

# Easy to use SCORPION



Nigel Armstrong

Reliability, hydraulic speed, size, lift capacity and power, allied to dealer support, are all key features that Nigel Armstrong looks for in a telehandler and why he runs CLAAS machines starting with a TARGO in 2001.

Nigel is the Dairy Farm Manager at the Centre for Dairy Science Innovation at the University of Nottingham. In total, the farm extends to just over 400 ha, split between the main farm at the University's Sutton Bonnington campus with two further farms about 10 miles away.

The CDSI is a leading centre for research into the nutrition, health and welfare of dairy cattle and part of the University's Biosciences, Veterinary Medicine and Science Schools. It is one of four UK Agri-Tech Centres of Agricultural Innovation and part of a network of 12 research institutes throughout Europe.

Initially developed in 2003 and considerably expanded in 2017, it is home to a milking herd of 350 Holstein Friesian yielding 11,500 litres, milked using 7 Lely Astronaut robots, plus 450 followers. The unit includes the facility to separate cows into groups of just 50 and incorporates a GEA feed system that enables cows to be individually fed automatically, along with a wide range of data collecting sensors and monitors.

"We carry out a wide range of feed and nutrition trials, and also do research work into lameness, welfare and the inter-relationship between individual cows from a young age, in addition to methane emissions which is obviously very topical," explains Nigel.

The Centre is also home to two 156hp CLAAS SCORPION 756 VARIPOWER PLUS telescopic handlers, one a '22 plate machine and the second a '69 plate, which is in the process of being

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replaced with a new machine. The farm also runs an older 8,500 hour SCORPION that has been 'retired' to the arable unit, run by Nigel's colleague Joe Greenfield.

"When replacing a machine there is a procurement process we have to follow, and I have a demonstration of the main machines on the market. The reason I always come back to the SCORPION is because it has the fastest hydraulic system of any machine out there," states Nigel. "In addition its size for power ratio is good. It's very compact, with minimal rear overhang which is important as we do have some tight areas in the original buildings, yet it has a big lift capacity (5.6 tonnes). It's also noticeable that the new Leibherr built SCORPION put the power down to the ground far better than the previous models as it has a lot of pushing power."

"For me it's all about how much work a machine can do, and how quickly it can do it. Each SCORPION will do on average 2,000 hours a year and if we have any problems, MANNS will be out the same day or next morning. That is really important to me and something that I know from experience and other people is not something I would get from other dealers."



# SCORPION 756 VARIPOWER



While the older '69 plate SCORPION is kept busy doing general handling work and bedding using a Spread-a-Bale, the newer machine is used for loading the farm's 45m3 BVL diet feeder with the compact feed ration used for the milking herd.

"The transmission is extremely smooth. When loading I love the way that the engine speed automatically adjusts to the joystick angle (DYNAMIC POWER). It's fantastic and certainly helps speed up the loading cycle along with other features such as the SMART LOADING and bucket shake functions.

The time saved may not seem much but over a day it all adds up and in operation just make the SCORPION so easy to use."

"I do tick virtually every options box. Things like autolube are invaluable and I wouldn't entertain not having it fitted as it saves so much time. I also love the Constant Speed function which is very useful for jobs such as bedding up the cubicles with sand and LED lighting, which is not only far brighter, but far less drain on the battery."

