

# A stress-free work place



Neil Morgan | **344 ha** | **Rhino Agricultural Services** | Nr Dover, Kent By Nick Fone

Chopping maize in the sunniest, warmest part of the country, Neil Morgan is regularly faced with a wall of crop stretching over 3.6m into the sky.

If there's one plant that responds well to lots of sunlight, it's maize. Kent's climate provides ideal growing conditions which result in some monster tonnages coming off the fields. Dealing with that amount of material requires a forager with some serious muscle and this year the business replaced a four year old JAGUAR 970 with another of the same, this one equipped with all the latest features including variable speed header drive, hydraulic feed roller tensioning and a redesigned shear-bar set-up.

## HOW HAS IT PERFORMED?

"We've seen a huge difference to crop flow with hydraulic feed roller tensioning," explains Neil Morgan.

"Because it's better at maintaining a constant pressure it means we're always getting a positive feed of material and it evens out those lumps you tend to get in older grass so you don't get that horrible 'whoomping' any more. "That's been helped by having variable header speed – by automatically adjusting pick-up pace as the chop length alters we are getting a more consistent feed of crop which adds to the overall smoothness of the job and means we're covering the ground at a more even rate."

## SHEARBAR SETTING & DRUM CONCAVE

"The knock-sensors and CEBIS settings seem to work a lot faster now and having the drum concave automatically drawing itself up in as the blades wear has made a huge difference, particularly in dry crops. Previously it was a bit of a fiddle to pull shims out to maintain a decent blow. Now it all happens automatically." The cab is so much quieter that it's just a more stress-free place to spend the day."

## CAB & CONTROLS

"A few simple things have made driving the Jag a more relaxing experience. Having that extra bit of spout pivot means the trailers can now sit that extra bit further forward which means I'm not constantly craning my neck.

“Coming on and off with the joystick, the auto handbrake is a brilliant safety feature. Overall the cab is so much quieter that it’s just a more stress-free place to spend the day.”

## DYNAMIC COOLING


“We’re finding that the new chopper runs a lot cooler than the old 970, generally topping out at around 83° to 85° compared to 94° to 96° previously.

“That’s all down to the variator fan drive that comes as part of the new DYNAMIC COOLING package. It only runs flat-out when it needs to so it’s not drawing power unnecessarily. The screens never block and the engine never gets close to running in the red which has got to be a good thing for its lifespan.”

## WHY CLAAS?

“CLAAS has got a proven track record in the forager game so it’s no surprise they’re market leaders. That said, we’re not blind to one colour but we believe the JAGUAR is the best machine for us.

“We’re very impressed with this latest generation and the most important factor for the customer – chop quality – is spot-on. With a 24-knife drum we can get right down to 4mm or run at a cow friendly 22mm. There’s no need to run a set of half blades.

“The overall design of the JAGUAR is so well thought out – you’ve got the ability to open the front right up to get access to the drum. The service access is unbeatable.” 

**You**  Watch the video: [https://youtu.be/Yix5alXo\\_aE](https://youtu.be/Yix5alXo_aE)

