

Harvestimes

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CLAAS



Product news

Latest LEXIONs set new high output standard

When it was launched 15 years ago, the CLAAS LEXION set a new standard for high output harvesting. Central to this was the use of innovative technology to automate routine functions, setting an industry benchmark.

For 2011, CLAAS has introduced two new LEXION ranges, that use state-of-the-art technology to aid driver efficiency to improve overall productivity.

The two new ranges comprise the LEXION 600, with the combination of the APS primary threshing system with five- or six- straw walkers, and the LEXION 700 featuring the unique Hybrid combination of the APS primary system in unison with twin rotors for the residual grains – the APS HYBRID.

Outwardly, the new spacious high specification cab is the only giveaway to this new range, but under the aluminium panels there are a host of new features improving overall performance, speed of production and efficiency.

High specification cab

One of the keys to getting the most out of a combine is operator comfort. With this in mind the new LEXION features the spacious, high specification cab already used on the JAGUAR and XERION.

Not only is there increased space within the cab, with 25% more space between the steering wheel and seat, but the cleared screen area is now 20% greater, so providing enhanced visibility. Inside the cab, there is a larger grain tank window, climate control comes as standard and the seat independently adjusts to the driver's weight and dampens vibrations by up to 40%.

Old models (EWG 80/1269)	New LEXION 700 and 600 (ECE R120)
LEXION 600 (586hp @ 1900rpm, 12,000l)	LEXION 770 (586hp @ 1800rpm, 12,000l)
LEXION 580+ (517hp @ 1900 rpm, 10,500l)	LEXION 760 (530hp @ 1800 rpm, 10,500l)
LEXION 570+ (445hp @ 2000 rpm, 10,500l)	LEXION 750 (446hp @ 1700 rpm, 10,500l)
LEXION 570C (415hp @ 2000 rpm, 9,600l)	LEXION 740 (431hp @ 1700 rpm, 9,600l)
LEXION 560 (385hp @ 2100 rpm, 10,500l)	LEXION 670 (431hp @ 1700 rpm, 10,500l)
LEXION 550 (351hp @ 2100 rpm, 9,600l)	LEXION 660 (378hp @ 1900 rpm, 10,500l)
LEXION 540 (313hp @ 2100 rpm, 8,600l)	LEXION 650 (339hp @ 1900 rpm, 9,600l)
LEXION 540C (276hp @ 2100 rpm, 8,100l)	LEXION 640 (279hp @ 2200 rpm, 8,600l)
LEXION 530 (313hp @ 2100 rpm, 8,600l)	LEXION 630 (339hp @ 1900 rpm, 8,600l)
LEXION 520 (276hp @ 2100 rpm, 7,600l)	LEXION 620 (279hp @ 2200 rpm, 8,600l)



Options include the availability of a low frequency heated and ventilated seat and a Xenon lighting package that is fully automated using CEBIS.

To make operating the combine as easy as possible, the LEXION features the new EASY (Efficient Agriculture Systems) concept which co-ordinates all on-board setting, steering and monitoring functions to help the operator gain optimum performance.

On the latest version of CEBIS, the control unit is attached to and moves with the seat. Information is displayed on a colour 8.5 inch wide screen and it incorporates a flashcard reader, plus the space to store up to 20 different personalised crop settings. A new feature is the separate 'hotkey' function which provides quick and easy access to a wide range of operational settings and functions.

Specific to the LEXION 770, 760, 750 and 670 is the new CRUISE PILOT II system. In addition to monitoring the volume of crop entering the combine and engine load, CRUISE PILOT II now also monitors grain loss to ensure that the required throughput is maintained for greater overall productivity. Three operational modes are now available: constant speed, constant throughput and constant throughput with a maximum level of acceptable losses.

For easier access and better protection, all the electronics have been moved to inside the cab, and the LEXION incorporates six CanBus systems to swiftly handle all the demands placed on the electrical system, compared to just one on the original LEXION 400 series.

Constant pressure hydraulics

One of the most noticeable new features on the LEXION 700 and 600 is the change to a constant pressure, load-sensing hydraulic system. This provides a 50% increase in hydraulic reaction time, especially for functions such as

AUTO-CONTOUR and lateral levelling, which is some 200% faster, placing less load on the engine so releasing engine power.

To achieve this, working pressure has been increased from 180 to 200 bar and pump volume is 50% greater at 120 litres/minute. Steering pressure has been increased to 175 bar making the overall operation of the combine far smoother. An additional benefit is that the oil change period is increased to 1000 hours.

Higher capacity

The new LEXION is fitted with the latest Caterpillar or Mercedes (LEXION 770 and 760) engines, with the LEXION 760 and below benefitting from an increase in power output. However this is not at the expense of fuel consumption, as the engine rated speed on some models is up to 400 rpm lower, so reducing consumption and hence running costs. In addition to improved air cleanliness, the air intake has also been moved to above the engine.

Other new features include larger fuel tanks, adding up to five hours harvesting time, a new design of chaff spreader, higher capacity unloading systems on larger models and an enhanced lighting package for night time working.

CLAAS GPS PILOT automatic steering systems and the unique TELEMATICS web-based combine and output monitoring system can also be specified.

Overall, through the use of modern engine, electric and hydraulic power systems, the development of enhanced operator control systems and a superb working environment CLAAS has, in the latest LEXION range set a new benchmark for high output, cost-efficient harvesting.



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Easy does it

Advances in agriculture necessitate high capacity machinery to reduce operating costs. The problem for manufacturers is how to meet this demand, without increasing the physical size and weight of the machine. One answer is to turn to modern technology, in particular electronics.

The use of electronics to optimise machine performance is nothing new to CLAAS. The company was one of the first to offer an automatic steering system 30 years ago when AUTO PILOT was introduced for maize harvesting. CLAAS has gone on to develop and market an extensive range of electronic management and control systems for agricultural machinery.

With such a wide range of electronic monitoring and control systems available, the problem is how to clearly segregate and clarify the inter-relationship between the products available.

To achieve this, CLAAS has introduced EASY (Efficient Agriculture SYstems), which clearly defines the role of the management and control systems available and is subdivided into four distinct groups:



On Board – this covers all electronic hardware systems fitted to the machinery itself, for example CEBIS, CEBIS Mobile, CLAAS COMMUNICATOR, CEMOS, Laser Pilot, Auto Pilot and AUTO FILL.



On Field – this includes all uses for the hardware, for example GPS steering, implement control, CSM (CLAAS Sequence Management), variable rate applications and CROP METER.



On Farm – in this group is all office based software, for example TELEMATICS and mapping software such as Agro Map or Agro Net.



On Track – this covers the system monitoring functions, such as TELEMATICS and Yield Mapping.



LEXION 750TT hits 40kph

The renowned TERRA TRAC system, which is manufactured at the CLAAS Industrietechnik provides of reduced compaction, greater traction and a level platform for the cutterbar.

The new LEXION 770, 760, 750 and 670 are all available with TERRA TRACs, with the LEXION 770 and 750 featuring the new Generation III version. These feature independent hydro-pneumatic suspension of the drive wheel and support rollers to further reduce shock loading with both field compaction and cab vibration reduced by 30%.

The system also incorporates two nitrogen dampers and automatic levelling. As the load is increased on a track unit, for instance when turning or travelling at high road speeds, this is monitored and more oil is pumped into the suspension on that TRAC unit to handle the increased loading and keep the combine level.

