INTELLIGENT INNOVATION
Today we can offer a combine to suit every farming business, enhanced with intelligent innovation to further improve efficiency, output and productivity whatever the size of your farming operation.

Read our case studies to see what our customers have to say.
INTRODUCING THE NEW TUCANO RANGE

NEW TUCANO 580
New Flagship TUCANO 580 – taking the range through from the 245hp straw-walker TUCANO 320 to the 381hp hybrid TUCANO 580, all powered by Mercedes engines.

HILLSIDE LEVELLING
MONTANA hillside levelling – whole-body levelling can compensate for side slopes of up to 18%. Now available on the three high output TUCANO hybrids – 560, 570 and 580 – plus two straw-walker models – 430 and 450.

CEBIS
New touchscreen CEBIS terminal – ultra clear display with smartphone-style functionality. Individual machine settings brought up instantly with a tap on the relevant part of the combine silhouette. Alternatively every function can be accessed via rocker-switches on the new armrest, taking the operator direct to the appropriate settings page. Ideal for greasy fingers, settings can be altered without using the touchscreen if necessary.

DYNAMIC POWER
Reduced fuel usage by reducing engine power when it is not required – i.e. when swathing rather than chopping straw. Maximum power is immediately reintroduced when it is needed, when unloading or hill climbing, for example.
AUTO SLOPE
Well-proven on larger LEXION models, Auto Slope adjusts the fan speed and sieve settings according to whether the combine is travelling up or downhill, helping to maintain output, minimise losses and produce a consistently good, clean sample.

IMPROVED TOOL STORAGE
Redesigned storage area on the right hand side of the machine has hand-wash tank and designated air-line locker to free up space in the tool box. Tool tray linings to accommodate common spare parts such as knife-sections, etc.

AUTO CROP FLOW
New anti-blockage system monitors loading on APS drum, returns system, the straw chopper and engine. It will alert the operator to a potential blockage before it occurs. This enables the machine to be operated closer to its performance limits without the concern of a blockage occurring.

NEW DISCHARGE SPOUT
A gas strut-operated flap at the end of the unloading auger automatically shuts off the flow of grain when the auger drive is disengaged, preventing spillage and unnecessary crop loss, even when the spout remains partially full.

IMPROVED TOOL STORAGE
Redesigned storage area on the right hand side of the machine has hand-wash tank and designated air-line locker to free up space in the tool box. Tool tray linings to accommodate common spare parts such as knife-sections, etc.

LARGER GRAIN TANK
Increased grain tank capacity of up to 11,000-litres

RETURNS MONITORING
via the new CEBIS terminal.

EASY MAINTENANCE
Improved maintenance access to the engine and returns system.

FEEDER HOUSING DUST EXTRACTION SYSTEM
Improved visibility in dusty conditions and in the dark.

VIDEO
MONTANA hillside levelling available on all three high-output TUCANO hybrids – 560, 570 and 580 – plus two straw-walker models – 430 and 450.

True whole-body levelling keeps the machine running at its optimum across side slopes of up to 18%. Up to 20% feeder-house/header lateral tilt.

Fully automated operation with real-time monitoring of slope angle and header tilt displayed via the new touchscreen CEBIS terminal.
High traction transmission – two automatically selected speeds within two mechanical ranges. The combine controller monitors the load on the ground drive and automatically switches between high and low ratios when increased traction is required.

Intelligent four-wheel-drive – provides up to 70% more tractive power than a standard system.

Separate independent hydraulic system with dedicated pump - no effect on other machine functions.

Optional 3D and AUTO SLOPE.
Specialising in arable contracting operations in an area mainly given over to livestock and mixed farming is a tough game, but one that Malcolm Rawlings has got down to a fine art after 33 years in the game. Based on the border between Dorset, Somerset and Wiltshire, his business – Agri-Line – covers a wide area in a 15 mile radius from base. Cultivations, drilling, spraying and combining form the core operations for the firm and it’s the latter that really puts the pressure on in a region known for its heavy rainfall.

To deal with that pressure the company runs two high output CLAAS harvesters – a LEXION 770 TT and, new for this season, a pre-production TUCANO 580.

Why a TUCANO 580?

“We had heard on the grapevine that a new TUCANO was on the way. Having had them since they were first introduced in 2007, understandably we were keen to try one.

“Year-on-year our acreage seems to climb and we need the capacity to keep up even when harvesting conditions aren’t the best – which is pretty common here in the West country.

“We absolutely love the TUCANO. For pounds invested there’s nothing better value. If we could get them on tracks then I’d have three. That’s one area where the LEXION shines – hillclimbing.

“Underneath it all, the front end of the TUCANO is a DOMINATOR 108 – completely bullet-proof.”

How has it performed?

“Our previous TUCANO 570 would comfortably clear 28-32 ha (70-80 acres) of standing wheat in a good day. The new 580 will better that by 15-25%.

“That’s down to a number of factors. Obviously we’ve seen a decent hike in horsepower but changes to the rotor have really smoothed out crop flow so everything just runs interrupted through the machine.

“But it’s not all about output. Obviously as contractors it’s important to get round our customers but we’ve also got to keep a close eye on the bottom line. The new machine’s helping with that. It’s burning 16-litres of diesel a hectare (6.5-litres/acre) – 15% less than the old TUCANO. By my calculations, that could see us saving over £1,000 in diesel this year.

