



Steve May

Sam

Ben

Will

Back in July, the May family decided it was time to upgrade their drilling tractor, having demoed the CLAAS AXION 870 earlier in the spring.

Running a 5m combination drill and covering a radius of around 10–12 miles, they needed a machine that was comfortable on the road, capable on steep ground, and versatile enough to take on more than just drilling.

“We’d previously run a tracked machine that only ever went on the drill,” they explained. “But we’ve taken on more ground and needed something more flexible—something we could use for other jobs and, if needed, as an extra tractor during harvest. The AXION fitted that perfectly.”

The AXION 870 made a strong impression from the start.

“It handled the drill better than our previous tractor. The weight is a real standout feature, and even though it’s lighter than the tracked machine, it still has the stability and traction we need. The 50/50 weight distribution means the drill isn’t throwing the tractor around, even on steep land.”

Comfort and ease of use were also important factors.

“We do a lot of road work, so ride comfort really stood out—both in the field and on the road. Visibility is good, and the controls are straightforward. No one here has a dedicated tractor; anyone can jump in the AXION and quickly figure out how to use it.”



While the dry season hasn't allowed for a full fuel comparison yet, early signs are positive.

"Fuel consumption already looks better than the tracked machine, which is impressive given the work it's doing."

Their AXION joins a wide fleet of CLAAS machinery, including a LEXION TT 760, QUADRANT 2200, Claydon straw rake with seeder, VOLTO 800, Mecmar grain dryer, and compact roller mill. Their long-standing relationship with HAMBLYS continues to play a major role.

"We've dealt with Richard Mann since the Torrington depot opened, and with HAMBLYS for years before that. Backup is everything when you buy a machine, regardless of colour, and HAMBLYS have always been faultless. We've run CLAAS combines for 50 years, starting with a MATADOR, then a SENATOR, a DOMINATOR, before moving onto the LEXION."

Several standout features ultimately sealed the deal.

"The comfort, the power, and the weight of the tractor really suited what we needed. It handled all our cover crops with the straw rake and then went straight into drilling the rest of the arable crops."

But one factor in particular made CLAAS the right choice.

"What really drew us in was the five-year warranty and 0% finance. We were trading in two tractors for one, so we needed something we could rely on. With the warranty and fixed costs, we know exactly where we stand for the next five years."

