

# Powerful but fuel efficient

Martin Smith, Ware, Hertfordshire  
AXION 920 (+ 850, 830 & ARION 650)





# Martin Smith

Ware, Hertfordshire, AXION 920

Reliability and a high level of dealer support have been key reasons behind A R Smith & Sons gradually changing their tractor fleet to CLAAS over the last 6 years.

The Smiths are not ones to change brand regularly. Prior to CLAAS, they had relied on their previous premium tractor brand for 15 years, and another top-four brand for 25 years prior to that.

## IMPRESSED WITH CLAAS

However, issues with reliability and support prompted Martin Smith to look around at other options and impressed with a CLAAS ARION run by his uncle and the support received from OLIVERS, he got in touch with them.

Three CLAAS AXION now form the mainstay of the tractor fleet on the 400ha farmed by Martin in partnership with his uncle and cousin. Leading the fleet is a 320hp AXION 920 bought in 2015, plus they have two AXION 800s – an 850 bought used with 5,000 hours on the clock that is a general purpose tractor and a new 830 that is mainly used for spraying and liquid fertiliser application, plus they run a smaller ARION 650.

## HEAVY SOILS

“It could be argued that we are overpowered and that the AXION 920 is too big for the acreage,” says Martin. “But although we have a mix of soils, they are generally heavy. Buying the 920 was definitely the right decision as it gives us options and I would far rather be master of the situation rather than struggling, and to operate a tractor that’s well within its capabilities rather than operating on the limit.”

## FUEL EFFICIENT

“Running costs for the AXION machines are good and they have proved just as fuel efficient as our previous tractors, but their great strength is that they are easy to drive and operate. Alongside that, the support offered by OLIVERS has been exceptional and that has been the main reason why we have gradually changed over to CLAAS.”

Main tasks for the larger AXION range from pulling the farm’s 7-furrow Lemken Euro 8 plough or Sumo cultivator, through to drilling using a Claydon V drill. “We end up doing a

bit of everything, depending on the blackgrass burden,” states Martin.

For operator Mark Birtwistle, the transition from his previous tractor over to the AXION proved very straightforward, and for him the tractor’s ease of operation is one of its strengths.

## EVERYTHING AT YOUR FINGERTIPS ON THE CMOTION CONTROL

“As a heavy cultivations tractor it’s very good and the FPT engine just keeps holding and pulling,” he says. “Having everything at your fingertips on the CMOTION control makes it very easy to set-up the F buttons. For most jobs I just set the Cruise Control and leave the tractor in automatic mode to look after itself. Over a long day the cab is a very nice place to be and the ride from the cab and front axle suspension is superb.”

CLAAS

**“The AXION machines are just as fuel efficient as our previous tractors, but their great strength is that they are easy to operate.”**

**Martin Smith and operator Mark Birtwistle**