“But there’s no penalty in the power department. The new engine management system is fantastic – there’s now heaps of grunt for unloading on the move when climbing a slope and I’m convinced the way it shuts down the revs on the headlands makes a big difference to overall fuel use.”
“The new CEBIS display is so much more driver-friendly. It’s easier to find all the functions and the main home page shows all the settings in one. You can use it as a touchscreen or access everything through armrest flippers and the selector dial hotkeys.”

“Having electric concave adjustment is just the icing on the cake – it now means every function can be tweaked on the move so that you’re constantly getting the best out of the machine.”

Ben Sargent
We absolutely love the TUCANO. For pounds invested there’s nothing better value.”

Malcolm Rawlings
Reliability

“Having worked as a CLAAS technician for six years I know just how dependable the TUCANO is. In all that time I think I only dealt with five breakdowns – it’s straightforward, solid engineering.”

Ben Sargent

Unloading

“Despite having a 11 tonne grain tank it takes only a couple of minutes to unload. It’s almost as quick as the LEXION.

“There’s also a clever new addition to the spout that makes a big difference in stopping grain dribbling out the end. A flap attached to a gas strut opens with the flow of grain and then shuts once the auger stops – simple but brilliant.”

Chopper spreader

“Like the chaff spreader the new chopper spreader uses a pair of discs which do a much better job of throwing material out to 25ft.

“With that comes the ability to tweak the left-right bias on an armrest paddle – brilliant for countering side-winds and slopes.”

Luxuries

“From an operator’s point of view there are a number of little things that all add up to make a big difference.

“Having a handwash tank alongside the toolbox is brilliant and there’s now a proper place to store the air-line so it’s not taking up space in the tool chest.”

Why CLAAS?

“With our long history with CLAAS we know the kit is well-built and reliable. On top of that we have a really good rapport with the staff at CLAAS WESTERN – they’re really well trained and look after us brilliantly. The back-up couldn’t be better.”

Malcolm Rawlings
“Our previous TUCANO 570 would comfortably clear 28-32 ha (70-80 acres) of standing wheat in a good day. The new 580 will better that by 15-25%.”

Malcolm Rawlings
Malcolm Rawlings and Ben Sargent

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Farm:</th>
<th>Agri-Line, near Gillingham, Dorset</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Farmed area:</td>
<td>2,025-2,825 ha (5,000-6,000 acres) drilled each year which includes nine contract farming customers</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Staff:</td>
<td>Malcolm Rawlings plus another 3 full-timers and up to 4 others at harvest</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cropping:</td>
<td>Conventional and organic cereals 1,620 ha (4,000 acres) OSR 364 ha (900 acres) Maize/wholecrop and grassland 405 ha (1,000 acres)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>CLAAS Combine History:</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1987</td>
<td>DOMINATOR 98</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1990</td>
<td>DOMINATOR 98</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1993</td>
<td>DOMINATOR 98</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1996</td>
<td>DOMINATOR 108</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1996</td>
<td>LEXION 460TT</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1998</td>
<td>LEXION 480TT</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1999</td>
<td>MEGA 203</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2002</td>
<td>MEGA 204</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2003</td>
<td>LEXION 580 TT</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2005</td>
<td>TUCANO 430</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2007</td>
<td>LEXION 600 TT</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2008</td>
<td>TUCANO 440</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2009</td>
<td>LEXION 760 TT</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2012</td>
<td>TUCANO 470</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2015</td>
<td>TUCANO 570</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2016</td>
<td>LEXION 770 TT</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2018</td>
<td>TUCANO 580</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
For years the Monk family business has been all about producing the highest quality seed crops. Virtually every tonne of grain harvested has a premium attached and so making sure crops are cut at their optimum is critical in ensuring they meet the required quality standards.

“With conventional arable margins so tight I’ve always tried to concentrate on added value crops,” explains Richard Monk.

“But to do that you’ve got to have enough harvesting capacity to be sure you catch them at their best even in a tricky year. With 1400ha to cut we might seem massively over capacity with two 670 MONTANAs and a 760 MONTANA.

“But they ensure we get everything in in good time and because they’re not clocking huge hours it means we can keep them longer. We have faith in the quality of the CLAAS product which gives us the confidence to run them on for a good while. This is the fifth harvest for our 760 and it’s going strong.”

Until five years ago it was always straw walker combines that featured at Rookley Farm. But then with an increased acreage on the cards the Monks decided a hybrid machine was a sensible way of getting increased output.

“Over recent years we’ve seen our cropped area gradually growing so we’ve tried to move with the times to ensure our combines can keep up comfortably. The move to a hybrid machine made a massive difference but we wanted to stick with walkers for our more delicate crops,” says Tom Monk.

“The walkers are particularly good in our grass seed crops – the thrashed hay being really good to bale.

“We already had one 670 MONTANA and so it made sense to change our six-year-old 630 for another of the same, gaining us extra capacity and bringing a commonality of components that means we can swap headers and parts without any issues.”

Why a 760?

“In certain crops and conditions the hybrid 760 does a much better job than a walker machine,” says Tom.

