

What do
YOU say?

CLAAS



Stand-out AXIONs.

Ewan Stewart
Summer 2011

For any business, there is no better publicity than being visible and talked about. In this respect contractor Ewan Stewart has no problems as his two AXION 830 CEBIS tractors are certainly visible and have given rise to a lot of comment.

Whilst Ewan is quick to point out, he has nothing against the CLAAS seed green colour, but having had his two AXION 830s resprayed - one black, one white - he says they certainly stand-out, and make him instantly recognisable around the Aberdeenshire countryside.

Ewan has been running Le Mans built tractors, which he buys through Bruce Farm Machinery, since 2002, and in addition to the two AXIONs, he still also runs another three Renaults.

The first of the 213hp AXIONs was bought in 2007 to replace a Renault 836 and was joined by the second AXION in 2009.

"I bought the first AXION as I needed a larger tractor with more power for haulage and field work," explains Ewan. "As it would be my son, Peter, who would mainly be driving it, I asked him if he had any preference on make, but he said he didn't mind, so long as it was black!"

"That narrowed the field slightly as I could only think of one manufacturer who offered black as an option. We did have a demonstration of their tractor, but didn't like

it at all, plus I really wanted to stay with Foster Bruce because of the support and service he offers."

"Having bought the AXION 830, out of interest I approached a local car spraying company and was very surprised by how little they quoted, so had the tractor resprayed. When I bought the second AXION, my wife then suggested that as the first was black, the second should be white, so that got resprayed as well!"

In addition to contract work, mainly haulage, ploughing and one pass drilling, plus some mowing and baling, Ewan also runs an agricultural building erection business, so the tractors are also used for site haulage work, pulling a 16 tonne trailer.

"We work over a 30 mile radius of Turriff so the tractors do spend a lot of time on the road - in just two years the black AXION has done 12,000 miles, so they certainly get seen and I never cease to be amazed at how many people do see them about."

For both Ewan and Peter, one of the greatest strengths of the AXION 830s are their pulling power and comfort.



"The AXION 830 is an ideal tractor for ploughing. As it does most of the ploughing using a 6-furrow semi-mounted plough, the black AXION is fitted with 530 tyres and it really handles the plough well. It has plenty of power, is good on fuel and a lot better than the old Renault. The other AXION, which is used with the 4.0m one-pass drill combination has 650 tyres and again is ideal, and having CEBIS makes it very easy to set-up the headland

procedure and speeds. Also, thanks to the front axle and cab suspension, they have to be one of the most comfortable tractors on the market, which is important."

"But the most important aspect for me is dealer support. Whilst the AXIONs have been extremely reliable, all tractors breakdown or have the occasional problem and Foster Bruce is fantastic in keeping us going. We can phone anytime and someone will be out straightaway, and he obviously gets good support from CLAAS because if he doesn't have the part needed, he will the following day."

Of course the big question is that with another Renault due to be replaced in the near future, probably for another AXION, will that be resprayed and if so what colour? With Ewan's daughter due to take her tractor test soon, he says shocking pink could be a strong contender - now that really would stand-out!



Economical plough puller.

Neil Crawford
Summer 2011

Farmer and contractor Neil Crawford has been running Le Mans built tractors for nearly 20 years and during that time has found no reason to change make.

“The AXION is a great tractor – there’s a lot of good things about it and it does everything I ask of it.”

The current line up of tractors include a 10-month old, 170hp AXION 810 CEBIS, which has a boost up to 214hp, plus a five-year old 125hp ARES 656 and a 149hp ARES 697. Neil’s first Le Mans built tractor, which he bought in 1992 was a 100hp Renault 106TL and he still has a 10-year old Renault 550, which now has done about 8,000 hours but is still regularly used for spraying.

“Whilst I have had other tractors on demonstration, I have never found the need to change,” says Neil. “Back-up is the most important parts of buying a tractor and the support I have from Foster Bruce and his team is superb – they will never see you stuck.”

“The tractors are also extremely reliable. The old Renault has never had a spanner on it, and the ARES 697, which will be the next to be changed, has now done 6,500 hours in four and a half years, but again has been an extremely good tractor. The AXION has already done over 1,000 hours and will do about 1,500 in a year”

Aside from farming 160ha near Turriff in Aberdeenshire, Neil also does arable and grassland contracting, including around 800ha of autumn and 600ha of spring drilling, mainly working within a 20 mile radius.

