



BUSINESS FACTS

Greenwood's Contracting Service
Downholme, North Yorkshire



BUSINESS TYPE

Agricultural Contracting
Beef and Sheep Farming



STAFF

Bruce, sons Dan and Jake and three others full time plus seasonal staff - who include long-standing forage harvester driver Alan Jefferson



MACHINERY

Triple Mower, Rakes, Tedder and two large Square Balers

Greenwood's Contracting Service, which has been in existence for 47 years and is now based at Downholme, near Richmond, in North Yorkshire, was created at a time of depressed beef prices in the mid 1970s, the Greenwoods being beef and sheep farmers.

However, that coincided with a period when forage conservation technology was advancing and David Greenwood saw an opportunity to expand by offering other farmers the service and equipment they needed, so he and business partner at that time, Peter Nash, invested in modern kit.

David's son Bruce, who now runs the business says contracting began with just one customer but within the first decade, had just under 50. Bruce says: "There are now 25 regulars on their books – fewer customers but with bigger acreages. We also farm, rearing 130-head of pure-bred Limousin suckler cows and 970 Swaledale ewes, of which 120 are used to breed North of England Mules."

- 1991 JAGUAR 690
- 1993 JAGUAR 695
- 1995 JAGUAR 860
- 1996 JAGUAR 820
- 1997 JAGUAR 860
- 1999 JAGUAR 860
- 2003 JAGUAR 870
- 2006 JAGUAR 890
- 2011 JAGUAR 960
- 2020 JAGUAR 960

GREENWOOD'S

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What was the first JAGUAR model you bought and why?

"By 1991, demand was increasing for maize harvesting equipment and a demonstrator JAGUAR 690 was obtained to compare with what we were running," says Bruce. "It had more power and was suitable to operate with a Kemper header which we could use for maize and wholecrop, and that was the start of our relationship with CLAAS."

We then bought a JAGUAR 695 which had a header and processor capable of dealing with both maize and wholecrop and from then on, customer demand for harvesting all three silages increased. A succession of JAGUARS followed with upgrades roughly every two or three years. The current 960 came in 2020 and remains our sole forage harvester, proven to have the capacity for our workload."

What is your favourite model of JAGUAR you have owned?

"I have to say the 960, but the 860 was also a very good machine," says Bruce. "The 960 has the power and it's very robust, and has several worthwhile improvements over previous models. The cabs have also improved as well."

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

"We think the header, drum and corn cracker – the vital components apart from the engine," says Bruce. **"We like the quick-change header and it's all very accessible and user-friendly."**

When they introduced the 800 series with easier switching between maize and grass harvesting we got a four wheel drive 860 and kept the 695 and then bought a two wheel drive 820 but retained the 860, later changing the 820 for a second 860. However, we then wanted to use a CLAAS forager-mounted mowing outfit so replaced one of the 860s with an 870 which had more power, although we did use the mower on both an 860 and the 870."



Why have you stayed with CLAAS JAGUARS?

"Obviously we like the machines, but it is also very much down to their reliability and the dealer's back-up service. CLAAS EASTERN at Sinderby have always been very good and have always got us going promptly, should the need arise."

What are your standout memories of running JAGUAR foragers?

"The trips to Germany always stand out," says Bruce. "They have taken us to Agritechnica and the factory, but I also remember Helmut used to come over to these moors in the grouse season. On one occasion he had been staying in a hotel not far away, and was one his way to one of the grouse moors when he spotted our CLAAS machinery in the yard and just called in. He introduced himself to dad and said he was pleased to see CLAAS equipment had made it into this area and of course dad was pleased to have welcomed him onto our farm, albeit for a fleeting visit."

