



Jamie Blackmore

In July 2023, the Blackmore family were looking to change their loader tractor. Along came the CLAAS ARION 440...

"Our first CLAAS tractor was actually the AXOS 340. We've always had another make of tractor, but at the time we were looking to change we couldn't find the right one in our price range. We ended up purchasing the AXOS and were really impressed with the simplicity of it. Once it got to work we loved it. It's such a step up in comfort, and you can actually hear yourself think in the cab, which was a revelation!"

The Blackmore's try and keep the loader tractor new due to the amount of work it does. When the finance came to the end of it's run on the current model, they started to shop around.

"We change the loader tractor every 4 years or so as it's the real workhorse on the farm. When it came to that time for our old tractor, we had a shock with the new prices. The fact that the buying price had gone up by £30,000 but the resale had only increased by £4,000 just didn't add up for us. We didn't mind putting the money towards the tractor, but we want to see a good return on the back end."

And so with that, they went out and priced other brands. "The CLAAS wasn't the cheapest option, but it was much more of a tractor for the money. We didn't end up demoing the ARION, but viewed it at the Honiton depot and took the chance to drive it whilst we were there."

*'Once I sat into the cab, I was sold.'*

"The comfort, and the panoramic view from the cab just did it for me. Alongside the tractor itself, the big seller for us was the 4 years warranty. Couple that together with the service plan and we've basically got a fixed cost for 4 years. If I'm honest, I'd been a bit skeptical of the CLAAS product in the past as I'd heard of the older models suffering from electrical gremlins, but the backup gave me absolute peace of mind. Every tractor breaks down, but as long as you have the support from your dealer it's not an issue."





“Since we’ve had the 440, it’s been mowing, ploughing, feeding, hauling, everything. The cab suspension is absolutely brilliant - in the past when I would go ploughing with our previous tractor, my hip was starting to ache. I hitched the plough onto the CLAAS as it had better tyres, spent two full days ploughing and came out without a single ache!”

“We really like the multifunction joystick. I was just putting bales in this morning, and to be able to flick through the ranges using a button on the joystick while carrying on with the job at hand is a game changer, especially when you need to switch down a range for precision work. To have all the functions you need in one place, it makes the task that much quicker. Alongside the double pump on the loader, the jobs are done in no time at all.”

“The AXOS is also a very versatile little tractor, with good power for the size of it. It tends to be on our straw blower throughout the winter and then will move onto the fertilising and spraying in the spring as it has narrower wheels.”

“Everyone gets on with driving the CLAAS, the cab is pretty self explanatory. There’s no useless tech in there, we’ve got the base version but it’s everything you need for a good stock tractor. Whenever I’d looked around them at shows in the past, they seemed to be built very well. My uncle has CLAAS tractors and never had many problems with them. The only issue we’ve had with the ARION 440 so far was back when the loader pins didn’t lock in so they bent; a quick call to John in the Honiton depot and he came out the same night, straightened them, and sent out replacements straight away. HAMBLYS have always been a good, honest business whenever we’ve dealt with them.”



*‘The CLAAS is the tractor I would chose to jump in over anything else on the yard.’*