“For example in oats the sample is much cleaner for some reason – that’s really important in seed crops and takes the pressure off the cleaning plant. The oat straw tends to stay more sappy as we cannot use glyphosate on seed crops.

“Of course the daily outputs are much greater too. But there’s another benefit to that too. If we’re well on top of the game we can hold the combine back a bit and aim for an even cleaner sample but if we’re under pressure we can just push the stick forward and really romp on.”

“It made sense to change our 630 for another of the same, gaining us extra capacity and bringing a commonality of components that means we can swap headers and parts without any issues.”

Tom Monk
“Because we have to clean down each combine between every field, being able to rock the body left to right means we can get the guts of the machine completely empty, making the job a whole lot quicker and easier.”

Tom Monk

“With light flyaway seed like grass we can lean the combine right over to unload so that the wind doesn’t catch it and blow it away.”

MONTANA

“Because we have to clean down each combine between every field, being able to rock the body left to right means we can get the guts of the machine completely empty, making the job a whole lot quicker and easier.”
“We have faith in the quality of the CLAAS product which gives us confidence to run them on for a good while.”

Richard Monk
Why MONTANA?

“There’s no substitute for having true, whole-body levelling. On our banked ground it means we keep losses to an absolute minimum which is critical in our high value seed crops.

“It also means we don’t have to slow up so we can maintain output when we’re up against it.

“There are less obvious benefits too. With light flyaway seed like grass we can lean the combine right over to unload so that the wind doesn’t catch it and blow it away.

“In addition, because of the many different crop species we have to clean down each combine between every variety, being able to rock the body left to right means we can get the guts of the machine completely empty, making the job a whole lot quicker and easier.”

VARIO Header

“The new VARIO headers are brilliant. Without filler-plates to fit it’s now a case of simply flicking a button to extend the cutterbar and table.

“And the side-knives are so much easier to fit – it’s now a true one-man operation.”

Tom Monk

CLAAS Combine History:
2004   LEXION 530 MONTANA
2005   LEXION 570
2008   LEXION 560 MONTANA
2009   LEXION 570+ MONTANA
2012   LEXION 670 MONTANA
2012   LEXION 630 MONTANA
2016   LEXION 670 MONTANA T4F
2018   LEXION 670 MONTANA
**Richard and Tom Monk**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Farm:</th>
<th>AF Monk, Rookley Ltd, near Stockbridge Hampshire</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Farmed area:</td>
<td>1,250 ha (3,088 acres) plus 200 ha contract combining</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Cropping 2018:**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Crop</th>
<th>Ha</th>
<th>Acres</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Winter wheat</td>
<td>231</td>
<td>578</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Spring wheat</td>
<td>26</td>
<td>65</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Winter barley</td>
<td>114</td>
<td>285</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Spring barley</td>
<td>373</td>
<td>932</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Winter oats</td>
<td>64</td>
<td>160</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Spring oats</td>
<td>46</td>
<td>115</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>OSR</td>
<td>160</td>
<td>400</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Spring peas</td>
<td>64</td>
<td>160</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Spring linseed</td>
<td>54</td>
<td>135</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Poppies</td>
<td>24</td>
<td>60</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Soya</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>28</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Herbage seed</td>
<td>74</td>
<td>185</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

“There’s no substitute for having true, whole-body levelling. On our banked ground it means we keep losses to an absolute minimum which is critical in our high value seed crops.”
Staff: Richard and Tom Monk, Farm Manager Russell Chaffey and 4 full-timers plus another 3 at harvest on the arable side, 3 full time in the seed plant
CLAAS combines have been a regular feature at Manor Farm near Dorking for over half a century. But three years ago that changed with a move to using a contractor.

“We saw our arable acreage shrink from 810 ha (2,000 acres) to 485 ha (1,200 acres) with a shift to growing maize for a nearby biogas plant and fodder beet for the livestock. On that basis I felt it would be difficult to justify running our own combine,” explains Laurence Matthews.

“But of course the reality proved to be that with wet harvests we were missing out on getting crops cut at their best and so last winter I decided to reverse that decision and go back to handling harvest in-house.

“We had heard that a new high capacity TUCANO was on the cards that had the capacity to match our acreage and so we agreed to take a pre-production 580.”

How has the TUCANO 580 performed?

“Given that the TUCANO is about 381 hp compared to the 517 hp of our old LEXION 580+, its performance is still pretty impressive. In fact it’s not that far behind.

“The grain tank is slightly larger which makes a significant difference getting round the headlands of some of our bigger fields and it unloads easily as quickly as the LEXION.”

VARIO Header

“This new VARIO header is a revelation – the bigger diameter auger makes a huge difference to crop flow and the whole set-up is better able to pick up laid crop.

“Of course having quick change side-knives and no filler plates means switching between cereals and rape takes one person 2-3 minutes rather than nearly an hour as it did previously.”
The new colour touchscreen is so much clearer and easier to navigate than the old CEBIS computer even though there's more information on the screen.

“It’s brilliant the way you just tap the part of the combine silhouette you want to adjust and it takes you straight to the relevant settings panel. But it’s not just limited to that – if you’ve got greasy fingers you don’t have to touch the display. There’s a row of flicker switches on the armrest which take you straight in and you can then twiddle the main selector dial to tweak the appropriate settings up and down.”