As standard, the road speed on the LEXION 770, 760, 750 and 670 has been increased to 30kph. The 3.30m wide LEXION 750 TERRA TRAC goes one step further with the option of a new 40kph transmission, making this the fastest combine on the road and one of the most popular models on account of its narrow road width.

On wheeled models, CLAAS is also now able to offer the new Michelin CerexBib tyre which has been developed exclusively for the LEXION and provides a 22% increase in contact area compared to a similar sized standard tyre, so providing the floatation benefits of a larger tyre, but without the greater transport width.



As with all its products, CLAAS has gone to great lengths to ensure that should there be a problem with any of the electronic systems available, there is the service skill available to quickly and efficiently get it up and running again. Currently within the CLAAS dealer network, there are 42 Master Technicians trained to LTA4 standard, which is three times as many as any other manufacturer, all of whom are capable of diagnosing and servicing electronic technology.

CEMOS lends a helping hand

To maximise productivity from a combine it is essential for the operator to fully optimise the machine's potential.

It is often the case that a new or less experienced operator will generally stick to the standard settings. Only once the operator has got more experience will he 'tweak' and save his own favourite settings, which he will then use but not necessarily adjust.

To overcome this and to draw upon their extensive experience in developing and operating combine harvesters, CLAAS has developed CEMOS (CLAAS Electronic Machine Optimisation System), which brings a wealth of experience into the combine cab, and which was awarded a Gold Medal at Agritechnica in 2009.

Currently only available on LEXION 700 HYBRID models, CEMOS is a dialog-based assistance system that encourages the operator to look beyond their 'comfort

zone' and access advice on how they can improve the combine's performance. Having tried, analysed and either rejected or accepted the results, these new settings can then be quickly saved for future use.

To achieve this, CEMOS collates and evaluates some 50 different parameters covering 11 criteria from throughout the combine. When prompted by the operator using the CEBIS MOBILE terminal mounted in the cab, CEMOS will analyse the operator's current settings and provide suggestions as to how specific settings can be altered in order to improve combine performance.

By having access to all this information CEMOS gives the operator, however experienced he is, the confidence to look at alternatives, be involved in the adjustment process and be more adventurous in how he sets-up and operates the combine. For a less experienced driver or those new to the LEXION, it is also an invaluable 'helping hand', enabling him to quickly learn how to set-up and utilise the combine to its full potential.

As a result, not only can throughput be increased and operating costs cut, but grain quality is improved and losses reduced.



1. Having activated CEMOS, the operator initially selects which aspect of the combine's performance they wish to improve, such as grain losses.



2. CEMOS will firstly ask and provide options as to where the losses occur.



3. CEMOS will provide a suggested solution, in this case increasing rotor speed to 1000rpm, with the option to accept or reject this change. The screen will also display a 'help' (?) button which provides the operator with a detailed explanation as to why this suggestion is being made.



4. If the operator accepts the suggestion, CEMOS will make the change and then display the difference that that selection has made. Options are provided for the operator to assess the difference.



5. If required, further options can then be selected and tried to further improve performance.



6. Once the operator is fully satisfied that an improved setting has been found, these new settings can be finally activated and saved.

TELEMATICS for tractors and foragers

The **TELEMATICS** management and monitoring system has proven invaluable for many combine operators and helped them optimise machinery output. Launched in 2005, until now **TELEMATICS** has only been available on top-of-the-range **LEXION** and **TUCANO 480** combines.

For 2011, availability has been extended to cover:

- LEXION 620 - 770 combine harvesters
- LEXION 510 - 600 combine harvesters
- TUCANO 320 - 480 combine harvesters
- JAGUAR 930 – 980 forager harvesters
- XERION 4500 and 5000 tractors
- AXION 810 – 850 tractors (from Spring 2011)
- XERION 3300 and 3800 tractors (from Spring 2011)

Of the 600 users worldwide, 170 of these are in the UK.

Expanding the availability of **TELEMATICS** will help farmers and operators better manage machinery and identify areas where machinery efficiency can be improved, and cost saved.

For 2011, in addition to the yield mapping options already available, **LEXION** or **TUCANO** operators will now also be able to create maps showing either sieve or rotor losses; grain moisture variation or engine load.

On **JAGUARS**, in addition to storing and viewing all current machine settings and the machine location using Google Earth, a range of maps can be created and viewed showing either crop yield, dry matter, fuel consumption, engine load or chop length.

An additional feature available to **JAGUAR** and **LEXION 620-770** users is a new Task Management function. Each task (a farm or individual fields) is allocated a number and having pulled up the Task Management folder, by clicking on the number either the current or historical job data, such as duration, area, etc., can be viewed.

As with combine and forage harvesters, **TELEMATICS** for the **XERION 4500/5000** and **AXION** range will show all the current machine settings and performance data, whilst maps showing either engine load or fuel consumption can be created and overlaid on Google Earth.

In operation, **TELEMATICS** records the machine's location, settings and output state every 15 seconds, which is uploaded to the web server every 15 minutes. This information can then be viewed either on a computer or via any web enabled device. Information such as current settings and performance data from up to three machines can be viewed at a time on an hour, day or work to date basis. In addition, up to the moment maps can be stored and the machine's position seen using Google Earth.

Also, with theft of high value tractors becoming an increasing problem, if working away from its main base, the machine's location can be ring-fenced beyond which it won't move. In the event of theft, whilst **TELEMATICS** won't track the machine, it will show the location once the ignition is turned back on.



New positive drive VARIO 1050

Following the introduction of the 12m wide **VARIO 1200** cutterbar last year, many of its features have now been incorporated into the latest version of the 10.5m wide **VARIO 1050**.

In addition to its split reel and cross auger, the new **VARIO 1050** now also incorporates a divided knife bar, which provides a higher cutting frequency. The diameter of the cross auger has also been increased to 660mm and it now incorporates anti-wrap guards.

To provide a positive drive to all the cutterbar components, synchronised gearboxes are mounted on each side of the cutterbar, which transfer power through telescopic drive shafts, so avoiding the need for higher maintenance belts or chains.

As previously, in order to enhance crop flow into the combine, the knife to auger distance on the new **VARIO 1050** can be infinitely shortened by 10cm, increased by up to 20cm for harvesting cereals or, having fitted filling plates, by a further 30cm for direct cutting oilseed rape.



Greater outputs from new VARIANT PRO balers

The **VARIANT** variable chamber round baler is renowned for its high output and bale density, regardless of bale width. For 2011, **CLAAS** has introduced a new version – the **VARIANT PRO**, which has the potential to achieve greater output and efficiency.

Four models are available, all of which feature a 2.1m wide pick-up, four endless high-tensile belts in the bale chamber running at 2.7m/second, a hydraulically operated bale density pressure system and variable core density.

The **VARIANT 360RF** and **380RF PRO** models feature the **ROTO FEED** star rotor behind the pick-up to provide a positive flow of material into the bale chamber. However, on the **VARIANT 365RC** and **385RC PRO** this is replaced by the 14-knife **ROTO CUT** bale chopping system to accurately chop grass silage for greater density and bale quality.

Another new feature on the new **VARIANT PRO** models is a hydraulically operated floor in the **ROTO FEED** or **ROTO CUT** chamber immediately behind the pick-up. This enables blockages to be quickly and simply cleared and gives the operator the confidence to push the baler to its maximum capacity, improving efficiency and baling output.