The AXION 810 CEBIS, which replaced an ARES 816, is mainly used to operate a 6-furrow reversible plough and to power a 4.0m one-pass drill combination.

“The traction is particularly good. The tractor’s on Trelleborg 650 tyres but the grip for ploughing is unbelievable, I can run at about 1600rpm but the torque from the engine means it just digs in and keeps pulling. It’s also extremely economical. For drilling, running at 1000rpm in gear B3-B5 it will keep below 6.0 litres/hour and a tank will comfortably last a day. On hills the boost will just keep kicking-in but you never notice that it has done it.”

“Having CEBIS means that I can fine-tune the tractor to each job and ensure that it is running at its best.”

Neil has also been very impressed with the cab and the high level of operator comfort. Because the AXION was going to be mainly used for arable work, he opted for having the CEBIS which, he says he found easy to pick-up having been used to having CEBIS on his LEXION 570 MONTANA combine.

“Having CEBIS means that I can fine-tune the tractor to each job and ensure that it is running at its best, by tweaking the engine settings and oil flow. Also it means I can also accurately measure the area mown or drilled for invoicing.”

“I never had any qualms about running CLAAS tractors when they first took over Renault and still don’t. The AXION is a great tractor – there’s a lot of good things about it and it does everything I ask of it.”

Ideal for the outdoor life

Chris Fogden
Summer 2011

As one of the main tractors on Chris Fogden's outdoor pig unit in Norfolk, his ARION 430 CIS and FL100 loader is kept busy doing a variety of tasks around the 40ha site.

Chris' outdoor unit forms part of the arable rotation, adding body and fertility to the light Breckland soils, moving every two years and generally fitting in between wheat and root crops such as sugar beet and potatoes. Running 1000 Landrace x Duroc sows, the piglets are taken through to weaning, at which stage they are then sold on to another producer for finishing.

The 18-month old ARION 430CIS is Chris' first CLAAS tractor and one of two tractors, both of which have loaders, plus he also runs a telescopic handler.

The flexibility of the ARION is evident when Chris lists the jobs that the tractor typically does.

"Today it started at 6.00am when it was used for feeding round using a trailed feed dispenser, which takes until about 9.00am. It was then hitched up to our pig trailer, which has a hydraulically lowered floor, as we were weaning and moving piglets. Having moved the piglets around the site, the ARION was then hitched onto a dump trailer for cleaning out pens and then used for carrying QUADRANT bales for bedding down, before finally spending about half an hour towing a water bowser, which weighs about 12 tonnes, around the site topping up water troughs."

"In addition, the tractor is also used for hauling work, especially straw bales as we buy straw in the field from the Estate, get a contractor in to bale it and then haul them back ourselves on 40ft trailers. Every day the tractor will do at least three or four different jobs, with different people behind the wheel."

For Chris, one of the great strengths of the ARION is its clutchless QUADRISHIFT transmission and reverser.

"The ARION is extremely easy to drive as we all end up using it. In one of the fields, there are 200 individual paddocks. So the ability when feeding to stop the tractor at each paddock by just flicking the reverser into neutral, feed out and then engage forward again, all without using the clutch is excellent, as to engage the clutch that many times would be very tiring and wearing on your knee."

Chris admits that to some, opting for the higher specification CIS version might seem a bit of a luxury for livestock work, but defends his choice by pointing out that not having any permanent buildings, the tractor provides a welcome break when working outside.

"We are out in all weathers, so for the benefit of my employees having air-conditioning in the summer or somewhere warm in the winter months makes all the difference."



"The tractor is slightly more powerful than I wanted, but on these light soils, things like the bowser can take some pulling. The reason for changing to CLAAS was partly because of the deal Manns offered on the tractor, but also the service they offer and the fact that the tractor uses a proven engine and transmission. I would certainly envisage that when the other tractor is due to be changed, that it may well also be for another CLAAS."

"We are out in all weathers, so for the benefit of my employees having air-conditioning in the summer or somewhere warm in the winter months makes all the difference."



10 days extra

Andrew Preece.
Summer 2011

The fuel economy of his new ARION 620C compared to his three other tractors has been a real 'stand-out' feature for Andrew Preece.

“The difference in fuel consumption between the ARION and my other similar sized tractor, which has the same engine, is considerable.”

The 135hp ARION C arrived on Andrew's farm at Eardsley near Hay-on-Wye last October. Initially he was looking for a good second-hand tractor but for the kind of money they were going for, he says it made more sense to buy new.