Laurence Matthews
“This new VARIO header is a revelation – the bigger diameter auger makes a huge difference to crop flow and the whole set-up is better able to pick up laid crop.”
Laurence Matthews

Why CLAAS?
“To give us flexibility and fixed ownership costs I like to contract hire our tractors, telehandlers and combine.

“I went to different manufacturers but it was only CLAAS that could offer the package we required. On that basis the TUCANO was the best value for money when you looked into its potential capacity.

“We know CLAAS combines are good reliable machines and that we get decent back-up from our local CLAAS SOUTHERN branch.”
“I went to different manufacturers but it was only CLAAS that could offer the package we required. On that basis the TUCANO was the best value for money when you looked into its potential capacity.”

Laurence Matthews

Farm: EDG Matthews and Sons, near Dorking, Surrey
Farmed area: 1,214 ha (3,000 acres)

Cropping:
- Winter wheat 344 ha (850 acres)
- Oilseed rape 222 ha (550 acres)
- Forage maize 121 ha (300 acres)
- Fodder beet 101 ha (250 acres)
- Remainder in grassland and stewardship schemes
Livestock: 400 beef finishers each year and 60 Belted Galloway suckler cows plus 120 followers

Staff: Laurence and Paula Matthews plus another 4 full-timers and an extra 2 at harvest

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Model</th>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Model</th>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Model</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1962</td>
<td>MATADOR</td>
<td>1997</td>
<td>LEXION 420</td>
<td>2004</td>
<td>LEXION 580 TT</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1968</td>
<td>SENATOR</td>
<td>1997</td>
<td>LEXION 420</td>
<td>2004</td>
<td>LEXION 580 TT</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1974</td>
<td>DOMINATOR 85</td>
<td>2006</td>
<td>2 x LEXION 580 TT, LEXION 570+</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1985</td>
<td>DOMINATOR 96</td>
<td>2008</td>
<td>LEXION 580+ TT, LEXION 580+</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1994</td>
<td>MEGA 204</td>
<td>2018</td>
<td>TUCANO 580</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
With a truly mixed rotation that includes grass leys and stubble turnips to feed their 1,000 ewes as well as more conventional arable crops, James and Stephen Tibbits need a combine that’s capable of getting over the acres, especially if the cash crops are to achieve premium quality standards.

Until this year the family business has run straw walker LEXION, keeping them for an average of ten years. But this season saw a shift to a much higher output hybrid 740.

“Being a relatively small outfit we need to maximise the value of crops and try to achieve milling and malting quality whenever we can. But to do that we need to catch them at their best so this season we took the decision to take a step up in output,” says Stephen Tibbits.

“The other thing about being small is that we have to keep our costs to a minimum so we tend to run our combines for a good stretch. Being robust, reliable machines, CLAAS LEXION seem to last the test of time better than anything else.”

Why a LEXION 740?

“We’re on relatively high ground here so our crops tend to come fit much later than those on the lower ground surrounding us. As our rotation has changed over recent years that’s meant it’s been harder and harder to catch crops at their optimum to ensure they meet the requirement to match milling and malting premiums,” explains James.

“Although our straw-walker LEXION were brilliant and each put in ten years solid service, it was becoming an increasing effort to get everything cut in good time, particularly in a tricky season.

“So that’s why we decided to make the switch to a hybrid rotary. The 740 might be the smallest of the 700s but it’s a huge step up from the 650. In fact we’re now massively over-capacity but we have the peace of mind we can catch everything at its best now. And we have the output to cover anything the future might bring.

“The other factor is that because we’re not just a pure arable operation, we have other things going on that require our attention. We can’t just put the sheep work on hold for harvest. Quite often I need to run a load of lambs to market in the morning before getting back on the combine at lunchtime. Having that extra capacity means it’s much less of a stress getting everything done.”

How has it performed?

“We’re driving at least 1km/hour faster than we were previously and are leaving less on the ground – basically we’ve seen a 25% increase in output with fewer losses.

“The 740 also seems more fuel efficient and we can get two days’ cutting out of a tank when dropping straw in a swath. Crop flow is noticeably smoother so that the engine runs at a steady loading which must have an impact on diesel use – it certainly makes it a quieter running machine.

“Moving from a walker combine to a hybrid rotary we were worried that we’d see the straw landing on the deck smashed to nothing but in actual fact it seems gentler on the crop and leaves a more uniform swath than before.”
“The 740 also seems more fuel efficient and we can get two days’ cutting out of a tank when dropping straw in a swath.”

James Tibbits
“Basically we’ve seen a 25% increase in output with fewer losses.”

James Tibbits
AUTO SLOPE

“Part of the increase in output from the 740 is its AUTO SLOPE feature. At hundreds rather than thousands of pounds it seemed good value – one of the few optional extras that we went for.

“Because it automatically slows down and ramps up the fan speed as you go up and downhill, losses just aren’t the problem they used to be and you don’t have to pull back on the stick to keep them in check.

“On top of that the system automatically adjusts the bottom sieve so that you’re not overloading the returns – it all adds up to mean that we can keep going at a decent pace and achieve that critical goal of cutting crops at their best.”

