeding," says Chris Neale. "Most are sold privately but the best we will hold back for the herd society sale at Brecon, plus there is also an increasing market for semen and embryo transfer, which is becoming increasingly popular due to concerns about TB, even though we are completely free."

"We aim for quality and to achieve that we are prepared to invest in good breeding and we will wait for the right stock bulls to come along. Recent purchases have seen us buying from Ireland and Carlisle, and we have even travelled as far as Aberdeen to look at potential bulls."

In addition to the Limousin herd, the Neales also buy in a further 200



“We have a number of small sheds, but it can go everywhere it needs to go and will quite happily power the bale shredder”
Jack Neale, December 2017



Jack Neale | 280 ha | Launceston, Cornwall

VERSATILE TRACTOR FLEET

“There’s always a place for a small tractor on a farm and the ARION is ideal in this respect,” says Jack. “We have a number of small sheds, but it can go everywhere it needs to go and will quite happily power the bale shredder running at 540 Eco. Most of the heavy handling work is done using a telehandler, but the loader on the ARION has the same headstock so that it can share the same attachments and be used as a back-up.”

“Most of the heavier field work, such as cultivations or baling and mowing are done with the larger tractors, but the ARION 440 is ideal for raking and if necessary it does have the power to stand in for the larger ARIONS, so does mean that we have three field tractors.” **CLAAS** |||||

store cattle to fatten, which they aim to either finish after 100 days or will sell on at 2-years old depending on the market. Finally they also lamb 650 ewes, including 40 pedigree Texels, and buy in between 500 and 800 store lambs a year, with all their lambs going to Waitrose, who they have supplied for about 10 years.

With all this livestock on the farm, one of the main jobs for the ARION is to power a trailed McHale two-bale capacity shredder, which in addition to bedding down is also used to shred and feed out silage bales on some separate livestock buildings three miles from the main farm.