“I hadn't really thought about buying a CLAAS until my brother-in-law came to help me with silage making and brought along his new ARION 620CIS. He left the tractor for a couple of days and I tried it out, and was rather disappointed when he took it back,” says Andrew.

“The fuel tanks are the same capacity, but when feeding round with the Keenan during the winter I was getting about 10 extra days from the ARION.”

“I got in touch with Brian Rees who brought the ARION 620C for me to try and it never really went back.”

“The 620C is ideal for my needs. I only have 48ha of cereals and the rest is all livestock, so I don't need a complicated tractor because its main job is for feeding round with the Keenan during the winter.

“But it is the fuel consumption that is really the big plus. I would certainly look at another CLAAS when the next tractor is due to be changed.”

Having said that, it did do all of the ploughing for 16ha of maize and we have also used it for mowing this spring.”

“The difference in fuel consumption between the ARION and my other similar sized tractor, which has the same engine, is considerable. The fuel tanks are the same capacity, but when feeding round with the Keenan during the winter I was getting about 10 extra days from the ARION.”

“For feeding round the ARION's ideal. It's quick to react and the powershifts within each gear make it simple to speed up or down. The gearbox is easy to use and far better than those on my other tractors.”

“But it is the fuel consumption that is really the big plus. I would certainly look at another CLAAS when the next tractor is due to be changed.”



Cost saving

ARION

John Forrest
Summer 2011

For contractor John Forrest, one of the greatest strengths of the CLAAS ARION is its low running costs, both in terms of fuel consumption but also servicing.

Catterall & Forrest run two ARIONs, a 640 CEBIS which was bought this year to replace a two and a half year-old ARION 640 and a 620C. The ARION 640 is mainly used for mowing, using a DISCO 3100FC front and 3100C rear combination and baling, whilst the smaller ARION 620C is used for raking with one of his two LINER 2800 rakes, baling with a VARIANT 385 or more general work such as ploughing and hedgecutting.

“Over the years I have run most makes of tractor, but the ARION is the only time I have bought the same again, as I have always thought there must be something better, but that was not the case this time,” states John.

“I was pleased by how well the old ARION 640 had held its value and the deal that Rickerby’s offered. I did approach another leading manufacturer, but on a like for like basis they were quoting £20,000 more which was ridiculous.”

“Overall the old ARION 640 has been far less costly to run compared to my previous tractor, which cost about £2/engine hour for servicing and the last 2000 hour service

was £1600. The ARION has 500 hour service intervals and the servicing costs are about 30% less, which is quite a saving, and it is also far better on fuel – for the same size tank I can mow at least another 6.0ha, which again is a lot of money.”

“Over the years I have run most makes of tractor, but the ARION is the only time I have bought the same again.”

The other big difference is in the transmission and operator control. Whilst his previous tractor had a CVT transmission, John has found the HEXASHIFT transmission on the ARION 640 to be far more user friendly and adaptable.

“I find I have far more control with the HEXASHIFT transmission, and the DRIVESTICK is spot-on. I like the flexibility of being able to use it in automatic or manual, especially for road work as there is no delay and engagement is immediate which makes it far safer for pulling away from a junction.”



“Also the transmission is easy to use, so anyone can drive the tractor without too much instruction, and CEBIS makes it easy to set up and store individual settings, unlike my old tractor where, unless you remembered to restore the settings, it would forget them which was very annoying.”

“Overall the ARION is a great tractor, that’s cheap to run, easy to operate, reliable and very comfortable to drive,” concludes John.

“I was pleased by how well the old ARION 640 had held its value.”



Fuel efficient power house

David Pickup
Summer 2011

“The AXIONs are a superb all-round package. They are extremely comfortable and the CMATIC transmission is fantastic.”

His opinions back-up findings of research done by the DLG in Germany which found that thanks to the HEXASHIFT transmission, the AXION is one of the most efficient tractors of this size on the market. They found that 83% of the AXION 820's engine power is converted into useful power at the wheels and on the AXION 850 92% of power was available.

This high conversion of engine power to pulling power, has led to other DLG tests proving that the AXION is also one of the most fuel efficient tractors of this size on the market.

David currently runs two AXIONs, a 170hp 810 CMATIC, which has a maximum boost up to 215hp, and a 213hp 830 CIS and he has also recently placed an order for a 238hp AXION 850 CEBIS boosted to 268hp.

In addition to the AXIONs which are mainly used within his contracting business, Pickup Plant, David also runs three ARION 620Cs and an ARES 697 that are used for spraying water to suppress dust on the steep haul roads at a local open cast coal mine, plus an AXOS which is mainly used on the Pickup's farm near Blackburn in Lancashire.

