

A positive switch to ROLLANT

The last few years have been ones of considerable change for Martin Ainscough Farms, not least in a gradual change in the colour of machinery to CLAAS seed green.

From having been a predominantly arable and dairy farm, over the past couple of years Peter Ainscough has gradually increased the amount of grass on the family's 600 hectare farm at Parbold in Lancashire, which mainly provides grazing and forage for a flock of 2000 ewes.

Having run variable chamber balers to bale both silage and straw for many years, the change back to the fixed chamber ROLLANT 540RC was prompted by their buying a Wilson Super Move bale collector from RICKERBY to speed up field clearance, but this could only accept regular 1.2m sized bales.

GREAT DEALER SUPPORT

"We only started using RICKERBY two years ago. Even though we are the other end of the county from their Carnforth depot, the service and support they offer is so much better. It's way ahead of any other dealer in the area, so when their new south Lancashire depot is opened that will be ideal for us," comments Peter Ainscough, who in addition to the baler also now runs four CLAAS ARION tractors on the farm – a 650, 610, 460 and 420 with a FL loader.

"I only considered the ROLLANT and one other baler I had read about, but the decision to go for the ROLLANT was largely because of the service we get from RICKERBY, and knowing that they had sold a few others which were going well. It's certainly a good, strong baler with beefed-up drives and has gone really well. As we keep reducing the cereals and put more down to grass, so we will increase the amount we bale."

THE CAPACITY TO TAKE MORE

The ROLLANT is operated by Stephen Hunter behind the ARION 650, who has also been very impressed by the baler and its performance. "It went very well and smoothly despite being a very difficult season and the ground conditions were certainly against it by the end when baling straw.

"We had some thick rows of grass and there are quite a few hills, but the ROLLANT comfortably handled everything that was put in front of it. The bales are certainly good and dense, but the shoulders are also well filled and it's noticeable how well the bales have stacked and stored without losing shape."

The grass is mown with a 4.0m mower, then ideally tedded out prior to raking in just before baling using a 2.4m single rotor rake, putting two passes into a single swath.

"The ROLLANT certainly has the capacity to take more. It's very easy to operate and maintain, and having the loading chute for the net is definitely a help," states Stephen. "The feed through the baler is good and discharge from the chamber is excellent, as I've not had a single bale stick."



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