

STAND OUT ARION

Superb visibility and easy handling are just some of the benefits of the ARION 400's new award winning PANORAMIC cab for Dan Burden. It also makes you stand out, which is important when you are starting out in contracting and looking to make yourself known in the local area.

Starting out as a young farmer is increasingly difficult, but Dan and his wife Sam have been lucky that Hampshire County Council do still own farms throughout the county that are available for young entrants, and last year they were awarded the tenancy of a 32ha farm near Fordingbridge in the New Forest.

Combined with 20ha rented by his parents, this gives Dan a total of 52ha on which he is raising both conventional beef cattle for the store trade, but is also establishing a rosé veal unit.

"Doing rosé veal has two benefits," explains Dan. "Firstly it provides us with a guaranteed market and price, and secondly it means that we are able to offer a market for dairy black and white bull calves, mainly Holstein."

Calves are sourced through a dealer from dairy farms with a known good TB status in Hampshire

and Wiltshire. Fed on concentrates and barley straw, the aim is to have between 20-30 animals a month going out to Buitelaar at a live weight of around 420kg after 10 months, in order to kill-out at 200kg.

However, it was due to raising cattle for the store market that Dan got involved in contracting, and it was this in turn that resulted in him buying the ARION 450 PANORAMIC.

"The first year we were here I had a local contractor in to bale 1,000 straw bales for us, but when he finished he suggested that due to the number it might be better to bale our own this year," says Dan. "He also put me in touch with another large estate, but he sadly died fairly soon after. However, his wife, knowing that we were looking at doing our own baling also forwarded my number to some of his other baling customers and it went from there."

It was with a view to buying a new round baler, that Dan approached CLAAS Western at Winchester last Spring, but did not expect that he would end up with not only a new ROLLANT 340, but also a new ARION 450 PANORAMIC with FL100 loader to go on the front of it.

"I have always liked the look of CLAAS tractors, both the colour and their design. They look modern, smart and really stand out, which was why I originally bought the ARION 430. However, I was surprised when Ben Griffiths came back with figures not just for the baler, but also because the ARION 430 had held its value so well, what little extra it would cost to also replace the tractor. That, combined with the fact that CLAAS Finance was able to then tailor payments around our business, made it a 'no brainer'."

"To have the PANORAMIC cab on the new ARION 450 was a given. When using the loader it makes the job so much easier because you don't need to keep leaning forward when the loader is raised to see what you are doing, which is a great advantage in some customers barns where I have had to stack bales. Also it's a lot safer on the road as you can clearly see the loader and that it is not near any cables or other obstructions. But generally, it makes the cab far lighter and combined with the front axle suspension and soft ride on the loader, it's just a very pleasant place to be."



01



02



04

"To have the PANORAMIC cab on the new ARION 450 was a given. When using the loader it makes the job so much easier."

- 01. ARION 450 delivering feed to the Hostein black and white bull calves
- 02. ARION 400 with the award winning PANORAMIC cab
- 03. Dan Burden
- 04. ARION 450 at work on the New Forest farm, giving Dan superb visibility. Dan also owns a CLAAS ROLLANT 340 baler and together the two machines are a perfect match for Dan's livestock business



03

Aside from the PANORAMIC cab, when comparing the old style ARION with his new ARION 450, Dan says he has been particularly impressed by the cab layout.

"The cab is far more user friendly. The layout of the dashboard makes it very easy to operate the tractor and all the controls are nicely within reach. Also I like the fact that all the 130hp from the (FPT) engine is always available, so you have plenty of power but within a compact size tractor, and it uses so little AdBlue that it's not an issue."

"However, the new multifunction control is superb. To have everything you need to hand

on the one control – gearshift, spools, loader control, headland control, etc – is not only very effective but makes it all so easy. There are more than enough 'toys' on the tractor to keep me happy, but it's still straightforward for when my father needs to drive it."

In addition to baling over 2,000 bales last summer, having bought a used Twose 580, Dan has also now added hedge cutting to his range of services and he also offers muckspreading and fencing.

"There are not that many CLAAS tractors around here, so the ARION and the ROLLANT do

stand out. The ARION has been great and done everything I have asked of it," states Dan. "It was certainly the right way to go. When I bought the first ARION, I looked at all four main makes and while the ARION was on a par for price, it offered so much more for the money, plus I benefit from the high level of service that CLAAS offer."