



BUSINESS FACTS

G L Strong
Low Brow Farm, Tirrill, Cumbria



BUSINESS TYPE

Agricultural Contracting
Beef Farming



STAFF

Around six full time staff, including son Alan and Joseph's cousin Mark, with casual help (often local farmers) taken on as required.

Low Brow Farm at Tirrill near Penrith, Cumbria, has been farmed by the Strong family for several generations, trading as G L Strong, with agricultural contracting having long been an important addition to the business.

Joseph Strong currently heads the business and employs around six full time staff, including son Alan and Joseph's cousin Mark. Joseph explains: "We now harvest about 5,000 to 6,000 acres of grass silage per year, along with a small acreage of maize. On the farm, we rear bought-in beef stirks and grow 80 acres of combinable cereals. In addition, we have sheep on tack over winter."

What was the first JAGUAR model you bought and why?

"Back in the 1980s my father George was keen to boost our forage harvesting capacity over and above the three trailed machines being run at the time," says Joseph.

"I remember the dealership we were trading with then for our tractors being less than enthusiastic about selling a self-propelled forager, even though that was what father wanted. It was then we approached **CLAAS dealer RICKERBY at Penrith**, who were more than happy to introduce us to the JAGUAR 680 and took us to see an existing owner who was running one so we could discuss the machine with him. That pretty much decided it for us.

Our first machine was a 680 which did us nine years, but while we had that one, we subsequently bought another 680 and then a 682 as demand for our services grew."



G L STRONG

The best feature is quite simply, the reliability.





Why have you stayed with CLAAS JAGUAR?

Basically, because we know the JAGUAR inside and out and it does the job perfectly well," says Joseph. "I have seen other makes, but I don't think they would necessarily do the job any better, and of course **a lot of it is down to the dealership. We have a good relationship with them and they do stand by the machines**, irrespective of the warranty. For example, we did have a few problems with the drum blades on our 682. But to be fair, RICKERBY soon sorted us out with a hired one while ours was in the workshop and when it came back it was like a new machine."

What is your favourite model of JAGUAR you have owned?

"That would undoubtedly be the 840. It was a step forward at that time and it ran really well," says Joseph. "This model replaced our second 680 and the 682, and ran alongside an 800 model that replaced our first 680. Most of the work was then done with the 840 and we used the 800 to handle the surplus work."

Since then we have run a succession of 800 series machines, with our latest being an 860 model that has sufficient capacity to handle all of our workload. One machine also reduces the pressure of finding reliable drivers."



What are the best features or parts of the machine that are important to you?

“Quite simply, reliability.”

What are your standout memories of running JAGUAR foragers?

"These have to be the trips - having been invited to the factory half a dozen times, enjoyed the company's hospitality, and also met the late Helmut Claas. I really do like the factory visits and seeing the machines being built."