

MY JAGUAR 950

Dumfries



“One of the crucial buying factors with a JAGUAR is its very good second hand value.”

Based at Kirkpatrick-Fleming, Lockerbie, G Rae Contracting is a large-scale contracting business which chops 19,000 acres of grass silage each year using three CLAAS JAGUAR 950 forage harvesters. Having started out in 1971 as a ‘tractor and man’ outfit, demand saw the business grow over the years which now offers a large array of services.

Graham Rae

3 x JAGUAR 950

G Rae Contracting, near Lockerbie, Dumfries

September 2022

Q&A



Run by Graham Rae and his son Andrew, the firm covers a radius of 30 miles, servicing a predominantly dairy customer base, with some beef and hill farms.

As well as the large grass silage workload - ranging from one to five cuts per customer - the foragers also see their way through 1,200 acres of whole-crop and around 350 acres of maize. As such, it is a workload which requires a flexible approach to forager choice.

Q: How long have you been running CLAAS JAGUARs?

"I've been running CLAAS JAGUARs for the last 20 years, in which time we've had 15 machines," says Graham. "Of the three we are currently running, two were new for this season, while the oldest is a '20-plate machine.

"To maintain the residual values of the foragers, we try to change the two main foragers every three seasons and the lesser-worked machine every four.

"We find running three 950s is a good choice for the variety of silage clamps and fields we have to deal with - there's just no need for more power in grass. A 950 set up well can chop as much in a day as a more powerful forager. It also means we can keep multiple customers happy at once - crucial for making quality silage."

Q: What are the stand-out features of the CLAAS JAGUAR?

"CLAAS' option of Premium Line, hard-faced liners is an especially good feature and well worth the extra cost. Fitted in-place of standard liners, the harder wearing metal offer a much longer lifespan - they last the full length of time we have

the forgers, with about an extra two years to spare. This, in turn, adds to the second-hand value of the machines.

"In the last 10 years we've been running the Premium Line liners, we've never had to change any - we wouldn't have a forager without them now. Overall, they help reduce running costs and certainly reduce downtime.

"Another clever option is the ability to automatically inject water into the crop flow at headlands, I think there are now 4 injection points. This really helps to keep the crop flowing in dry, sticky crop conditions, particularly this year, and prevents the spout from 'greening' up."

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Q: Why do you keep buying CLAAS JAGUARS?

“One of the crucial buying factors with a JAGUAR is its very good second hand value which is key to surviving ever rising costs - it’s much better to have good residuals than run a machine until it is worthless, which then makes the gap to buy a new machine far too big,” says Graham.

“We’ve always bought our CLAAS machinery from RICKERBY - they offer great service and know the machines from back to front. All their staff are well trained and they would work all night if they had to, to get you going again.

“The JAGUARS offer good reliability with very little downtime, they are easy to use and maintain and come with many good features.

“At this stage, it would take something very serious to make me move away from CLAAS - you just know what you’re going to get.”



BUSINESS FACTS

Graham Rae, near Lockerbie, Dumfries

SERVICES

- Silaging
- Seeding
- Slurry application
- Spraying
- Muck spreading
- Combining
- Ploughing
- Hedge-cutting

STAFF

Graham Rae and son Andrew plus 12 full time staff and another 12 over the busy summer period.

JAGUAR HISTORY

2002	870	2008	870	2017	950
2003	870	2010	950	2018	950
2004	870	2011	950	2020	950
2006	870	2012	950	2022	950
2007	870	2016	950	2022	950