



TRION 650 2023

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Anthony Williamson,
Dumfries and Galloway,
2023

FARM FACTS

Farm	D&W Agriculture, near Gretna, Dumfries and Galloway
Work undertaken	Silage – grass 5,665 ha-6,070 ha Wholecrop 404 ha/year Combining – 404 ha/year Spraying – 3,238 ha/year Slurry – umbilical and tankers Timber haulage, chipping and biomass supply
Cropping	Spring barley 36 ha Winter barley 16 ha Winter wheat 8 ha
Livestock	80 Texel X breeding ewes
Staff	Anthony and Tracey Williamson plus 21 full-timers and another 5 at peak times
CLAAS history	2011 LEXION 630 2013 LEXION 630 2016 LEXION 630 2023 TRION 650 TT

Extra output without the hassle

Trying to get cereals harvested in the south west corner of Scotland can be a challenge and so any increase in output is a welcome one. The move from a five to a six straw-walker machine has seen a decent hike in capacity for Dumfriesshire-based D&W Agriculture.

Previously the business has run a succession of LEXION 630s but this harvest saw the arrival of a wider-bodied TRION 650 equipped with TERRA TRACS and 6.7m (22ft) VARIO header.

Why a TRION 650?

“We’d had brilliant service from our three LEXION 630s and in essence the workings of the TRION are just the same so we know what we’re getting,” explains Anthony Williamson.

“We’d wanted a bit of extra output to help ensure we get crops cleared at their driest in between the increasingly unsettled summer weather we’re seeing. So we went for a six-walker machine.

“But there was a downside to that – being wider bodied we would have struggled to get into a lot of our tighter fields. But CLAAS had a solution to that – by opting for tracks rather than wheels we brought the overall width back down closer to that of a five-walker and we had something less prone to sinking in the wet.”



“Having the pivoting spout is really useful in flinging it out to the far side of the trailer so we can ensure the swath isn’t getting run down. It also means that I can top the trailers off properly so we’re getting a full load every time.”

How has it performed?

“This harvest the weather and crops have been really challenging but we’ve still seen a 12-15% increase in output compared with the old five-walker machine.

“Having gone for tracks we didn’t opt for 4wd as we have previously but the combine has managed to stay afloat and keep moving.”

Cab and controls

“The new cab is a real step on from what we’d been used to. With the touchscreen, armrest switches and old LEXION-style click-clack dial it really caters for everyone.

“What impressed me most is how easy it has been to master – after just one season it’s just like second nature to me.

“The way you operate it is much like the new CLAAS GPS system which we’ve opted for this time. It’s been brilliant in letting me keep an eye on everything else that’s going on and adjusting the combine as conditions change. I can just let go and the system keeps the machine on the right track.”



Unloading

“Moving to a 10,500-litre grain tank has made a big difference in the number of times we’re having to unload.

“Having the pivoting spout is really useful in flinging it out to the far side of the trailer so we can ensure the swath isn’t getting run down. It also means that I can top the trailers off properly so we’re getting a full load every time.”

Why CLAAS?

“Our dealer RICKERBY are fantastic. Grant and his team are just a great bunch. They’re knowledgeable and they’ll come out at any time, even if its 10 o’clock on a Sunday night.

“It’s very rare that they haven’t got the bits we need on the shelf and if that isn’t the case they’re out to us the following day.

“It’s why 50% of the machinery we buy comes from RICKERBY – we’ve two CLAAS foragers, the combine, two sets of mowers and three rakes.

“And we don’t get the breakdowns that we used to have years ago. CLAAS have worked really hard on the reliability of their kit and it shows.

“On top of that we go for CLAAS machinery because we know we’ll get decent resale values. In truth they’re viewed as the leader in the harvesting game and because of that there’s always someone out there looking for decent second-hand harvesters, no matter what the age.

“We’ve stuck with the straw walker machine because we know what we’re getting and we know it’ll do our job and do it well. That extra width has boosted output and the tracks have helped in maintaining a sensible width for transport and keeping us afloat in the wet.”