As material flows through the **ROTO FEED** or **ROTO CUT** chamber, sensors will automatically detect a potential blockage and trigger both a trip clutch to stop the drive and an alarm to alert the operator.

To clear the blockage, the operator then simply hydraulically lowers the floor, then re-engages the drive so that the blockage can pass safely through to the main bale chamber, prior to closing the floor again and re-commencing baling.

As standard, all four **PRO** models come with the **CLAAS** Medium Terminal which enables functions such as bale and core density pressure control, total and daily bale counters and bale size adjustment to all be quickly and easily controlled from the cab. As an alternative, the **CLAAS** **COMMUNICATOR** terminal is available which allows a wider range of functions to be controlled or automated.

CLAAS VARIANT PRO round balers

Model	Pick-up width (m)	Bale size (m)	
		Width	Diameter
VARIANT 385 ROTO CUT PRO	2.10	1.20	0.90 - 1.70
VARIANT 365 ROTO CUT PRO	2.10	1.20	0.90 - 1.50
VARIANT 380 ROTO FEED PRO	2.10	1.20	0.90 - 1.70
VARIANT 360 ROTO FEED PRO	2.10	1.20	0.90 - 1.50



New GPS steering options

CLAAS was one of the first to recognise the benefits that automated steering would have on operator efficiency and output, and currently offers a comprehensive range of cost effective and advanced steering systems.

CLAAS developed its first automated steering system over 30 years ago, when the AUTO PILOT automated row following system for maize harvesting was launched. This was followed in 1999 with LASER PILOT, with the first GPS steering system introduced in 2003.

CLAAS is now able to offer three different terminals for use with GPS steering and machine management systems: COPILOT TS; GPS PILOT S3 and CEBIS MOBILE.

COPILOT TS

The CLAAS COPILOT TS steering terminal provides a cost effective option for those looking to start making use of GPS steering and designed for use with tractors. It shares many features of the more advanced S3 control unit and uses an EGNOS correction signal giving a level of accuracy of $\pm 15-30$ cm. COPILOT TS is capable of following a straight or curved path and can be used for either steering guidance or can be upgraded for use with an automatic steering system.



The COPILOT TS unit incorporates a large touch screen display and aside from providing track management, the terminal can be used to calculate and store information, such as the area covered, and has a USB connection to

download information for further use.

A new feature for 2011 is compatibility with CLAAS AGRO-MAP mapping software. Having saved yield mapping data from the combine, using COPILOT TS information from the tractor, such as A-B lines, drill or tramline settings, etc. can be saved in the same folder.

GPS PILOT S3 terminal

The latest CLAAS GPS PILOT S3 terminal provides a more comprehensive range of information and incorporates a 8.4 inch touch screen display. In addition to A-B line set-up and following, other functions include internal job-management, area calculation, markers and data exchange with AGRO-NET and AGRO-MAP software.

This new version of the terminal is not only faster to respond than previous units, but is more positive and uses a 6-axes gyro so that not only can side-to-side movement be compensated for, but also pitch and yaw.

CEBIS MOBILE

CEBIS MOBILE is a multi-functional terminal which aside from setting-up and controlling GPS steering, can be used to set-up and operate ISOBUS compatible machinery or for variable rate application. It is also the operator interface for the new CEMOS combine optimisation system. Information is displayed on a 6.4 inch colour display and the terminal incorporates the standard ISOBUS layout with 15 keys and one rotary switch for easy navigation.

GPS PILOT II

The new GPS PILOT II system is the first system to be designed and built by CLAAS and can be used in conjunction with EGNOS, OmniSTAR HP, BASELINE HD and RTK signals.

Controlled using CEBIS MOBILE, GPS PILOT II is designed for use with LEXION 620 to 770 combines and XERION 5000 or 4500 tractors, and this will be extended to XERION 3300 and 3800 models later next spring.



GPS PILOT II is designed so that it can be quickly and easily moved from one GPS ready machine to another, with all the main components contained in a simple tray that slots into a mounting beside the driver's seat.

When used for GPS steering, in addition to straight A-B line and parallel contour following, there is also the ability to set a curved A-B Contour path that allows bout skipping, plus there is the ability to set an A-B path that can be shared by two machines, such as a combine and accompanying chaser bin.



CAM PILOT

In addition to the GPS-based steering systems above, CLAAS is also able to offer the unique CAM PILOT steering system. The latest version of CAM PILOT can be used with either the CLAAS COMMUNICATOR or the new CEBIS MOBILE terminals and can be used at forward speeds as low as 50 metres per hour, making it ideal for use in vegetable or similar crops.

CAM PILOT uses a 3D digital camera to scan the area in front of the tractor. By using a 3D image, the camera can identify field structures, so is able to accurately identify and follow not only plant rows, but swaths, tramlines or ridges in the soil or crop, and use these to steer the tractor to an accuracy of $\pm 2-3$ cm.

CLAAS UK RTK network

Since the announcement in the Spring 2010 that CLAAS is establishing its own network of RTK masts in the UK, 11 masts are now operational in East Anglia, Lincolnshire, Nottinghamshire and Leicestershire, providing coverage over approximately 2.4 million hectares.

Work is also progressing on a new network for the Kent area, which is planned to be operational by the end of the year and will cover 400,000 hectares. This, combined with the existing network, will provide comprehensive coverage over 3 million hectares from the English Channel to the Humber.

News

New apprentice intake

A further 15 apprentices have joined the CLAAS Agricultural Technician Apprenticeship based at Reaseheath College in Cheshire and Barony College near Dumfries.

The nine students joining the Reaseheath course come from Southern Harvesters, Mill Engineers, Marsh, Hamblys, Morris Corfield and Ellis Dawe. In Scotland, six students are from either Rickerby (north England) and Gordons (south west Scotland).

The Barony course was launched in 2008, and CLAAS is still the only landbased engineering company to offer a manufacturer's apprenticeship within Scotland. Between them, the Reaseheath and Barony courses offer CLAAS dealers the opportunity to train and develop the skilled technicians they need for the future, at two of the leading land-based engineering colleges in the UK.

The students study for a National Diploma in Land Based Technology, which is seen as a practical hands-on alternative to 'A' Levels. One of the main benefits of the Diploma, other than higher technical credibility, is that upon qualification, the successful candidate will receive a Pass, Merit or Distinction grade, which will enable them to better demonstrate and gain recognition for their progression and ability.

The first three years are spent studying for the National Diploma, then the final year is spent gaining additional qualifications relating to air conditioning, electronics and hydraulics, together with their telehandler and trailer test licenses. As a result, when the student completes the course they are well prepared for full entry into the dealer environment and associated industry requirements.

Following graduation from the Apprenticeship scheme, these Service Engineers will follow a comprehensive CLAAS training development plan, laid out by the CLAAS



Barony College apprentices Aaron McKerlie, Thomas Sloan, Adam Graham, Adam Vance, Joshua Crisp and Jack Dixon.

Academy and aligned with the Landbased Technician Accreditation (LTA) scheme. This programme is designed to mirror the business requirements of CLAAS dealers and also offers career progression through the LTA tiers, from LTA 2 (Service Engineer), to LTA 3 (Master Mechanic) or LTA 4 (Master Technician).