VARIO HEADER AND LASER PILOT

“The new VARIO header is a huge step on from our previous one. Quick-change side-knives and no filler-plates means changing from cereals to rape and back again takes just 15 minutes as opposed to the two hours it took before.

“Having two side-knives might seem like a bit of a luxury but it’s brilliant because you can cut in any direction and you don’t get weeds getting hung up on the headland rounds.

“LASER PILOT steering has helped in that department too. I can now use it even in awkward shaped fields.”

Why CLAAS?

“Any combine is a huge investment and because of that we like to spread the cost by keeping ours for at least ten years. The build quality and reliability of CLAAS machines gives us the confidence that the combine will keep going for that time without major catastrophic breakdowns.

“But to operate on that basis you’ve got to have decent dealer back-up. We’ve tried others but the service from MANNS is just superb.”

James Tibbitts
“You’ve got to have decent dealer back-up. We’ve tried others, but the service from MANNS is just superb.”
James Tibbits

James and Stephen Tibbits

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Crop Type</th>
<th>Area</th>
<th>Notes</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Winter wheat</td>
<td>138 ha</td>
<td>(340 acres)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>OSR</td>
<td>138 ha</td>
<td>(340 acres)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Spring barley</td>
<td>20 ha</td>
<td>(50 acres)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Following</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>stubble turnips</td>
<td>138 ha</td>
<td>(340 acres)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rotational grass</td>
<td>32 ha</td>
<td>(80 acres)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Permanent pasture</td>
<td>80 ha</td>
<td>(200 acres)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Livestock:</td>
<td>1,000 breeding ewes plus followers</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>--------------------</td>
<td>------------------------------------</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Staff:</td>
<td>James and Stephen Tibbits</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>plus one other full-time</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

CLAAS Combine History:
- 2001  LEXION 460
- 2008  LEXION 560
- 2018  LEXION 740
For over three decades CLAAS combines have been a familiar sight at Rudgeway Farm in Gloucestershire but this year saw a big change, moving away from straw walker machines to the farm’s first hybrid rotary – a LEXION 740.

“We’ve always run CLAAS harvesters here right through from SENATOR and MATADOR to the latest LEXION. We’ve found their reliability to be excellent but as our acreage had grown in recent years we were struggling to get everything cut with our old 640 MONTANA and 6m header,” explains Richard Harvey.

“We try to achieve milling spec. for all our winter wheat and so getting it cut in good time is critical in maintaining the quality. With successive tricky harvests we were really pushed so at the end of last year we decided we needed to take a step up in output, ordering a 740 with 7.7m table.”

How has it performed?

“The increase in workrates has been quite staggering given that the front end of the machine is much the same as before with the same width APS drum and concave as the 640.

“We’re now comfortably clearing 28ha (70acres) in a 10-hour day whereas previously we’d have to really push to get 20ha (50acres) cut. And that’s reflected in the hours worked – our old combines would generally average 200 hours a season. The 740 clocked just 120 hours this harvest.

“And that extra output doesn’t come at the expense of quality threshing. The new combine produces a really clean sample and barely throws a grain out over that back. We could push it harder but there’s really no need. We’ve comfortably got enough capacity to take on new ground should the need arise.”

Straw quality

“We had known for a number of years that if we wanted more output we really needed to go to a rotary hybrid. We’d had a big 780 out one harvest to help us clear up and saw that the swath it produced was as good, if not better than our straw walker machine.

“On that basis I wasn’t concerned in making the switch. We’re not seeing any difference in straw quality with the 740 and there’s been no complaints from the baler man.”
4D sieves

“Our last three combines have been MONTANA hillsiders to cope with our more undulating ground. They were brilliant because you could just keep cruising at the same pace whether on the flat or on a bank.

“With the new 740 we had the option of 4D sieves which were significantly less expensive than the MONTANA option. I was initially sceptical whether they would be able to do the same job but they’ve proved to work well on side-slopes as well as up and downhill runs.

“By having the rotor flaps throwing grain to the uphill side of the sieves we’re never overloading them and sending anything over the back. As the body of the machine starts to tilt over you’ll initially start to see losses begin to climb but within seconds the system has sorted itself, out automatically adjusting fan speed, sieves and the rotor flaps.”

John Stagg
“We’re now comfortably clearing 28 ha (70 acres) in a 10-hour day whereas previously we’d have to really push to get 20 ha (50 acres) cut. And that extra output doesn’t come at the expense of quality threshing.”

Richard Harvey

Why CLAAS?

“Through the years we’ve been really well looked after by our dealer CLAAS WESTERN. I like to think that by remaining loyal to them we get loyalty back in return – their back-up is really good.

“On top of that I feel that overall CLAAS combines are better machines than the other options – certainly the VARIO header is a vastly superior bit of kit.”

