

# Two into one does go!

This harvest has seen a new LEXION 8900 fitted with a CONVIO FLEX 1380 cutterbar and full CEMOS automation comfortably handle the 1300ha previously harvested at Clare Park Farms by two combines with a total cutting width of 21 metres.

In an albeit easy harvest where yields have been down on their normal 9.5t/ha average, the ability of the LEXION to regularly clear 48ha a day with capacity to spare bodes well for future, more 'normal' harvests, and fully justifies the decision to change brand to the LEXION, which was supplied by OLIVERS Winchester.



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"Yes, it was an early harvest and yields were down, but nevertheless the LEXION did all that I hoped it would to the extent that we then moved it to our other farm 20 miles away to help finish harvest there," says Giles. "This is not a farm with big open fields and block cropping. Here there are lots of blocks of small fields and you could have 40ha split across 6 fields; it's very bitty and not terribly efficient, but that's the way it is."

## TIME AND EFFICIENCY

Previously running two 10.8m cut machines, the main reason for the decision to move to just one high capacity machine was mainly to simplify logistics and the time taken to manage two harvesting teams.

"Having just one combine makes life far easier. Obviously there is the advantage that you have one less driver and support team, but by the time we had finished servicing the two combines in the morning we would always struggle to get going by 9 o'clock, and due to our smaller fields and narrow lanes, we lost a lot of time when moving between fields."

When it came to replacing the two combines, Giles says it came down to just three machines. With all his cereal crops direct seeded, one of the most important aspects of any new combine was how it handled straw.

"That is as important as anything," he states. "The three machines are all good combines, but what set the LEXION apart for me is the straw chopper and the spreader. I did consider going for the LEXION 8800, but opted for the 8900 on account of the more power it would give us for chopping straw, especially in thick heavy oats. I was concerned as to whether it would spread evenly across the full 13.8m, but it was no problem, even when harvesting very dry spring barley and the ability in windy conditions to automatically adjust the spreader was impressive."

## CHALK AND CHEESE

"The principle of the threshing system on the LEXION is well proven, so that wasn't a concern but I was impressed by the CONVIO FLEX header, especially when we were harvesting peas; it was amazing. Ultimately the draper header, the way it presented the crop into the combine and its ability to let us go longer into the evening without the crop wrapping as conditions got damper, meant it is chalk and cheese compared to a conventional header and the ideal match for the LEXION."

"This year has been an easy year and enabled us to get used to the LEXION. We looked for it to clear 48 to 52ha a day, which it was more than able to do and had capacity to spare, which we rarely could do with the previous two. We have not lost any output and in addition the fuel use has also been less than for the two machines. There is also the advantage that it's slightly narrower on the road, the ride is good and 40kph is useful for when moving to the other farm."

"There is certainly more to be had from it and we will have to sit down and have a really good look at Telematics and CLAAS connect as to where we can tweak things and be more efficient next year. But overall, the LEXION has been as impressive as I hoped it would be, and I look forward to how it performs next year in better crops with more straw and grain to process."