“We bought our first CLAAS tractor in 2006. One of the great strengths of CLAAS tractors is their pulling power. The ARIONs

are the only tractors we have found that can haul the 1600 or 2000 gallon tankers up the extremely steep haul roads from the bottom of the mine, which is 120ft deep,” says David.

“The AXIONs, however, are a superb all-round package. They are extremely comfortable and the CMATIC transmission is fantastic, especially for buckraking, and the grip is phenomenal, which allows the tractor to make the most of its power but also make better use of fuel.”

“The AXION uses half the fuel of other tractors we have run that have the same engine, they use nowhere near as much which is extremely important these days.”

Running JAGUAR 860 and 890 forage harvesters, both the AXIONs are used with DISCO triple mowers, with the AXOS put onto raking duties with either a LINER 3000 or 2800 rake. The speed with which the mowers can be dropped off then allows the AXION 810 to be used for buckraking, whilst the large 830 does haulage work.

“A great advantage is that the AXION is extremely easy to operate, so anyone can confidently drive it,” states David. “And for buckraking, I would argue that the AXION 810 with its CVT transmission is hard to beat, and far better than a loading shovel.”

When it comes to power per £, David Pickup believes there is little that beats the AXION and, given half the chance, would run nothing but AXIONs.

“One of the great strengths of CLAAS tractors is their pulling power.”

Unbeatable comfort

Christopher Marchmant
Summer 2011

Having suffered back problems following a car accident, for Christopher the big attraction of his current ARION and his previous CLAAS tractors has been the cab space and the ride comfort provided by the hydrostable full cab suspension system.

“The cab suspension system is fantastic. It was this that initially sold the tractor to me and the reason I have run CLAAS tractors ever since,” explains Christopher. “Now, having both the PROACTIV front suspension and the cab suspension, the ride comfort is similar to a car, it’s fantastic.”

Christopher’s first tractor was a ARES 620 that he bought through Southern Harvesters soon after it was launched in 1997.

“When I went to try the tractor, as soon as I drove it across the yard I could feel the difference the cab suspension made. However, whilst comfort is very important to me, so is reliability and the tractors have been excellent.”

“In all the years I have run them, I have only ever been stopped twice due to a problem. The dealer support from Southern Harvesters is in a different ball-park to other dealers. If you need a part and it’s not in stock, you know it will be with you the following morning at the latest plus I love the whole CLAAS philosophy – it’s a far more friendly, customer focussed business.”

His current ARION 640 CIS, which has a

50kph transmission, was bought two years ago to replace another 640. As a contractor, one of his biggest considerations is running cost, and in this respect he has been extremely pleased with the ARION.

“Plus I love the whole CLAAS philosophy – it’s a far more friendly, customer focussed business.”

“The ARION is the ideal sized tractor. It’s small and light enough for jobs like hedgecutting, when I run it in Eco mode to save fuel and a tank will last me at least three days. However, weighted up, the power boost up to 180hp means it is also ideal for heavy draught work like drilling.”

“I like the fact that the boost comes in lower down the scale than on other similar systems, and it works well for the jobs I do, especially drilling with the 4m Horsch drill. I have often found the ARION will outpull other tractors.”



Christopher Marchmant’s current ARION 640 CIS is the latest in a long line of Le Mans built tractors going back over seven tractors and nearly 15 years.

“There is still nothing in my opinion to match the ARION cab for size, and I certainly notice the difference when I am asked to drive other makes,” he says. “The (HEXASHIFT) gearbox on the ARION is very user friendly and smooth, and I like the fact that I have the option to use it in automatic mode for haulage but change to manual for fieldwork, plus the armrest layout is excellent. It’s a gutsy, very well thought out tractor.”

“Now, having both the PROACTIV front suspension and the cab suspension, the ride comfort is similar to a car, it’s fantastic.”



The ideal loader tractor

Stephen Davies
Summer 2011

The first to arrive on the Davies' 120ha farm near Builth Wells in Powys, was a 100hp ARES 557 ATX that was bought in 2009. This was then joined last December by a 102hp AXOS 340 CX Comfort which is fitted with a loader.

Having used the same make of tractor for a number of years, problems with reliability prompted the Davies' to look at other options and ultimately buy the ARES 557.

“We have been extremely pleased with the tractors, they are well priced, comfortable, easy to operate and very reliable.”

