

Ideal light crop mower



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Melvin Nelson

By adding a new DISCO 9300 DIRECT SWATHER to their mowing team, which uses two tapered cross augers instead of a belt to create a central swath, this has provided Melvin and his brother Stuart with an additional mowing option to handle differing conditions.

Farming 304ha outside Carlisle where, in addition to cereals, they take in over wintered B & B cattle, both dairy heifers and beef cattle, the Nelson's also run a contracting business providing a wide range of services, including foraging running two JAGUAR 960 foragers.

While the majority of early season grass is cut using a DISCO triple mower conditioner and then rowed up using a LINER 4800 to put two rows into one, it is in lighter crops where the new 9.1m wide DISCO 9300 DIRECT SWATHER comes into its own.

“As far as possible we try to avoid raking because of the stony soils,” explains Melvin. “For foraging it's all about acres per day and putting as much grass as possible in front of the forager.

MOISTURE RETENTION

“A lot of our customers are on multi-cut systems taking up to five cuts a season. In later, lighter crops we are looking to try and keep as much moisture as possible in the plant to avoid it drying out too much. Last year at times we were literally just mowing the crop and immediately picking it up.

“Because we don't want to condition it, being a straight mower the DISCO 9300 DIRECT SWATHER is ideal.

This also means that because it does not have belts, it is not so heavy, so although we run it on a far more powerful tractor, you could easily run it on a 150hp tractor.”

In addition to mowing grass, last year the Nelson's were also approached about mowing a crop of rye grown after maize. “The crop was very high but the swath it left was unbelievable. We found the sweet spot was around 12.5 to 15.5 kph and it left just the most perfect swath with all the heads standing up and perfectly presented with no lumps for a consistent, even feed into the forager.

“Overall its very easy to set-up and just tweak it to get the swath just right for the forager. It's not often that we would lift the augers out of the way and just use it for mowing. You do just have to think as to how you lay out a field, but with autosteer that makes it far easier as you can miss out bouts. In a good day you could comfortably knock down around 80ha of grass.”

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