Richard Harvey
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Richard Harvey and John Stagg</th>
<th>Cropping:</th>
<th>Rotational</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Farm: Rudgeway Farms near Tewkesbury, Gloucestershire</td>
<td>Winter wheat 202 ha (500 acres)</td>
<td>grass leys 170 ha (420 acres)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Farmed area: 728 ha (1,800 acres)</td>
<td>OSR 101 ha (250 acres)</td>
<td>Permanent pasture 162 ha (400 acres)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Winter beans 60 ha (150 acres)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Spring oats 16 ha (40 acres)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Canary seed 16 ha (40 acres)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Livestock:  700 Welsh Mules and Suffolk cross breeding ewes
Staff:  Richard Harvey plus three others full-time

CLAAS Combine History:
- 1987  DOMINATOR 78
- 1992  DOMINATOR 98
- 1997  DOMINATOR 98
- 2002  LEXION 410
- 2007  LEXION 520 MONTANA
- 2009  LEXION 530 MONTANA
- 2015  LEXION 630 MONTANA
- 2018  LEXION 740

“Overall CLAAS combines are better machines than the other options – certainly the VARIO header is a vastly superior bit of kit.” Richard Harvey
For decades Glynn Jones has run straw walker combines but in a move to generate extra output having taken on more land, this season saw a swap to a brand new TUCANO single-rotor hybrid machine.

“We needed more harvesting capacity as an insurance measure to ensure we cut crops at their best to keep our drying costs to a minimum,” he explains.

“Being a mixed farm we often need to be getting on with the stock work in the mornings and with our old five walker machine we would often find we were getting left behind and cutting crops in less than ideal conditions.

“That situation was only going to get worse having taken on more ground this year so we knew we needed to make a fairly significant change for this harvest.”

Having looked around at various different machines from various different manufacturers Mr Jones settled on a new TUCANO 560 as the right candidate for the job.

Why a TUCANO 560?

“We needed extra output but didn’t want a significantly bigger, less manouevrable machine with our narrow lanes, tight gateways and small fields so going to a six walker combine wasn’t an option.

“Being based in the Welsh borders with straw value at a premium and often cutting in wet conditions, I wasn’t keen on the idea of a pure rotary either. The CLAAS hybrid concept seemed to be the ideal compromise.”

How has it performed?

“We’re seriously impressed by the TUCANO’s throughput. It’ll comfortably churn out 20 tonnes an hour in 3.5-4 t/acre wheat crops.

“But that output isn’t at the expense of grain quality – it’ll still produce a really clean sample even when I’m leaning hard on the stick.

“Moving to a hybrid rotary from a walker machine I was concerned about straw quality but the swath it produces is easily as good as our old combine – baling it is no problem.

“And as for handling damper crops, the TUCANO actually seems to work better than our previous walker machine when a heavy dew comes down in the evening. I just speed up the rotor and it keeps plugging away.”

CEBIS

“Not being used to CLAAS machines and not being particularly computer savvy, I was concerned that it would take me a while to get used to the CEBIS system.

“But it’s actually proved really easy to find my way around. Being able to tweak every available setting on the machine at the touch of a button is just brilliant – it makes my life so much easier and ensures the combine is running at its best all the time.”

Glynn Jones, Montgomeryshire
“Being able to push the cutterbar in and out as I’m going along is just fantastic particularly in rape – you don’t get any bunching and the crop flow into the machine is super smooth. Even in standing wheat I’ll tweak it occasionally to keep it singing.

“The contouring is exceptional. Given the shortage of fodder this year I’ve tried to keep stubble heights to a minimum so that the guys who buy our straw get the maximum number of bales. With the cutterbar pressed to the deck it’s never scalping even with the rutted tramlines produced with our wet Spring.”
“We’re seriously impressed by the TUCANO’s throughput. It'll comfortably churn out 20 tonnes an hour in 3.5-4 t/acre wheat crops.”

Why CLAAS?

“When it came down to selecting the right machine for the job CLAAS seemed to be the only manufacturer that could offer what we needed – a compact high output machine that would produce decent quality straw. “Despite being new customers our dealer MORRIS CORFIELD was extremely helpful and ultimately when it came down to the bottom line CLAAS offered the best value for money. “It’s the best combine I’ve had in years by a long stretch – it does exactly what it says on the tin. It threshes well, is manouevrable and comfortable. We couldn’t have asked for more.”
Glynn Jones

Farm: GP & DM Jones, near Welshpool, Montgomeryshire
Farmed area: 283 ha (700 acres) + 60 ha (150 acres) contract combining a year

Cropping:
- Winter wheat: 121 ha (300 acres)
- OSR: 28 ha (70 acres)
- Spring barley: 60 ha (150 acres)
- Spring oats: 12 ha (30 acres)
- Grass: 60 ha (150 acres)
Livestock: 16,000 free-range laying hens. 200 Commercial breeding sheep with pedigree flocks of Blue-faced Leicester and Blue Texels under the Blue Force prefix

Staff: Glyn, Delia, Adrian and Alison Jones

“Ultimately when it came down to the bottom line CLAAS offered the best value for money.”
Based close to the Welsh border near Chepstow, in 2015 the Adams family made the tough decision to give up their dairy herd to concentrate on contracting, arable cropping, beef rearing and producing broiler chickens.

There have been CLAAS combines at Coombe Farms for over three decades and they’ve steadily grown in size as the cropped area has grown. The combine has never been more central to the business as it’s now responsible for harvesting the crops that go to feed over 1.6 million chickens every year as well as the business’ 600-head of beef cattle.

Last year saw the switch from a four-year-old LEXION 740 to a brand-spanking 760 TT with a second generation 9m VARIO header.

**Why a LEXION 760 TT?**

“As contractors we need the capacity to comfortably cover our acreage without being under pressure, either letting our clients down or letting our own crops suffer, particularly in a tricky year,” says Gareth Adams.