“For our situation and the work that we do, a 4-cylinder tractor is more than big enough,” explains Stephen.

“Because the tractor would be mainly used with a loader, Rees Agri recommended we try the AXOS and it is lovely to drive. The clutchless transmission and (REVERSHIFT) reverser makes it very easy to use and is ideal for loader work. Because we are using the loader every day during winter for feeding, reliability is essential and it was the clutch and gearbox that killed the old tractor.”

“Even though the AXOS is fitted with larger 38 tyres it is still very manoeuvrable and is low enough that it can just get into all the

buildings, but has plenty of grip when out on the hills. The fact that the front opening doors can be latched open is very useful when feeding round as you are in and out of the cab the whole time, and the skylight in the roof is ideal when handling bales at height.”

The fact that in six months the AXOS has already done over 700 hours shows how much the Davies' rely on the tractor. Aside from being used around the yard, in addition to making their own round bale silage, the Davies' also do some contract baling for neighbouring farmers. So whilst the ARES is responsible for driving the baler, the AXOS is used for rowing up using a LINER 680 rake.

“We have been extremely pleased with the tractors,” says Stephen. “They are well priced, comfortable, easy to operate and very reliable, plus the support from Brian Rees has been excellent. The fact that there are definitely more around the area indicates that we are not the only ones pleased with them.”

“The fact that the front opening doors can be latched open is very useful when feeding round as you are in and out of the cab the whole time.”

With just a couple of main tractors, one of which is fitted with a loader and used for all the feeding round and bedding, reliability is important and one of the reasons Stephen Davies runs CLAAS tractors.

“The clutchless transmission and (REVERSHIFT) reverser on the AXOS makes it very easy to use and is ideal for loader work.”

Standardising on CLAAS

Robert Wilson
Spring 2011

“I keep coming back to CLAAS because it’s a good product”

Robert Wilson has been so pleased with the performance and reliability of his ARES 656RC, that he has decided to just run CLAAS tractors, trading in three other tractors for a new ARION 640CIS.

Robert’s policy has been to usually replace his main tractor about every three years in order to keep up to date. But when it came to thinking about replacing the ARES, he decided instead to consolidate his tractor fleet and replace three other tractors with an 160hp ARION 640CIS.

“I have had no problems with the ARES and it has served me extremely well,” explains Robert who farms 120ha at Dalton-on-Tees in North Yorkshire. “I have always aimed to keep at least one tractor up-to-date. However, because I have been so well looked after by Seward and the tractor has been so reliable, I felt that instead of replacing the ARES, it would make sense to reduce the number of tractors and just base everything around the two CLAAS tractors.”

The decision to go for the higher powered 160hp ARION 640CIS, which has a boost to 180hp, was made in order to provide extra capacity for the future. Currently everything is ploughed using a 5-furrow Dowdeswell or shakerated, before pressing and drilling with a 3m combination drill. However, with a view to cutting his establishment costs and preparation time, having a more powerful tractor will provide the option in the future to use wider cultivation equipment for primary cultivations and reduce the area currently ploughed.

“The ARION is a great tractor to operate. With the cab and front axle suspension it’s very smooth and you can tell the difference and makes me realise what I have been missing – comfort is important if you are putting in long hours at peak times.”

“I felt it would make sense to reduce the number of tractors and just base everything around the two CLAAS tractors.”

“Also it’s extremely easy to operate, as whilst I do most of the work myself, my wife, son and daughter do help when it’s really busy. Everything is at your fingertips and for someone not used to the tractor, the HEXASHIFT transmission makes the ARION easy to drive, plus it’s very fuel efficient.”



“Comfort is important if you are putting in long hours at peak times.”

“I bought the ARES because of its performance when I had one on demonstration, plus it was competitively priced. And whilst I have looked at other

makes, I keep coming back to CLAAS because it’s a good product, reliable and I have been extremely well looked after by Seward both when busy and also out of season. Whilst I might have had one of the first around here, CLAAS tractors are definitely growing in popularity and there has been a noticeable shift towards them in this area.”



ARION fans Barney, Sam and Harvey Brown.

Taking up the suggestion in an advert to 'Contact your local dealer for a demonstration' resulted in the Browns taking delivery of a new ARION 620 CEBIS in autumn 2009.

"We continue to be very impressed by the ARION. We had never really considered buying new but it represented very good value compared to some of the used tractors we looked at."

ARION converts

Sam Brown
Summer 2010

Historically the family have tended to buy good, medium hour used tractors. So needing to replace a tractor that was having gearbox problems, the Browns looked at the used market for the main leading makes, but felt that prices seemed quite high.