Joining the CLAAS apprenticeship course at Reaseheath College are: Oliver Dolbear, James Barker, Alexander Deakins, Matthew Scott, Michael Flack, Oscar Thacker and Joshua Newman. Also joining but not in the photograph are Samuel Cliffe and Richard Emery.

FARMERS WEEKLY AWARDS

Farm Manager of the Year 2010

Congratulations to Alastair Brooks who was named the CLAAS sponsored 'Farm Manager of the Year' at this year's Farmers Weekly Awards.

Alastair is manager of the 1740ha Waddesdon Farms near Aylesbury, where he has been for the past four years following the decision by Lord Rothschild to take the farm in-hand.

In those four years Alastair has overseen a considerable change from a mixed farming estate that included three dairy units totalling 600 cows, to what is now a predominantly arable farm, concentrating on milling wheat, with 700 ewes and a Simmental suckler herd.

What particularly impressed the judges was the way in which he has managed the changes that have taken place, the fact that he leads his team of six from the front, his attention to detail and his grasp on costs, down to field and machine level.

Alastair's fellow finalists were Jake Freestone and Andrew Hughes. Jake manages the Overbury Estate in Gloucestershire, where he has successfully integrated agri-environmental schemes with the farming business. Running the Trinley Estate in Hampshire, Andrew's entrepreneurial ability has seen him introduce a number of non-agricultural businesses, such as document storage.

International news



Cathrina Claas-Mühlhäuser has become the third generation of the Claas family to head up the CLAAS Group, following her election as the new President of the CLAAS KGaA Supervisory Board. She succeeds her father, Helmut Claas, who has been President of the family owned company since 1995.



Farming over 11,000ha (27,181 acres) and host to the World CLAAS event in 2006, the APH Hinsdorf Co-Operative is one of the largest farming companies in eastern Germany.

With about 9,000ha of combinable crops to harvest, General Manager Gunther Fischer recently took delivery of 10 new LEXION 600s, all of which have 10.5m VARIO cutterbars and TELEMATICS. Hinsdorf has been using CLAAS combines since 1992.

Prince Charles' TUCANO

Prince Charles is presented with a model TUCANO by the Mayor of Harsewinkel, Sabine Amsbeck-Dopheide.

The presentation was made during his annual visit to the British Rhine Army troops based at Gütersloh near Harsewinkel, during which he presented them with Afghan campaign medals.

"He really was familiar with the name of the company", said the Mayor afterwards, "perhaps because he is himself a farmer and large land-owner."



CLAAS expand in the east

To meet the increased demand for combines in central Asia, CLAAS has developed a new combine assembly plant at Tashkent, the capital of Uzbekistan. Initially the plant will be used to assemble 'flat pack' DOMINATOR combines shipped from Harsewinkel, with 500 machines scheduled for assembly this year. Eventually it is planned that the plant will also be used to assemble AXOS tractors and MARKANT balers.

Only 10.5% (47,000km²) of Uzbekistan's land area is usable, most of which historically has been used for growing cotton. But grain production is increasing, and since CLAAS first started exporting to the country in 1993, over 1000 combines have been sold there.

Also in Russia, CLAAS has recently reached agreement to buy additional land in order to expand the assembly plant at Krasnodar which was opened in 2005. CLAAS was the first foreign agricultural machinery manufacturer to open a factory in the Russian Federation, during which time nearly 2,000 combines have been assembled.

Combines in the field

Heavy crop harvester

High grain and straw yields, plus their proximity to the sea, made RC & VE Buckle's wheat crops an ideal test for the new LEXION 770TT.

The alluvial soils around Sunk Island on the Holderness peninsula near Hull result not only in average 1st wheat yields of around 12t/ha, but straw yields of around 5t/ha, all of which places an extra load on the combine.

"Its good arable land, but we are also surrounded on three sides by water. If the wind is from the east, whilst inland you could be combining at 14%, we will be nearer 18%, which considerably shortens the combining day," explains Rick Buckle.

"We have always run CLAAS combines, and each time a new model has come out, we have said they could never get better, but they do. The new LEXION 770 is no exception – there are a lot of little changes which all add up to a lot, and the output is phenomenal."

The new LEXION 770TT replaced a LEXION 580TT in order to handle a 250ha increase in the acreage farmed by Rick, his brother Rob and father Geoff.

By the end of harvest, the LEXION 770 had cleared around 200ha of winter barley yielding 2000 tonnes; 280ha of oilseed rape producing 1500 tonnes and 9000 tonnes of winter wheat from 800ha.

"Due to the bulk of crop that it has to handle, we only opted for a 10.5m VARIO cutterbar, but this is a great improvement and handled the crops extremely well. It was noticeable how smooth the combine is and the new hydraulic system means that response is instant, which helps save time and as good as you would want."

"Engine power has not been an issue. In wheat the LEXION 770 was mostly running at just 50% power but overall averaged 60 tonnes/hour, which was a 27%



Rick Buckle

increase on the LEXION 580TT which would have been running at nearer 100%. Also despite being far more powerful, the LEXION 770's fuel consumption was 1 litre/ha less."

As the operator, Rick is quick to praise the new cab on account of how comfortable and quiet it is, and after initial doubts, he has also become an enthusiastic user of the new CEMOS optimisation system.

"My job is to keep the combine going and running at full capacity, and I will use every tool available to achieve that. Pre-harvest I thought that CEMOS would not make much difference, but all through the day I was able to find out different ways to 'eek' out a bit more performance."

"I have also been extremely impressed with CRUISE PILOT as it takes a lot of the fatigue out of the job. Setting it for throughput just keeps the combine at it all the time and suits my driving style well. Working with LASER PILOT, this then left me free to look at the settings, try CEMOS and just see how much further I could push the combine."

"Having a pre-production combine was a leap of faith, but I knew Seward and CLAAS would support us. The LEXION 770 is certainly the finished article and it has been very interesting to be involved in its development," concludes Rick.





Quality counts

Not only has a pre-production LEXION 760TT enabled David Jones to achieve higher daily throughput, but going for the optional TM6 sieves has resulted in improved grain quality.



David Jones

With 560ha of winter wheat to harvest, mostly down to Group 1 milling varieties, whilst timeliness is essential in order to preserve quality, ensuring a clean sample is also important to David.

“As milling wheat growers, quality is an important part of what we do. It was whilst on the pre-series trip to the factory that I mentioned to one of the combine team about ways of improving our sample, and he suggested trying the TM6 sieves.”



TM6 sieves have helped halve screenings and saved further cleaning

“The difference has been noticeable, especially in oilseed rape. We initially used our previous settings, and then when one of the development team was over, he advised us on what changes to make to the sieve and deawning plate settings. This made a lot of difference to losses and returns, and screenings have been halved, which has saved further cleaning in the grain store.”

Comparing the new 10.5m cut LEXION 760TT with the 9.0m cut LEXION 580TT that it replaced, both David and his combine driver Alisdair Walsh have found that crop flow

through the combine is far smoother. Also output has been some 5.0ha a day higher, averaging between 50-55ha/day at a rate of between 55-60 tonnes/hour.

This they put down partly to the improved flow into the combine from the new 10.5m VARIO cutterbar and its wider diameter cross-auger, allied to the greater engine power and the new constant pressure hydraulic system.

“We are not looking to break records or be at the top of the league table. What’s important to us is grain quality and achieving a good chop,” comments David. “However, the increased output meant we cleared the oilseed rape far quicker, and had cut nearly 50% of the wheat before the weather broke. Also because I like to start drilling oil seed rape by about the 16th August, the increased output gave us a good head-start and the excellent chop and spread is also very important. I never felt under any pressure with the combine.”

