

Clearly designed as a driver's machine



Adrian Joynt

Last harvest the team at Apley Farms took delivery of a brand-spanking CLAAS TRION 750 with 9.3m CONVIO header. Replacing an eight-year-old single rotor machine of a different colour, it has proved itself to be more than capable of dealing with the business' 1,830 acres of arable cropping.

WHY A TRION 750?

"When it came to swapping out our old combine we trialled a range of different machines," explains farm manager Adrian Joynt.

"The TRION won through because, despite having some serious output, it represented really good value for money and we were able to spec. it up to our requirements without having the extra bits we knew we wouldn't use."

CAB AND CONTROLS

"The TRION has clearly been designed as a driver's machine – the cab is as good as anything else on the market," says operator Mike Buck.

"In combination with GPS steering, the touchscreen controls make fine-tuning the combine while on the move really straightforward. It's really easy to navigate – you jump on and in just a couple of hours you've figured out where everything is. It's just really intuitive to operate."

AUTOMATION

"We specced the TRION with auto slope compensation which opens and closes the sieves and alters fan speed depending on whether you're going up- or down-hill. In combination with the 4D sieves adjusting to side-slopes it's a fantastic set-up. Compared to our previous single-rotor machine it's a different beast – you're never having to pull the stick back to keep losses under control."

TERRA TRAC

"Being very focused on soil management, we opted for tracks to ensure as light a footprint as possible. But there are other significant advantages too. There are parts of the farm where our previous machine would really scabble – the TRION just cruises on up the banks," Mr Joynt points out.

"The ride quality is also so much better both on the road and in the field. The tracks provide a solid grounding for the header on even the most undulating terrain and they keep the overall machine width down for roadwork."

CONVIO HEADER

"We'd had belt-fed headers previously but the CONVIO is a step on again. The crop feed is like nothing else even in short laid crops – by getting that right everything else runs smoothly."



Mike Buck



That means the combine running at its best and I'm convinced that's why we're seeing such high output and good quality of sample.

"Despite not being a 'Flex' header the CONVIO contours brilliantly, its six sensor bands ensuring it faithfully follows the ground."

STRAW MANAGEMENT

"One of the biggest surprises with the TRION came with the straw chopper. Despite the 9.3m header, the spreader evenly distributes material across the full width and when you look at what's on the ground the quality of chop is just so much better than anything we're had before."

WHY CLAAS?

"We've run different colour combines up until last year but having demo-ed a range of machines we're convinced by the ability of the TRION to get the job done.

"We know the back-up from MORRIS CORFIELD is strong. This harvest we had just one issue – a minor oil leak – and we had a fitter in the field within half an hour to sort it."



Farm Facts

Apley Farms near Bridgnorth, Shropshire

Farmed area

1,352 ha

Cropping

Winter wheat 395 ha

OSR 133 ha

Triticale 20 ha

Winter beans 32 ha

Winter barley 66 ha

Spring barley 74 ha

Spring beans 19 ha, 118 ha rented out for potatoes and salads, remainder down to grass and stewardship.

Livestock

220 x continental/Hereford dairy cross sucklers,

70 intensively finished beef

Staff

4 x full-time plus one other part-time.

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