“**The 760 TT easily measures up, especially with all its clever toys. We love our gizmos here, but not just for vanity’s sake. All the tech on the LEXION contributes to our output and efficiency.**

**Intelligent Technology**

“On a most basic level we’ve run LASERPILOT auto-steering for years and love the way it enables the operator to safely tweak the combine settings on the move. On this latest machine we’ve moved to GPS-based auto-steering to provide proper mapping and faultless, inch-perfect guidance which allows us to miss bouts and come back to them, always safe in the knowledge they’ll match up.

“But by far the biggest leap forward has been the addition of CLAAS’ CEMOS intelligent settings system. We previously had the manual monitoring set-up that made suggestions for ways of tweaking the machine to get it running at its optimum but found in our small fields it didn’t really add that much.

“So on this new 760 TT we didn’t order it. Despite that it came with a 50-hour free trial of the new CEMOS Automatic system which constantly adjusts virtually every setting to keep the machine singing. When the trial came to its end we realised how much we missed it and so we signed up for the full package.

“Because we didn’t tick the box on the options list CEMOS runs through the standard CEBIS terminal rather than via its own dedicated screen. Despite that it is brilliant.

“It takes so much stress out of the job and is able to simultaneously alter so many more variables pass-to-pass than a human can.”

**Auto Blockage Stop**

“Anyone who’s ever stuffed up a combine – especially one with rotors – will know what misery it is to unblock. This latest LEXION has a system that cuts the drive to the header the minute it senses either the APS drum or the rotors getting anywhere close to becoming overloaded.

“It’s brilliant because it gives you the confidence to push the stick forward without worrying that you’re going to spend the next six or seven hours trying to pull crop out from the most inaccessible parts of the machine.”
“CEMOS take so much out of the job and is able to simultaneously alter so many more variables pass-to-pass than a human can.”

“Its got a far better idea than I have of what’s happening in the guts of the machine.”

“Because we didn’t tick the box on the options list CEMOS runs through the standard CEBIS terminal rather than via its own dedicated screen. Despite that it is brilliant.”

“CEMOS Automatic

“In wheat I find CEMOS Auto brilliant, especially on banked ground where it alters wind speed, sieves and bomb-bay doors by itself according to the angle of the slope,” explains operator John Morgan.

“It doesn’t necessarily result in more output but there are way fewer losses as a result of the speed that it can react. It’s got a far better idea than I have of what’s happening in the guts of the machine.”
VARIO Header
“The new header is also a massive step forward. Without filler plates to change and with the new quick attach, tool-less side-knives it’s now a matter of minutes to swap from rape to wheat and back again.”

Creature Comforts
“For an operator it’s often the small things that count. Having the air-conditioned seat, fridge and returns window in the cab all add up to make a real difference. You get out at the end of the day still feeling fresh.”

TERRA TRACS
“Having run tracked machines in the past, I would have one over a wheeled machine every time. It makes the header so much more stable crossing rough ground and on side-slopes you don’t feel it crabbing – that’s a big bonus given our rolling countryside.”

Maintenance
“Thanks to the fact that there are far fewer grease nipples on the new LEXION and we only have to blow out the rads and filters every 250-300 hours, it only takes minutes to service it each day.
“ar in fact it takes longer to fuel up and clean the windows than anything else.”

Why CLAAS?
“Running a JAGUAR forage harvester, DISCO mowers, a VOLTO tedder and QUADRANT balers as well as the LEXION 760 TT, we feel CLAAS machines are really well built products. In fact I’d go as far as to say CLAAS cannot be beaten for harvesting equipment,” says Gareth Adams.

“We’re really well looked after by our dealer CLAAS WESTERN and have a good relationship with both the sales staff and the fitters. We like to think that by staying loyal to one brand we get loyalty in return – the back-up is second-to-none.”
“I’d go as far as to say CLAAS cannot be beaten for harvesting equipment.”
Gareth Adams
Farm: Coombe Farms, Shirenewton, Monmouthshire
Farmed area: 810 ha (2,000 acres)
Cropping:
- Combinable crops 470 ha (1,160 acres)
- Grassland 170 ha (420 acres)
- Maize 120 ha (295 acres)

Gareth Adams and John Morgan
Livestock: 600-head Belgian Blue X beef finishers, 1.6 million broiler chickens a year

Contracting: Grass, wholecrop and maize silage
1,600 ha (3,950 acres)
Contract combining, stubble to stubble contracts, baling and muckspreading
120-200 ha (300-500 acres)

Staff: David, Gareth and Huw Adams plus 5 full-timers and another 2-3 at peak times

CLAAS Combine History:
1995 DOMINATOR 98
1999 LEXION 410
2000 LEXION 480
2009 LEXION 570+ TT
2012 LEXION 750 TT
2013 LEXION 740
2017 LEXION 760 TT

“We need the capacity to comfortably cover our acreage without being under pressure. All the tech on the LEXION contributes to our output and efficiency.” Gareth Adams
LEXION – CEMOS AUTOMATIC

12-inch Touchscreen
LEXION 700 HYBRID and 600 straw-walker combines are now available with a new 12-inch touch screen version of the CEBIS MOBILE terminal, that can be used to control the unique CEMOS AUTO cleaning which can help boost output by up to 18%, CEMOS DIALOG, AUTO CROP FLOW and CRUISE PILOT automatic combine operating functions.