“The new LEXION is brilliant. As a pre-series it has been extremely good and the support from **Mill Engineers** has been excellent. They have been very good at coming in first thing to do the updates as they were introduced during harvest.”

“A key feature is the new cab; it’s very comfortable and quiet, and features such as the colour CEBIS, control layout and air-flow seat have all added to it. We also found the loss monitors are far better, which gave Alisdair the confidence to further ‘tweak’ the settings.”

“Generally, the greater power meant the engine was under less load making the combine far quieter, whilst the increased hydraulic power means everything is instant and unloading far faster. Also by moving the air-intake to the top of the combine, air-flow is greatly improved and overall cleanliness is far better.”

The best yet

With 35 years of combine driving under his belt, Peter Jones reckons that the new LEXION 670TT is the best combine he has ever driven.

Having driven the new LEXION 670TT this harvest, Peter, who works for Peasgood & Sons near Peterborough, says that he has been absolutely thrilled with the combine’s comfort and performance.

The new LEXION 670TT, which has a 7.5m VARIO cutterbar, was bought from **Marsh** to replace a 12 year old LEXION 460 and by the end of harvest had harvested over 1,000ha of winter wheat, winter barley, spring barley, oilseed rape and beans. Of this, a third of the wheat is for milling and all of the barley is for malting, so the policy is to aim to cut below 15%, and maintain quality rather than going for all-out output.

“Aside from the fact it was a new combine, not having had tracks or a VARIO cutterbar before, the first day with the LEXION 670 was a bit daunting, but after that I found it very easy to operate,” says Peter. “With the old LEXION 460, you had to concentrate on driving the combine, but now having LASER-PILOT and CRUISE PILOT means I am able to concentrate on fine-tuning the settings, plus I was far less tired at the end of the day.”

“For the operator, the new cab is superb. The new Hotkey



Peter Jones

is super for quickly accessing settings menus, and because I had the time, and it is so easy, it meant I adjusted the combine far more to get as good a sample as possible and also having the returns window inside the cab is brilliant.”

“The other big difference was the constant pressure hydraulic system, which was considerably more responsive compared to the old LEXION. Everything was instant and there was so much spare horsepower; most of the time the engine was on just 50-60% load.”

The ease and speed with which daily maintenance can be completed also comes in for Peter’s praise, as does the new location for the air intake which

means the radiators, coolers and engine bay are kept far cleaner.

“Not having had tracks before, they have been fantastic in the wet conditions and the difference in the way the ground ploughs is noticeable. We have run CLAAS combines for many years, and even though I have tried others I still think CLAAS are the best.”

“The only problem with the new LEXION is that the passenger seat is far too comfortable. Anyone who comes for a ride never wants to leave, so I hardly get any time to myself,” quips Peter.



Decision Time.



AVERO 240

TUCANO 320 - 450

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LEXION 620 - 670



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CLAAS



Organic ideal

Having operated a LEXION 550 for several years, a change to a Hybrid TUCANO 480 for this harvest has given John Creswell a 10t/hour increase in output.

Growing a total of 600ha of cereals on the Northumbrian coast near Bamborough, apart from about 120ha of high yielding wheat averaging 10t/ha, the remainder of the wheat, spring barley and spring bean crops are organic, going to a specialist organic mill in the Scottish Borders.

With the organic crops in mind, the TUCANO 480 was supplied with a 9.0m VARIO cutterbar which, John says, has proven an ideal combination.

"Because the organic crops are not so bulky, the 9.0m cutterbar has been ideal. But even in the higher yielding conventional wheat it handled that perfectly well, even if the forward speed was a bit slower, but at about 55t/hr, the throughput was about 10t better than with the LEXION."

Having livestock on the farm, about two thirds of the straw is baled, but the change from a straw walker to a Hybrid threshing system has not proved a problem in that respect.

"Because we are close to the sea, we rarely combine below 19% and by the end of the day the moisture content will be up to about 23%, but the TUCANO threshed the crops really well. The sample was excellent and when it got particularly damp, it was usually the cutterbar that stopped us combining before the threshing mechanism."

"I was surprised by how easy the TUCANO was to set-up and by the amount of electronics it does have on it. There's all you need including a yield meter and moisture meter. I suppose the only thing I missed compared to the LEXION was the electronic concave adjustment, but how often during the day do you change that?"

"What was really noticeable though was how much easier the TUCANO is to manoeuvre in tight spaces. It's a really nice combine, the cab is very comfortable and it has been ideal for what we need."



Orkney TUCANO

Final delivery - Orkney contractor Clive Chalmers' new TUCANO 430 arrives at Kirkwall in the early hours of the morning, and keeping it company on the crossing from Aberdeen was also his new JAGUAR 850 Greeneye, both bought through J & W Tait.

The last new combine to be sold on Orkney was 30 years ago, but this year has seen not just one but two new CLAAS combines being sold on the island, the second being an AVERO 240 that was bought by a local farmer.



Brennan Brothers

Adding a TUCANO 440 to their existing fleet of CLAAS combines for the 2010 harvest enabled Brennan Bros. to provide an exceptional level of harvest service for their customers.

Brennan Brothers are an agricultural contracting firm from Leighlinbridge, Co. Carlow in the South-East of Ireland. Farming in this region is quite a mixed bag of both livestock and tillage with the latter making up the bulk of brothers Nicholas and John's contracting work.

Nicholas and John have an impressive fleet of CLAAS harvesting equipment with three CLAAS combines - two LEXION's and a TUCANO, a 2009 JAGUAR 850 forage harvester, two LINER rakes - a single rotor 470 and a twin rotor 780 plus an elderly ROLLANT 66 round baler.

They bought their first CLAAS combine, a new LEXION 440 in 1997 when they were engaged to plough, sow and harvest a 141ha farm on the other side of County Carlow. In 1998 they landed the work of another 222ha farm, inheriting the farm's LEXION 440 from the owner.

Currently harvesting about 1010ha of mainly winter wheat and spring barley, the current combine line-up includes a 2008 LEXION 550, a 2010 LEXION 570 Plus and the 2010 TUCANO 440.

Up to 2007 the brothers ran two LEXION combines but as Nicholas explains, "With the bad weather during the harvests of 2008 and 2009 we ended up hiring an extra combine for 90% of each harvest. So for the 2010 harvest we traded back in the LEXION 580 and bought a LEXION 570 and a TUCANO 440."

"We could probably cut 810ha with one LEXION 580 but our biggest problem is that most of our cutting is winter wheat and spring barley and it all ripens together. When the customers want their corn cut, they want it cut and you can't be in two fields at the same time with one combine."



Nicholas Brennan

The Brennans are in the enviable position that the bulk of their tillage operations are concentrated into half a dozen parcels of land ranging in size from around 120ha up to 220ha. This has created its own problems as according to Nicholas, "a lot of the land is spread out, and transporting large combines is not easy on our roads. You just lose too much time on the road."

This is where the TUCANO comes in, "We bought the TUCANO 440 for doing the small jobs and it's much handier for the road. We can concentrate the LEXION's in the bigger parcels of land where there is less or no road work at all," explains Nicholas.

