

AXION does the job, day-in, day-out

Gordon Cairns, Stracathro Estate, Brechin, Angus
AXION 920 and 940



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A photograph of two men standing outdoors at a construction or industrial site. The man on the left is wearing a red vest over a light-colored checkered shirt and dark trousers. The man on the right is wearing a dark blue zip-up jacket and dark trousers. They are both smiling and looking at each other. In the background, there are industrial buildings, a paved area, and a power line tower under an overcast sky.

“The AXION just keeps pulling and has the ability to just get on with the job.”



The past two years have been ones of considerable change for the Stracathro Estate as it moves from being a predominantly arable farm to where cropping for a new Gas-to-Grid AD plant now predominates, resulting in a complete machinery re-think.

Arable cropping used to account for around 480 hectares on the estate near Brechin. But that has now been reduced to nearer 400ha, with 320ha of grass (mainly 2-year Italian ryegrass leys), plus whole crop wheat and rye, and 120ha of fodder beet added to the rotation to feed the new 450 m³/hr (roughly 2.5Mw) plant that has been developed in conjunction with Qila Energy.

AD PLANT

To reflect this change, working with local CLAAS dealer SELLARS, director Gordon Cairns has also had to review the farm's machinery and tractor fleet in order to meet the new demands of the AD plant.

TAKING OVER PLOUGHING DUTIES

As part of this review, a new 325hp AXION 920 has been added to the farm's existing 340hp XERION 3300 and 3-year old 385hp AXION 940. This will be used to take over ploughing duties from the XERION using the farm's 9-furrow Kverneland plough, and will also power a new set of DISCO 9200C triple mowers. The XERION in the meantime has now been equipped with a dozer blade and compactor for compacting silage in the 1.5ha of new clamps and the AXION 940, when not drilling using a 8.0m Vaderstad, will also be used for spreading digestate with a 3,500 gallon tanker fitted with a 16m Vogelsang dribble bar.

A VERY CAPABLE TRACTOR

"The whole emphasis of the farm has changed and having the capability to efficiently handle the digestate will be essential," states Gordon. "The XERION has been fantastic and we will keep it till it dies. But the AXION 940 has proved to be a very capable tractor and to be an ideal out-and-out draft tractor. With the

920, we have gone back to ploughing on-land, which has worked very well and with RTK steering and wide tyres it makes a far better job."

"The AXION just keeps pulling and has the ability to just get on with the job day-in, day-out. The cab provides the drivers with a very comfortable workplace, which is important over a long day."

ELECTRONICS AND STEERING

"Both the AXION are fitted with GPS steering, using the latest S10 terminals receiving a signal from our own RTK mast, which in combination with the power performance of the AXION tractors will ensure that we can get the most out of them and the machinery they are operating."

"Taking this a stage further, for harvesting whole crop, one of these terminals will then be transferred to the JAGUAR, which has been fitted with a steering system, to ensure optimum efficiency when harvesting."