

Output and quality from CARGOS wagons

Con Lucey runs an agricultural contracting business based in the picturesque surroundings of west Cork. Con is a lifelong contractor and bases his business on supplying a timely and quality service to his customers.

The backbone of Con's business is based on CLAAS grass machinery and tractors. He mows with a CLAAS DISCO 3200 mower, rakes with a CLAAS LINER 2700 and picks up with a pair of CARGOS wagons. The machines are driven with a pair of CLAAS ARION tractors.

The tractors are a 2015 ARION 650 and a 2016 ARION 640 and both have clocked up in excess of 5,000 trouble free hours. Con tells us that the tractors have proved to be very good for his business and he and his operators always gravitate towards the seed-green machines. Con has backed up this, by recently ordering a new ARION 800 from local dealer McCARTHY for the upcoming grass season.

EASY TO MANOEUVRE

The central machines in his grass operation are a pair of CLAAS CARGOS wagons, the first being an 8400 purchased in 2017. Having done a season with this machine he said it was a "no brainer" to purchase a second machine, a 8300 purchased the following season. Both machines are fitted with steering axles and the option of a hydro-pneumatic suspension system. Con says that these make the wagons very easy to manoeuvre and amazingly stable both on the road and in the field.

In the field Con finds the pickup system allows him to get through big acreage, with work rates of up to 2.4ha per hour possible when the

field is near the pit. Annually Con picks up more than 520ha and finds the CLAAS CARGOS wagons allow him to get through the work. According to Con, "forward speeds can be silly and the CARGOS is well able to take the stuff". All the grass is raked using a CLAAS LINER 2700 rake which gives a nice even row of grass compiled from 3 cuts of the CLAAS DISCO 3200 mower. "In certain crops it can be a very big swath of grass but the pickup handles it easily," continues Con.

QUALITY FORAGE

"The build quality of the CARGOS is second to none and strongly built." This makes them more than capable of handling whatever Con throws at them. Working within about a 16 km radius of his base, near Macroom in west Cork, Con cuts silage for a range of farmers from both dry stock and dairy sectors. Speaking to his customers he finds that they are all very happy with the quality of the forage when the covers roll back. Con puts this down to the chopping chamber which contains a bank of 40 double blades. These blades are reversible which according to Con greatly improves productivity with a longer time between sharpening.

With capacities of 35.5 and 30m³ respectively the 8400 and 8300 are sizeable machines but Con finds that even on wet or hilly land the wagons seem to be very sure footed and easy to handle with the 600 series tractors. The 800 series that is joining the fleet this year will be paired with the CARGOS 8400 making for a very comfortable and high output combination.

Con has bought all his CLAAS gear through McCARTHY and has found their sales and backup service to be "top notch" and he has never been without a machine for any length of time when the pressure was on.





Con Lucey and his operators always gravitate towards CLAAS machinery.