Expanded range
CLAAS leads the way in the development of practical automated control systems for combines. Since the introduction of CEMOS DIALOG seven years ago and subsequently CEMOS AUTOMATIC, the range of automated functions now also includes AUTO SLOPE control, AUTO CROP FLOW, CRUISE PILOT and 4-D cleaning.
How it works

The CEBIS MOBILE terminal makes it easy and quick to set-up and monitor both these automatic functions. A silhouette of the combine continuously displays the settings for all the main functional areas of the combine, such as rotor and fan speed, grain moisture and grain tank fill level. At the bottom of the screen, two slide controls allow the operator to alter the optimum balance between grain cleanliness, straw quality and throughput.

Monitor 4D cleaning and grain quality

The new CEBIS MOBILE terminal can also be used monitor the status of the 4-D cleaning system and to set-up and monitor results from the GRAIN QUALITY camera, which is mounted in the elevator head. This is used to visually assess and monitor the proportion of broken grains and the amount of non-grain constituents (NGC) in the sample. Again, by tapping the screen, this opens a window that can be used to alter the sensitivity, and hence the required level of grain cleaning.
The 3 CEMOS modules

CEMOS AUTOMATIC comprises of three modules. All LEXION 700 and 600 models can be specified with CEMOS AUTO CLEANING and the new CEMOS AUTO THRESHING which was introduced at Agritechnica and was awarded a Gold Medal.

In addition, LEXION 700 models can also be fitted with CEMOS AUTO SEPARATION. Each of these elements can be specified separately or in combination to provide complete automation of the threshing and cleaning process.

CEMOS AUTO CLEANING

Works in conjunction with the GRAIN QUALITY CAMERA and will continuously automatically adjust the fan speed and the upper and lower sieves far more often than would be possible by the operator. This ensures that optimum grain quality is maintained at all times.
INTELLIGENT TECHNOLOGY

CEMOS AUTO SEPARATION
The CEMOS AUTO SEPARATION function on the LEXION 700 HYBRID automatically adjusts the speed of the rotors and the rotor cover plates, again depending on the operating strategy selected. CEMOS AUTO SEPARATION reacts and changes the settings constantly, and over the length of a day will provide higher quality and throughput than would be humanly possible.

CEMOS AUTO THRESHING
Works in combination with CRUISE PILOT and the other CEMOS AUTO modules if fitted, and automatically adjusts the drum speed and concave gap relative to crop conditions.
Contact your Regional Finance Manager or call us for a quote on 01284 778344. Or why not drop us an email and we’ll respond to your query within 24 hours salesoffice@claasfinance.com
CLAAS FINANCE
INTELLIGENT INVESTMENT

Making the decision to invest in your next asset for the farm is not a five minute exercise. With the potential for further complications with Brexit, changes in exchange rates and our own Bank of England base rate changes, there is much to contend with. Taking the leap of faith to make this decision can be the hardest part of the process. Having said that, if equipment is not replaced regularly, there is a risk the 'yard' starts to rust and repair / maintenance bills start to rise. This is where the Annual Investment Allowance (AIA) comes into play and can be a positive contributory factor when going through the decision process.

Capital expenditure: the time is now

UK governments have always allowed businesses to reduce their tax bills by investing in capital equipment.

As long as businesses make a profit, they pay either income tax (unincorporated businesses), or corporation tax (limited companies). Tax liability is calculated as a percentage of pre-tax profits.

However, buying capital equipment can reduce your tax bill. Because it’s viewed as an operating expense, HMRC deducts the cost of qualifying equipment from taxable profits.

Why it’s easier to plan spending this year

The Annual Investment Allowance (AIA) of £200,000 hasn’t changed since January 2016, and it’s likely to remain at the same level in the Autumn Statement 2018.

This means you can buy qualifying business assets up to £200,000, and offset the whole cost against tax for this calendar year.

With the allowance unchanging, there’s no need for fiddly calculations to work out your entitlement for the fiscal year end.

Double your advantage using hire purchase

Hire purchase agreements are a clever way to make use of your allowance.

Your investment in equipment or technology counts towards your AIA, but you can spread the cost over a period that suits your budget.

AIA: rules to consider before you invest

To maximise tax relief on any capital investment, make sure you’re aware of the rules beforehand.

Here are a few important considerations for AIA:

- For equipment to qualify, it’s not enough to buy it. It must be in use by the end of the year in which you claim the allowance – and that includes assets bought on hire purchase. HMRC employ agents who know the difference between a cultivator and a combine, and can keep track of seasonal purchases.
- You must provide a purchase invoice to HMRC for any capital equipment, no matter how it is acquired. The date must fall within the period in which you’re claiming the allowance.
- If you’re an unincorporated partnership, you can’t claim AIA if one of the partners is a company or another partnership.
- A group of companies shares one AIA. The same applies where two or more businesses are controlled by the same person.
We are always here to answer your questions, call the CLAAS Hotline: +44 (0)1284 777666

claas.co.uk    claas.ie    YouTube bit.ly/CUK_youtube    facebook.com/claas