

“It just keeps on pulling, even when you’re nearly fully laden.”

MY JAGUAR 880

North Devon



Located deep in the steeply rolling countryside of North Devon, father-and-son team Peter and Derek Hutchings made the switch to CLAAS forage-harvesters six years ago and are now on their third machine, putting some serious acreages through their JAGUAR 880 each season.

Peter & Derek Hutchings

JAGUAR 880

Peter Hutchings Contractors
near Torrington, North Devon

September 2022

Q&A



Q: Why a JAGUAR 880?

“Since the 1980s we’ve run choppers of all different colours and when we made the change to CLAAS we initially went for an 870 which proved to be a big step up from what we’d had before,” says Peter.

“But after three seasons with us it had clocked some 2000 hours and our acreage had grown so we decided to trade up to an 880.

“We were initially concerned about the move away from a V8 to a straight six engine but those fears proved unfounded – it had heaps more torque. But the single biggest difference was the new grass pick-up. It revolutionised the way the crop feeds in, doing away with that surging effect and massively increasing our daily outputs.

“We stick with JAGUAR 800s because of their compact footprint on our narrow lanes. In truth we don’t need any extra capacity – this latest 880 has got so much go in it that we’re never really under pressure.”

Fuel use

This season saw the arrival of a new 880 with an extra 20hp under the hood.

“Our latest machine is a step on again – that extra power has pushed things on. We can’t get it to drop back at all in maize to the point that we’re now wondering if we should switch from an eight-row to a ten-row header,” says Derek.

“But the big difference we’ve seen is fuel use. When we got our first CLAAS forager it dropped considerably and with each subsequent machine it’s just got better and better to the point where we’re now using 25-30% less than before. That’s helped us to remain competitive despite the ever-increasing price of diesel.”

Pulling power

“The other big change we’ve seen with the new 880 is its pulling power. Because the hydrostatic transmission runs at a much higher pressure than before, you’re never slowed up when you hit a steep bank.

“It’s particularly obvious when there’s a trailer hitched on opening up maize fields. It just keeps on pulling, even when you’re nearly fully laden.”

Extra push

“Being in a part of the country where there’s barely a flat field, it’s essential to have four-wheel-drive. And that’s another area where the JAGUAR wins through – because it’s a proper mechanical driveline, it doesn’t give up when one wheel loses traction like the hydraulically-powered systems we’ve had on previous competitor machines.

“It just doesn’t die back and never comes close to getting stuck.”



“It’s just got better and better to the point where we’re now using 25-30% less [fuel] than before.”

Q: Why CLAAS?

“When we first made the move to CLAAS foragers it was really based on their reputation. Friends of mine running JAGUARS really rated them for their performance a reliability and the last six years have proved it for us.

“But of course the reason why you stick with a particular make is the back-up you get when things go wrong. Our local dealer – HAMBLYS – always stand by the machine. If there is an issue there’s never any delay – their attitude is always ‘let’s get it sorted and get it back up and running.’ That means a lot when you’ve got a customer breathing down your neck!”



BUSINESS FACTS

Peter Hutchings Contractors near Torrington, North Devon

SERVICES

Grass, Wholecrop and Maize Silage
Slurry (Umbilical and Tankers)
Round Baling and Wrapping
Groundworks, Muck-Spreading
Fertiliser Applications, Ploughing
Cultivations and Drilling

STAFF

Peter and Derek Hutchings
plus seven full-timers and
another three part-time

JAGUAR HISTORY

2016	870
2019	880
2022	880