



“TELEMATICS is now an essential tool in our long-term decision making.”



Ian Matts,
Northamptonshire,
2023

FARM FACTS

Farm	Brixworth Farming near Northampton	
Farmed area	2,200 ha	
Cropping	Winter wheat 600 ha Winter barley 200 ha Winter oilseed rape 150 ha Winter beans 350 ha Spring barley 70 ha Spring oats 150 ha Canary seed 100 ha Year-round cover crops 12 ha Stewardship schemes circa. 450 ha	
Staff	Ian Matts plus 4 full timers and another 3-4 at harvest	
CLAAS combine history	2001	2 x LEXION 480 TT
	2006	2 x LEXION 580 TT
	2008	2 x LEXION 600 TT
	2013	2 x LEXION 780 TT
	2018	2 x LEXION 780 TT

Always performing efficiently

Brixworth Farming was one of the first UK businesses to invest in TELEMATICS on its combines some 15 years ago, predominantly as an early diagnostic aid for any arising problems.

“We bought into TELEMATICS because we could see the potential for reducing downtime. At the time our two LEXION 580s were expected to clear over 2500 ha and so we were really pushing the envelope in terms of their capacity.

“My father – Charles – could see how the system could improve harvest efficiency and the potential in yield mapping for future inputs’ management.”

“Today we’re in quite a different position and are looking at ways of reducing our cropped acreage to put aside land for environmental stewardship. In the last three years our shareholders have pulled a total of 450 ha out of arable production and TELEMATICS has proved a really useful tool in identifying which areas to set aside.

“Field size is the single biggest factor influencing the efficiency of our operations, and headlands account for over 50% of our farmed area, so initially it was the smaller fields that were put into stewardship.

“TELEMATICS is now an essential tool in our long-term decision making. With 15 years of yield data we now have a true picture of what different areas are capable of. Today I have all our fields ranked by yield potential and know where to target our inputs.”



“TELEMATICS means we can keep a real-time tab on combine waiting times (from the office) and decide whether we need to put on extra trailers or lorries.”

Harvest efficiency

“On a day-to-day basis throughout harvest I use TELEMATICS to monitor our overall progress and daily outputs. That way I can make judgments on things like chaser bin logistics or whether we’re going to need to call in a third combine if we’re not getting on as well as we should.

“TELEMATICS means we can keep a real-time tab on combine waiting times and decide whether we need to put on extra trailers or lorries. One year I worked out we had a total of 24 hours waiting for lorries and off the back of that we totally reorganised our harvest logistics, moving to dedicated hauliers committed to not letting us down.

“But it’s other seemingly less significant things that TELEMATICS has helped us to identify, like the direction in which the combines unload. Having the chaser bins taking a load as they travel back towards the gateway can have a huge impact on how quickly they get unloaded and get back to the combines. It’s all about the aggregation of marginal gains – lots of small things add up to make big improvements in efficiency.”

Fuel use

“One of the key features TELEMATICS provides us with is an accurate picture of fuel use. This is particularly important where we’re working on a stubble-to-stubble contracting basis because it gives a true indication of how much diesel we’re burning for every hectare of crop cut.”

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Why CLAAS?

“When we were previously cutting over 2,500 ha each season we needed the highest capacity machines available and CLAAS’ flagship LEXION always exceeded anything else when it came to raw output.

“But it isn’t all about putting hundreds of tonnes in the shed every day – we aim to get a premium on every crop and so the quality of sample is really important to us. Equipped with CEMOS Auto and grain quality cameras, LEXION seem to consistently produce a much cleaner sample than anything else, without impacting on daily throughputs.

“They’re also reliable machines – in the last six harvests with our two 780s we haven’t had any significant downtime. But even if we did have we have the peace of mind knowing that our dealer – MANNNS – has stand-by combines in the yard.

“To help in that respect we also opt for the full MAXICARE service package which provides us with true fixed running costs so we can accurately budget for the lifetime of that machine.”



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