

# MY JAGUAR 870

County Cork

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grass crop.”

With a busy forage and arable workload in the mixed farming area of Midleton, County Cork, M & J Contracting have stuck with a JAGUAR 870 to munch its way through the mix of grass, wholecrop and maize grown by local dairy farmers. In fact this latest machine is the family firm's sixth CLAAS forage-harvester.





## Shane McCarthy

JAGUAR 870

M & J Contracting,  
Midleton, Co Cork

September 2022

Q&A

### Q: Why a JAGUAR 870?

“Our previous JAGUAR was an 870 and we bought the same again after it had done five seasons. We did consider going to an 880 but it was going to cost a chunk more and we were happy with the output. It is the same reason why we haven't looked at a JAGUAR 900,” explains Shane.

“We can easily chop 12 acres an hour in grass crops, which can be heavy in this area and regularly put away 140-150 acres per day.”

“Our forager will generally clock around 650 hours each season. About three quarters of our work is grass silage, the rest wholecrop and maize. We have been cutting maize here since 1993 and it is the reason our JAGUARS have always had four-wheel drive. We can get a lot of rain and in those conditions it makes all the difference.”

### Pick up

“The new pick-up deals with lumpy grass so much better – it's a big step forward. The way it can pivot left and right means the stubble is left much cleaner and critically the auger slip-clutch isn't constantly going off. Around one third of our customers do just one big cut so it can be a lot of grass to deal with.”

“The engine in the new JAGUAR 870 also hangs on longer and the fuel use is slightly better. We feel another benefit of sticking with the 870 is that it shares some of the harvesting components with the more powerful 880, so they must be under less pressure with 585hp rather than 653hp.”

### Cab and controls

“Jamie, who has been driving the forager for the last six years really likes the new cab and controls. You just don't have to take your hands off the CMOTION joystick for anything, which makes it a nicer machine to operate.”

### Q: Why CLAAS?

“We had been running another make of harvester when we started contracting, but when the dealer changed to CLAAS, we bought our first JAGUAR 860 from them in 1997 and have stuck with the brand through successive dealers. Today that is MCCARTHYS, and we still get the same great service. No matter what the time of day we can always get someone to keep us going if there is an issue. And this isn't just with the JAGUAR, it is the reason we also run a LEXION 670 TT.”

CLAAS

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# BUSINESS FACTS

M & J Contracting, Midleton, Co Cork

## SERVICES

Grass silage	Combining
Wholecrop silage	Square baling (straw and silage)
Maize silage	Muck-spreading
Ploughing Cultivations	Fertiliser applications
Drilling	

## STAFF

Shane McCarthy  
plus three  
full-timers and six  
part-time

## JAGUAR HISTORY

<b>1997</b>	860
<b>2000</b>	860
<b>2003</b>	870
<b>2010</b>	870
<b>2017</b>	870
<b>2022</b>	870