



“CLAAS combines are a step ahead of anything else.”



Louis Staddon,
Worcestershire,
2023

FARM FACTS

Farm	AG Staddon and Sons, Shakenhurst Estate near Kidderminster, Worcestershire
Farmed Area	657 ha
Cropping	Winter wheat 138 ha Oilseed rape 80 ha Winter barley 80 ha Peas 24 ha Forage maize 32 ha Remainder in grass and woodland
Livestock	250 x Holstein milkers (av. 10,500-litres/year) plus a further 400 head of followers with beef animals taken through to slaughter
Staff	Louis, Vernon and George plus two full-timers and another 2-3 part-time

Changing combine to tackle new challenges

While moving from a straw walker combine to a hybrid machine can help to boost harvesting capacity it doesn't have to come at the expense of straw quality.

Increasingly challenging harvest weather conditions prompted one Worcestershire farm to look to increase combine capacity when it came to a change for this season.

Having been running one of CLAAS' largest straw-walker machines previously - a LEXION 670 MONTANA - if the Staddon family were to significantly improve output they needed to look at a different type of machine.

“Our old 670 was a solid, reliable combine that produced lovely swaths of straw but I was keen to increase our harvesting capacity to put us in a situation where we wouldn't need to fire the grain dryer up as often,” explains Louis Staddon.

“We knew that to do that we'd need to go to a hybrid and on paper the single-rotor TRION 730 matched our needs perfectly - it had the output and critically was available as a MONTANA hill-sider with proper body-levelling.”

How has it performed?

“Having cut some 364 ha this season the TRION has proved more than capable of matching the Staddons’ expectations.

“The old 670 would average 20-25 tonnes an hour in standing wheat whereas the TRION is now running at up to 40 tonnes an hour so we’ve got that extra capacity we were after and then some. Being a MONTANA with true body-levelling means I’m never having to pull the stick back to limit losses when we get onto the steeper ground – and we’ve got plenty of that!”

“What’s more impressive is how much less fuel we’re using per tonne of grain harvested. The new combine gets through diesel at the same rate as the LEXION but is clearing the ground 40% faster – it’s a whole lot more efficient.

“Critically with 650-head of cattle to bed down through the winter we haven’t seen any detriment to straw quality in moving from a walker machine to a single rotor hybrid.”

“Being narrower than the six-walker LEXION, it’s also much easier to get around our narrow lanes.”

How easy is it to set up?

“Part of the TRION’s brilliance is just how easy it is to change settings. To maintain that straw quality without losing any grain over the back I need to be tweaking rotor speed as conditions alter through the day.

“To do that I just tap the rotor graphic on the combine silhouette and it brings up the right settings page. I can then adjust accordingly using either the armrest switches, dial selector or touchscreen – it’s all just really intuitive.

“To be honest the factory settings for each crop are pretty much spot on every time so I’m rarely altering much other than rotor speed.

“It’s got the output we need and the grain is always super clean – the new fan and sieves make for an amazing sample.”



Cab and GPS steering

“Packed with cubby holes and storage, the new cab is a vast improvement. It’s big and airy making long days and nights in the seat a less tiring experience – the LED lighting package certainly helps in that respect.

“And it’s the same story with the GPS steering. It takes the stress out of the job so I can concentrate on what’s going into the machine and tweak the VARIO header accordingly. With this season’s flat crops that’s been particularly important. Not only does it take the stress out of the job but we’re also that much more efficient and the combine is constantly running at full capacity with a full header.”

Why CLAAS?

“Being a true harvesting machinery specialist, CLAAS’ combines are a step ahead of anything else. On top of that, they’re the only company who build a true hill-sider that will provide the output without excessive losses,” says Louis.

“And they’re not expensive machines to run because they hold their value so well. The trade-in value for our old 670 MONTANA was almost what we paid for it five years earlier.

“But more important than anything else is the back-up. The service we get from our dealer MORRIS CORFIELD is just phenomenal – no one else can match it.”

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