



Clean cutting MOVE

Achieving an even stubble without scalping when mowing ridge and furrow has to be the ultimate test for a mower's contour following system, but is one that Nick Keyser's new DISCO 3200FC MOVE has passed with ease.

Following reliability and service issues with his previous mower combination, looking to go wider Nick Keyser considered buying second-hand. He also took the opportunity to test a few different makes, before opting for a new 3.0m DISCO 3200FC MOVE front and 3.4m DISCO 3600C CONTOUR rear mower combination, neither of which he had tested before.

Since he started offering a contract baling service 4 years ago, Nick has seen the amount of silage, hay and straw he bales steadily increase, particularly in organic crops. He also grows 10ha of grass for haylage on the family farm near Fairford in Gloucestershire, which is sold locally.

"The previous 2.8m and 3.2m mower combination was fine when I had a 4-string baler. Now, having added a 6-string, needing to replace the mowers gave me an opportunity to also increase working width, to improve efficiency and output, especially in organic crops," explains Nick. "This year I have also replaced my conventional baler with a round baler, and now swapped my old two-rotor LINER 2700 with a new 4-rotor LINER 3600, again to get more grass in front of the balers, and also slow down forward speed."

LEAP OF FAITH

Nick admits that buying the DISCO mowers was a leap of faith as he had never had a demonstration. "It came down to the CLAAS or one other. But I get on well with Chris Charman at CLAAS Western, and trusted him when he explained about the DISCO MOVE and how it follows the ground contours better. But it was on the understanding that they would be straight back if they didn't do everything he said!"

Luckily for Chris, the DISCO mowers have lived up to his promises. Nick has been impressed both by the ACTIVE FLOAT hydro-pneumatic suspension system, and particularly by how the innovative front DISCO MOVE, with its 1.0m of vertical movement, so accurately follows the ground contours, thanks to its trailing arm linkage which pulls the mower.

"The ACTIVE FLOAT system is very good and simple to use, and the suspension reacts far quicker than springs. Having the pressure gauge, a drop in pressure quickly tells you if there is a problem. With springs you never knew if there was a problem unless they broke. I'm done with spring suspension," he says.

SO WHY THE DISCO?

- ✓ "In operation, the DISCO is so smooth. They just glide over the ground, the stubble is far more even and consistent, and the ground following far more accurate.
- ✓ "We mow a lot of steep ridge and furrow and with the old mowers they would keep on scalping the top, but with the DISCO MOVE it's not a problem. Not only does this avoid scalping, but it reduces blade wear and running cost.
- ✓ "It's the little bits and pieces about the DISCO that I particularly like. Things like the inserts between the skids that can be easily replaced as they wear or are damaged by the stony, Cotswold soils.
- ✓ "I also opted for hydraulic folding wings which are great and save a lot of time when moving between lots of small fields, but stay rigid when working unlike on our old mower where they flopped around.
- ✓ "Also the fact that the mowers can be run at 850rpm to save fuel – we compared the cut running them at 1,000rpm and it made no difference.
- ✓ "A lot of the reason for buying the DISCO is also down to CLAAS Western at Cirencester. I have a lot of trust in Chris, but they also provide by far the best service of any dealer I deal with, to the extent that even though they were a different make, I used to take my old mowers into them for repair as they were far better and quicker than the supplying dealer."