The TUCANO with its 6 metre header was a new departure for the Brennan's, Nicholas says, "The TUCANO is a small and handy all-round combine. It performed well and wouldn't be badly unlike the first LEXION 440 we had in 1997. It doesn't have the electronic concave setup of the LEXION but we like the cab, it seems to be bigger than the LEXION."

Commenting on its output, Nicholas says, "We were very surprised by her performance and output, in spring barley or winter wheat 20ha/day is no problem. It's very handy to move around the roads and we are very happy with it. She has more than done her job."

Keeping the Brennan's and the fleet of CLAAS machinery in tip top condition is local CLAAS dealer, **Kelly's of Borris**, Co. Carlow. "Service from Maurice Kelly, Kelly's of Borris is outstanding. They provide an unbelievable service and have great mechanics, you could ring with a small problem, get down off the combine finished at ten o'clock that night. Get back up on the combine the next morning and the lads have been and fixed it that night. They're not cheap but there's no such thing as a good, cheap mechanic."





AVERO answers family farm's needs

With 120ha of milling wheat, malting barley and oats for a breakfast cereal buyer in their rotation, running their own combine is important to Hampshire farmers Bill Totman and his father Brian. But with their 3.6m CLAAS DOMINATOR 76 approaching its 25th birthday last year, they appeared to have limited replacement options, with few smaller combines available on either the new or used markets.

"Our DOMINATOR was still running well, but last season I was getting concerned that it might struggle if we got another wet harvest," says Bill. "If the weather is right, we have to cut as soon as possible, which is the main reason we don't use a contractor. We can't afford to wait and lose quality."

But with average combine size having increased in recent years, reflecting the rise in average farm size, there appeared to be little on either the new or used markets to fit the Totmans' requirements.

"Our last combine was bought new, but it seemed there wasn't anything on the market in that size or price bracket any more. We considered buying a used combine, but we were looking at ten year old machines for the sort of money we could justify, and most secondhand ones of the size we wanted were worn out," says Bill.

The answer to the Totmans' problem came with CLAAS's re-entry into the smaller harvester market, and with the



Bill Totman

launch last summer of the AVERO 240 four-walker combine. Keen to stick with the manufacturer, given the back-up from local dealer **Mill Engineers** and the reliability of the farm's DOMINATOR, they reconsidered the possibility of buying new.

"We lost only seven days' combining in 25 years with our DOMINATOR, so we were pretty happy to stick with CLAAS, especially as they offered us a good price for our old combine," says Bill. "And no-one else was offering a machine of this size. The finance deal was very good and actually made buying a new machine like this more attractive financially than a used one of another type. And over time, it will work out cheaper than a contractor long before it completes the same sort of acreage that our DOMINATOR had done."

Although the AVERO 240 is available with cutterbars up to 4.9m, the Totmans chose to stick with the same 3.6m cutting width as his previous machine, relying instead on the AVERO's 200hp Caterpillar engine and APS pre-threshing system for an output boost. Bill reckons he can easily put 60t/day in the barn, keeping the farm's 5t/hr Blanch drier comfortably fed.

"The land around our home farm is in a ring fence, and with a 12ft header I can move around the yard and between fields – which range from 4-32ha – without taking it off, as well as storing the combine with it fitted. There's also a separate block of land, but in all we don't have to use the cutterbar trailer very often."

"The APS (Accelerated Pre Separation) system is very effective at reducing the load on the drum and concave. It's especially good in oats and in undersown barley, where threshing is more difficult and there's more green stuff going through the combine."

"We don't chop anything, so that helps keep output up and fuel consumption down. Given that the AVERO has a bigger fuel tank and 80hp more power than our old combine, it's not easy to compare fuel use like-for-like, though the bigger engine means it's not working so hard. And on an output basis, the AVERO has cut our combining time by a third. We completed this harvest in 65 engine hours rather than the hundred it used to take our DOMINATOR 76. That's justified our decision to invest in a new combine to get the harvest in quicker."

Combine world

Used reliability

Having his own high capacity combine enables Robert Tindall to make the most of short combining days.

Needing to replace a 14 year old combine for last harvest, Robert approached his local COMBINE WORLD dealer who found him a 2002 LEXION 480 which has ideally met his needs.

In addition to farming 280ha, Robert has a company producing and supplying bird seed mixes, using some of the feed wheat and canary seed that he grows. He also imports and stores foreign grain and seeds for use in his own mixes and for sale as raw materials by other feed companies.

"We produce 15 different mixes, from simple standard mixes through to special mixes for wildlife trusts. We carry up to 2000 tonnes of stock at any one time, in addition to the imported materials," explains Robert. "As a result during harvest due to the need to meet orders, I often can't get combining until early afternoon, so I wanted a high capacity combine to make the most of the harvesting time available."

"Whilst using a contractor was an option, I get on extremely well with both the sales and service staff at **Marsh** and it makes more sense to run my own machine so that I can keep control of the operation."

Robert adds that by buying from COMBINE WORLD rather than from an advert, not only does he know that the combines offered will be of a high standard, but they come from a known source, plus there is finance available should it be needed.

"The risk of buying via an advert is that when you see the machine it is not as good as described and has been used for something like peas which have totally hammered it."

"I know that the LEXION is a supreme product so will be reliable, and by buying through COMBINE WORLD can be assured that the combine will have had a full appraisal. The way the LEXION 480 was presented was superb – it had been thoroughly valeted and looked like new both inside and out."

"The LEXION 480 has made an unbelievable difference. I can comfortably cover 32ha a day, which is nearly double my old straw walker machine and has been extremely reliable."

"Ultimately by buying through a reputable dealer I know exactly what I am getting and can be safe in the knowledge that should there be a problem, they will stand by me – end of story!"



Buying used for extra capacity

Buying a year-old LEXION 580TT for last harvest through COMBINE WORLD has given Philip Dunthorne the capacity to maximise output and safeguard quality.

The majority of Philip's 400ha of cereals is into milling wheat, mainly Malacca but he is also trying Gallant this year as a possible replacement, and for the second year is growing Canadian red wheat.

"The LEXION 580 replaced an old MEGA 204 which never quite had the capacity to cope. The last few harvests have not been easy, with the result that there was a risk that I would lose quality," explains Philip. "It was a big step-up going from a 5.0m wide 5-walker machine to the LEXION 580 which has tracks and a 9.0m wide cutterbar, but it's fantastic. It could be argued that we are over-combined, but the LEXION 580 gives me the capacity to make the most of good conditions and help ensure I can maintain quality and hence premium, plus I can hopefully take on some extra acreage."

For Philip, buying a used combine having scanned through magazine classifieds was simply never an option.

"Buying through COMBINE WORLD, I know exactly what I am getting and the standard of the machine when it arrived was as new. I have always had extremely good service from CLAAS and I know that if I have a problem CLAAS will stand by me. I have far more peace of mind than I would have if I had bought from an unknown source."

"I could have bought an older machine, but it made sense and the price was right. Also since buying it, CLAAS have come in and done a couple of updates to it, even before I had used it, so I know it's fully up to date and nothing has been missed. I can't fault the service I have had since buying it – they treated it as a new combine plus it had a full warranty."



Tractors in the field



XERION operator Paul Swinburn (left) with David Richardson

524hp of pulling power

J Porter & Son's heavy Lincolnshire soils are proving an ideal testing ground for the new 524hp XERION 5000.

