

LEXION 660

Making the most of the weather

Changing make of combine in 2017 to a LEXION 660 TERRA TRAC has proved a wise investment for the Marmion family, giving them the ability to make the most of available weather windows.

Brian and Ronan Marmion are now the fifth generation of the Marmion family on their farm at Ashbourne in County Meath, where the whole farm is down to cereals.

In addition to TERRA TRACS, the LEXION 660 was specified with a VARIO 770 cutterbar. It also has the optional 3XL spout so as to avoid trailers driving on the swath and damaging the straw, which with no livestock on the farm (other than three dogs) is all baled and sold for bedding or mushroom compost.

Impressed with new VARIO

“When we initially looked at the LEXION in 2016, one of the biggest plusses was the new VARIO cutterbar. It’s very impressive and the ease with which you can alter the knife distance in different crops and conditions, and push it right out for oilseed rape without adding filler plates, means that you can always get the head to fall right for feeding into the combine. This then helps the flow right the way through the machine. Also putting on or taking off the side knife is so simple and just a five minute job.

“Thanks to the APS system the flow through the combine is far smoother and we get none of the ‘woofing’ or surging that we used to with our previous combine.”



FARM	J & M Marmion, Ashbourne, Co Meath
FARMED AREA	520ha
CROPPING	winter wheat 280ha (700 acres) winter Barley 80ha (200 acres) oilseed rape (OSR) 80ha (200 acres) winter oats 80ha (200 acres)
STAFF	The Marmion family (John and Michael, plus Michael's sons Ronan and Brian) plus one other full time



The only time the chopper is engaged is for oilseed rape, but here again the SPECIAL CUT II chopper has proved a considerable improvement on what they had before. "The feed into the chopper on the old combine was just not big enough, which was a huge problem and forever blocking. The chopper on the LEXION is brilliant and we just never get a blockage now."

Clean sample

The Marmion's also opted for TM6 sieves in place of the standard sieves. "These have been a huge help. They definitely help in keeping the sample cleaner and we are not getting the problems we used to have," says Ronan.

Narrow road width

"The TERRA TRACs make a great difference when going down the road. Our old combine was about 4.2m wide on the road, but the LEXION, which has 600-55 R26.5 tyres on the back, is just 3.5m, so it's far easier to move around.

"We look to get the most out of the straw and cut as low as possible, so the tracks provide a very stable platform for the cutterbar and leave an even stubble."

Why CLAAS?

"Our harvest is well spread out, and the Irish weather at times doesn't help," states Ronan. "With LEINSTER FARM MACHINES we know they will be straight out if there is a problem."

"This was the LEXION 660's third harvest and it has now done over 850 hours, but we have never had to touch it. Overall it gives us the capacity to comfortably clear 24ha a day. The LEXION is easy to set up and operate, lack of power is never an issue and the fuel consumption is better, with a tank lasting at least 40ha in the right conditions."



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Ronan Marmion