"It's a good solid overall package and extremely quiet and very manoeuvrable."

Following a 'phone call to their local dealer Kirby, an ARION 640 was delivered the following week for them to try, and as soon as they drove it the three brothers were immediately impressed by the tractor's performance and comfort.

"Then when we looked at the price of the ARION 620, which was at Saxham and to the specification we wanted, there was not a lot of difference between it and some of the used tractors we had seen," says Harvey. "We also run a LEXION 450 so knew the service from Kirby would be good, plus there was a flexible finance package available and we get on very well with Jonathan Moss."

"We continue to be very impressed by the ARION. We had never really considered buying new but it represented very good value compared to some of the used tractors we looked at. We will now certainly choose CLAAS in preference to anything else when we need to replace our larger tractor that we share with a neighbour."

The main tasks for the 140hp ARION on the Browns 140ha farm near St Ives, are ploughing, muck spreading and baling.

"We just love the ARION. It's a good solid overall package and extremely quiet and very manoeuvrable," states Sam. "The cab is extremely spacious and the comfort is exceptional. This is our first tractor to have suspension and we would now not have any tractor without it – you certainly notice the difference. Everyone immediately heads for the ARION in preference to any other tractor."

"The HEXASHIFT transmission is 20 times better than other powershift transmissions we have tried," comments Harvey. "Also the headland control (CSM) is ideal for drilling and being able to operate the PTO using the buttons on the mudguards has certainly speeded up using the vacuum tanker when emptying the slurry pits. The ARION pulls well and is ideal for our needs, plus it doesn't seem as thirsty as our other main tractor."

"The ARION is the first CLAAS tractor in this area and is certainly a topic of conversation and raised a few eyebrows," adds Sam. "We are constantly asked how we are getting on with it and we can honestly answer that we are so pleased with it and have no regrets what-so-ever."

"...we are so pleased with it and have no regrets what-so-ever."

As good as new

William Robertson
Spring 2010

At four years old and with over 5,000 hours on the clock, William Robertson's two AXION 840s still feel as good as new.

Having operated CLAAS combines for many years, and currently running two LEXION 570s and a 460, knowing he would get good service support from Sellars and having travelled to Saxham to see the AXION soon after it was launched, William was sufficiently impressed to buy two 212hp AXION 840 CEBIS. These were then joined in November 2009 by a 160hp ARION 640 CEBIS.

“The AXIONs still feel like a new tractor and that they could do 10-12,000 hours without a problem.”

Based near Ellon north of Aberdeen, William Robertson & Son provide a wide range of contracting services to both arable and grassland farmers. During the winter months muck spreading accounts for a large amount of the AXIONs workload, moving on to powering a trailed forage harvester and general cultivations, and drilling using two 4m one-pass drills with front fertiliser hoppers.

“We aim to replace tractors after four years and 6,000 hours, as by the time our previous tractors had done 4,500 hours the steering, transmission and hydraulics were starting to feel slack and worn. But the AXIONs still feel like a new tractor and that they could do 10-12,000 hours without a problem,” states Steven Robertson. “The ARION is also a great tractor – it’s just the right size and will do exactly what the AXIONs will do, but just a bit slower.”

“Sellars are one of the best in the area for service; if there is any problem they are quick to come out and have good technicians. I am also impressed that even at three years old, they will still upgrade the AXIONs with the latest software,” adds William.

“The AXIONs are certainly better on fuel than our previous tractors.”

Cab comfort thanks to the suspension system, the HEXACTIV automatic transmission and the CSM headland management control all come in for praise from the Robertsons.

“The AXIONs are certainly better on fuel than our previous tractors.”



“They also have plenty of power.”

When drilling and working hard, they would only get to 9.00pm before needing fuel, while the AXION can keep going another couple of hours and still have plenty left,” says William. “They also have plenty of power; you don’t feel the power boost come in but you know it’s there and in sticky going just dropping the revs slightly brings in a lot more torque.”

For Steven a particular strength of both the AXION and ARION is the CEBIS control system and the ability it provides to alter the tractor settings for optimum efficiency.

“We did look at CIS, but the difference in cost is minimal and it’s easier for the drivers having everything the same. I like the fact that it’s very similar to CEBIS on the combines so there is uniformity. I regularly use it to alter the engine settings, and the ability to monitor fuel consumption and quickly see what difference changing engine speed or gear makes is useful.”



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