Named 'Machine of the Year' at Agritechnica last November, the new XERION 5000 and 4500 set new benchmarks for high horsepower tractors.

Not only does the XERION hit new power output heights for CLAAS tractors, but it's also the first tractor in this power sector to have a CVT transmission and a travel speed of 50kph.

The pre-production XERION 5000, which is equipped with RTK, was bought from **Marsh** for heavy cultivations on the all arable 1050ha farmed by J Porter & Sons based at Navenby near Sleaford, where it works alongside a 'smaller' XERION 3800. Growing wheat, barley, oilseed rape and spring beans, all the crops go into an associated feed compounding business, which supplies livestock and poultry feeds throughout the eastern counties

Working on predominately heavy clays, the 524hp XERION is mainly used with a home-made 4-tonne, 7-leg subsoiler and a fully mounted 9-furrow Dowdeswell plough. Working at 16 inches wide, up to 10 inches deep and at a forward speed of 10kph, the XERION is the only wheeled tractor to be using this plough in the UK.

"We have been very impressed with the XERION 3800, which is mainly used with our 8.0m Vaderstad drill, and I like the concept of having four big, equal sized wheels on a tractor," explains farm manager David Richardson.

"The XERION 5000 is extremely impressive and with RTK steering, it makes an excellent job of ploughing, and is able to go in conditions when a similar sized crawler would struggle."

Shod with 710/75R38 Michelin AxioBib tyres, for heavy draft work the XERION is loaded with a 3.0t weight on the front and 2.5t in the middle, giving a gross weight of 21.5t. However, for David one of the advantages of the XERION

is that if need-be, all this weight can be taken off in about ¾ hour, the tyres let down and it could be used for drilling or other tasks, making it very flexible.

"Also the 4-wheel steering means that you can turn far tighter on the headland, which is an issue with crawlers, and the visibility from the cab is fantastic. The new 'mouse' joystick fits the hand well and makes it easy to operate the tractor, as the three main buttons you need – RTK, Cruise Control and headland management, are all on there."

"The CVT transmission is ideal for matching the forward speed to conditions and to keep pushing the tractor. In heavy going, realistically the XERION has been covering about 24ha a day, and we are using Cruise Control all the time. Also in combination with the RTK steering, this gives the driver time to use CEBIS to tweak the engine settings and make sure he is getting the best out of the tractor."

The RTK steering is run using the new GPS-PILOT II control system and receives a signal from Marsh at Sleaford. RTK is also fitted to the smaller XERION 3800, and David reckons that the combined saving not only of inputs, but also labour, fuel and wearing parts, amounts to between £7-10/ha.

"On any high horsepower tractor I think that GPS steering is a must, as aside from the cost savings it takes all the pressure off the operator" he says.

"I took on the new XERION 5000 confident in the support that CLAAS and Marsh would give us and it has done everything we have asked of it. It's fantastic and gives me the flexibility to now look at other roles, such as pulling our 10m Cultipress."



Revolutionary XERION

The versatility of the XERION 3800 has revolutionised Jim Thompson's farming system.

Whilst the 388hp XERION 3800 only arrived at H B Johnson & Co this summer, Jim first considered a XERION 3300 back in 2004, but felt that it was not powerful enough for his needs.

Six years on, the arrival of the XERION 3800, which was supplied by **Seward** and is equipped with an RTK steering system, follows a thorough review of the farm, the machinery used and discussions with other XERION users.

"I have always liked the principle of the XERION, but at that stage there was just the one model which was not big enough," explains Jim who is farm manager for the company, which farms and contract farms a total of 620ha near Hull.

Instead, he initially opted for a rigid tracked tractor, but finding it made too much mess of the headlands, then changed it for an articulated machine.

"This was not without its drawbacks as it was very limited in what it could do, so ended up spending nearly nine months of the year in a barn, plus it was heavy, guzzled fuel and had reliability problems."

With a cut in the area farmed and a subsequent review of the machinery needed, having bought the XERION Jim says that even though it is the most powerful tractor on the farm, it does virtually everything.

Jim Thompson



"The XERION is so versatile and adaptable. When weighted up properly it's awesome and we have certainly not looked back since getting it. We forget how far tyre technology has advanced. The huge footprint from the equal sized wheels fitted with Michelin AxioBib tyres, means it floats over the ground and the traction is superb; slip is only about 5% compared to 2% with tracks so there is nothing in it."

The XERION's flexibility is evident in the wide range of operations that Jim has done with the tractor, from towing trailers at harvest, to pulling a nine leg Sumo Trio, a seven furrow plough, a 6.0m Rexius packer and the farm's 6.0m Vaderstad drill.

"It's really come into its own and I have never had such a frugal tractor. When drilling it has been using just 6 litres/ha whilst for heavy cultivations, such as with the Trio, it has been using 17 litres."

GPS steering has been used on the farm since 2005 and to ensure maximum accuracy the XERION is fitted with an RTK steering system, using a signal from the CLAAS network mast at Brigg, which is over 20 miles away.

"The accuracy provided by RTK is fantastic and we are finding that we are getting far less short work, which aside from a saving in seed means the fields are better set-up for spraying and fertiliser spreading."

"Using Cruise Control to allow the tractor to run at its most efficient and with the RTK on, that leaves me free to look at the tractor settings in CEBIS and find the optimum droop setting for the conditions. It all comes back to saving cost."

"The XERION is definitely right for any farm with the acreage to justify one. Its brute force and 'grunt' make it unbeatable. Put it in any field with a rubber tracked tractor and horsepower for horsepower, the XERION will wipe the floor with it!"



24-hour ARIONs

The tight time constraints for harvesting vining peas and round-the-clock working demand reliable machinery, and one of the reasons Fen Peas run ARION tractors.

Fen Peas is a co-operative of 65 farmers who between them grow approximately 1800ha of vining peas within an area running from Lincoln to Spalding, 50 miles to the south. All the peas are grown under contract for Pinguin Foods Ltd and Premier Foods Ltd, who supply the retail and food service sector.

Time is critical at harvest because as soon as peas are harvested and out of the pod, they begin to deteriorate. Vitamin C levels start to drop and the texture, flavour and taste are all affected. In order to maintain optimum quality, the aim is that best quality peas should be processed and frozen within 2.5 hours of harvesting, whilst lower quality peas are frozen within 3-4 hours.

For harvesting, Fen Peas run three PMC harvesters that run 24 hours a day, seven days a week for the eight week harvest. Supporting these are the three 135hp ARION 620C tractors, hired in from **Marsh** service dealer **A Woods & Sons**, two of which tow 9-tonne capacity high-lift trailers, whilst the third tows the mobile workshop/restroom.

"The trailers are demanding, because the oil requirement is enormous in order to firstly lift a full trailer to 3.6m, then open the hydraulic tailgate and finally tip the body,"

explains Fen Peas Managing Director Stephen Francis.

"We first started hiring CLAAS tractors from Clive Woods in 2007, when we had one tractor and borrowed a different make from elsewhere. We felt that the CLAAS was the far better option, as even though they were the same horsepower, it was far more stable. Also it was reliable, the gearbox well suited to the operation and the oil capacity is good. Also the drivers like the visibility and cab comfort, which is essential if you are spending long hours in the tractor."

"We hire on a weekly basis and the reliability of the tractors has been fantastic. The three ARION 620C tractors Woods' supplied this year were a '08; a '09 and a 2010, but even though the tractors were running 24 hours a day, there was not a single breakdown between them. This is essential because aside from having to meet the time and quantity demands of the factory, with labour and haulage costing about £250/hour, any delay is expensive."

