

GREANEY

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BUSINESS FACTS

Greaney Agri
Brandon, County Kerry



BUSINESS TYPE
Agricultural Contracting



CONTRACTING SERVICES
Full silage operation, tanker and umbilical slurry application, ploughing and reseeding-grassland, round baling and land reclamation



STAFF
Michael, son Thomas, plus four full time operators, with up to 10 extra during the summer months

For over 60 years Michael Greaney has been contracting on the Dingle peninsula in County Kerry, and for half that time he has been using CLAAS JAGUAR self-propelled forage harvesters.

In fact the family business which he runs with his son Thomas is now operating its seventh JAGUAR, an 880.

“It was all hay when I started out, but the amount of rain we have here in the South West always made it hard to do right,” explains Michael. “Silage made it much easier to work with the conditions, although today’s farmer is aiming for a much drier forage that we have almost come full circle.”

Having operated several trailed machines, Greaney Agri bought their first self-propelled in 1988, but it had its problems and the newer model was physically a much bigger machine that Michael felt was not suited to the yards of his dairy and suckler cow customers.

A conversation with a friend prompted him to look at the CLAAS JAGUAR 695SL for the 1993 season. Although there was rumblings of the new JAGUAR 800 on the way, Michael decided to take the plunge with the tried and tested 600 series and it is a relationship with CLAAS which continues to this day.

“The CLAAS was a much simpler, more streamlined machine,” recalls the contractor. “It had four bolts holding each knife in the chevron pattern, so when we did hit a stone it was much less of an issue. The stone detector on today’s harvesters has been a game changer for us, especially when we switched from grouping grass with the mower to using the LINER rakes, where there is always a chance of collecting a stone.”

“We need a machine which is reliable, things do happen, but it is rare that we need them to come out to us,” points out Thomas. “But when we do need them, the back-up from McCarthys has been very good. We are over 100 miles away from them, so if something as simple as a sensor lets us down, we could be down for a day, that is why we prefer the JAGUAR 880, **we have grown up with these machines.**”

It is all grass silage for the Greaney’s so the working window is relatively condensed compared to other parts of the country. The increase in power to the current 650hp JAGUAR 880 has helped the family firm manage its workload, even in a catchy season. Most of Greaney Agri’s customers will be ensiling 60 to 80 acres, with the dairy farms having doubled in size since the days of the JAGUAR 695SL.



“Our next machine was an 860 in 1997, one of the best machines we have ever owned, it was such a jump in performance going from 350hp to 450hp,” says Michael who still does all the forager work to this day. “That machine was the template for the 2022 JAGUAR 880 we have now, the guts of the machine hasn’t really changed and that means we know how it works.”

While the first machines, the 695SL, 860 and the first of two successive 890s were supplied by Kavanaghs of Fermoy and then Castlehide Farm Machinery. Since 2006, McCARTHY’s in County Cork has been the local CLAAS dealer.