"The (QUADRISHIFT) transmission is good and the high road speed means that when we move, the drivers can get ahead and set everything up so that the harvesters can get working as soon as possible. The ARION 620C is straightforward but ideal for the job and has excellent pulling power."

The tractors are supplied fully prepared and serviced and as service intervals arrive, Woods' work closely with Fen Peas to ensure that the tractor is serviced in-field and at quiet moments, so that harvesting is not delayed.

"The fact that Clive can supply three tractors all the same is ideal and we do consult the drivers and seek their opinion, which is essential if they are in there 12 hours a day for eight weeks."



SCORPIONS power-up

Operating reliable telescopic handlers is the key to the smooth operation of dairy farmer Gwyn Jones' farm in West Sussex, and the reason he runs three CLAAS SCORPION 7040s.

The two newest SCORPION 7040 VP+ machines are in everyday use on the farm where, in addition to a 750 cow dairy herd, Gwyn Jones has also recently constructed a 1mW Anaerobic Digester. The third 2007 machine, which has now clocked up over 5,000 hours, is used for lighter duties and as a back-up.

"We are very reliant on our telescopic handlers and this is the reason we now have the three SCORPIONS," explains Gwyn. "After I bought the first one in 2007, I then bought two of another make which were a disaster and I sent them back after a year and replaced them with the two new SCORPIONS."

Gwyn justifies the need for two machines by explaining that in terms of forage requirement, the AD plant is the equivalent to another 700 cows, and that needing to feed this as well as the cattle would place too much reliance on just one machine.

Commissioned in January 2010, in addition to slurry pumped in from the dairy herd, the AD plant's two digesters are fed a mixture of 14t of solid muck, 4t grass silage, 17t maize silage and cereals, which are loaded into the tanks via two vertical tub feeders at least twice a day.



Gwyn Jones

"The dairy herd SCORPION never stops, because in addition to filling the Keenan feeder, which does up to five mixes a day, the other main job is to move and shred straw for bedding. To then take on feeding the AD plant would just be too much for one machine."

Whilst forage crops for the dairy herd are grown on Gwyn's 200ha farm at Plaistow, to provide the forage maize needed for the digester, he has rented a further 400ha up to 15 miles away near Guilford, where the black sand soils are ideal for growing maize, which is clamped in the field.

"The soils can yield over 44t/ha but do need a lot of organic matter. So whilst the liquid digestate from the AD plant is spread onto the grazing land, which has helped halve our fertiliser use, the solids are separated out and transported over to the rented ground for spreading. The older SCORPION 7040 is kept there, so that the trailer

can then be filled with maize silage for the return trip."

"The SCORPIONS are fantastic to use and ideal for our needs; they are very quick, reactive and the drivers love them. Reliability is essential, because if one machine is out of action it places a lot of pressure on the other machine, and we cannot afford the delays caused by a breakdown. But so far they have been extremely good and with **Southern Harvesters** being only five miles away at Petworth, any problems have been quickly sorted and without a quibble."

Parts

Smooth parts flow

In a game of word association, say CLAAS and the word Service would probably come up fairly quickly.

Service and back-up for the customers at all levels of the business is at the heart of the CLAAS philosophy. An essential ingredient within this is parts and having the ability to ensure that they reach the customer in the shortest possible time. CLAAS has an enviable reputation for this, and works hard to maintain and enhance that reputation.

Within the UK, CLAAS is unique amongst the major manufacturers in having a large parts holding at Saxham, plus an additional holding at Newbridge outside Edinburgh. Between the two depots, CLAAS holds some 38,000 line items in the UK and boasts an impressive first time pick rate of 95%.

Using the latest computerised parts system, Saxham and Newbridge are part of the overall CLAAS European parts network. Dealers in need of a part can source this from either UK location and regardless of which depot that part is sourced from, for 85% of the UK the part will be with the dealer by 9.00am the following day, or by midday for the rest.

Just as important is the service Saxham and Newbridge receive from the CLAAS parts depots at Hamm in Germany and Le Mans in France. During harvest, CLAAS has a daily van delivery from Hamm to the UK, so that

parts ordered by 2.30pm will be at Newbridge or Saxham for 9.00am, whilst smaller parts can be air freighted for delivery direct to the dealer. Likewise with tractor parts from Le Mans, parts ordered by 4.00pm will be delivered by 9.00am, direct to the dealer if urgent.

Taking it a stage further, for more obscure parts, in the unlikely event that neither the UK or central parts depots have a part, the parts systems allows dealers to initially see if any other UK dealer has it. Failing that Hamm in turn can try sourcing it from a German dealer, and vice versa.

In addition to parts for the latest CLAAS machinery, both Saxham and Newbridge are able to supply parts for a wide range of CLAAS machines, including tractors, going back at least 40 years.

It's fair to say that with Saxham and Newbridge, no other major manufacturer can touch CLAAS for parts support, and this is a key ingredient behind the reputation that CLAAS has established in the UK.



FUNWORLD on www.claas.com



NEW Online Colouring Book

CLAAS has added a new online colouring book to the FunWorld section of the website. Fun and easy to use, the Colouring Book allows you to create your own picture using a selection menu. Then once you have added all the outlines you want, simply colour your picture in using the paintbox tool.



We would love to see the pictures you create, so do please send them in to us at the address below. Happy colouring!

1. Starting with the blank screen, use the menu options on the left hand side to select scenes and items to add to your picture.

2. Having added items to your picture, you can drag each image to exactly where you want it on the screen.

3. Then, when you are happy with where you have placed everything, start colouring it in using the paintbox tool.

Yum Yum

Kids Times Competition Winner

Thank you and well done to everybody who correctly answered the Yum Yum competition in the last issue of Kids Times.

The correct answers were:

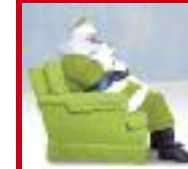
1. Which King had ice cream served for his supper: **King Charles II**
2. How many eggs are eaten in a day: **26 million**
3. What is used to identify quality British food: **The Assured Food Standards logo – the Red Tractor**
4. How big an area can a LEXION 600 cut in an hour: **135 football pitches**
5. A LEXION 600 weighs more than what: **6 African elephants**
6. What can porridge help you do: **Boost your concentration**
7. How much ice cream do we lick each year: **8 litres**
8. Name one thing wheat is used for: **Bread, biscuits, pasta, pizza bases, breakfast cereals or animal feed**
9. When was the first potato grown: **About 6,000 years ago**
10. What does it take to make one loaf of bread: **35 ears of wheat.**



Congratulations to **George Armstrong** of Tunstall near Richmond who was the overall winner of the model CLAAS LEXION. Thank you also to George who sent us this great drawing to thank us for his prize.

Runners up prizes of CLAAS childrens overalls went to: **Rosemary Cass** of Ashfordby, Leicestershire **Jessica Harrison-Lindley** of Minster, Kent **Jack Harris** of Cottesbrooke, Northamptonshire **Murray Waugh** of Lockerbie, Dumfries **Edward Prowse** of Risely, Bedfordshire

Christmas is coming!



With Christmas approaching, we will again be sending all CLAAS Kids members a CLAAS Advent calendar, so keep an eye out for the postman towards the end of November!

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