

# COMBINES YOU CAN **RELY ON** FROM MASSEY FERGUSON



BORN TO FARM



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## Groundbreaking harvesting

In 1972, the agricultural world was enhanced by the launch of the industry's largest ever combine harvester – the MF 760 – which boasted a 7.3m table and enabled combining the magical figure of 100 acres a day to become a reality. The innovative Powerflow table was introduced five years later.

## The business today

There are flashpoints that occur during the course of the farming calendar when the local dealership – whatever the brand – is judged by its customer base. Rarely more so than during the harvest period, the commencement of which is dictated by a range of factors – crop development, weather, ground conditions and, of course, ready access to fully-functioning harvesting machinery.

In other words, timing is crucial.

Massey Ferguson's comprehensive range of combine harvesters that we see at work today has been developed over many years to provide models that can handle the most demanding terrain and crops. Our huge commitment to research and development has enabled this to be achieved – and will continue to maintain its position at the forefront of this highly technical field of engineering.

Equally important is the ability to provide top-class back-up service – particularly over the course of the all-important harvest period. This crucial combination of machine and service has been developed over the years to fully satisfy the individual customer and always be aware of constantly changing needs of growers and the markets they supply.

To really appreciate the quality and dependability of the Massey Ferguson harvesting range, it's important to look

back at how these machines have been enhanced by innovation in pursuit of optimum performance. Harvesting is the epitome of the arable calendar, so it is essential to ensure that every single aspect of the job is executed with optimum efficiency and timing. Only the weather can force a re-think.

## The ultimate reward

For all arable farmers worldwide, harvest is the culmination of a year's hard work, and precise timing is crucial. Outstanding and unfailing performance from the machine designed to convert the months of hard graft into profit is therefore essential. Massey Ferguson. Combine harvesters you can trust.

Here's a brief summary of the range:

### MF Activa

With a grain tank capacity of between 5,200 and 6,500 litres, and maximum power of 260hp, the Activa can provide a cutting width of between 4.8 and 7.6 metres and an unloading speed of between 72 and 85 litres/second.

### MF Activa S

Grain tank capacity here extends to 8,600 litres and max. power to 306hp, maximum cutting width of 7.6 metres and an impressive 105 litres/second unloading speed.

### MF Beta

Next up the power scale, with a maximum 360 hp, the Beta's grain tank can accommodate 8,600, up to 9,000, litres. Cutting width is 7.6 metres and unloading speed 105 litres/second.

### MF IDEAL

The Game Changer! The IDEAL is the most recent arrival from the Massey Ferguson stable and takes combining a range of crops to new levels of capacity, speed and quality. With a grain tank capable of accommodating 17,100 litres and a cutting width of between 10.7m and 12.2m, the IDEAL boasts an unloading speed of 210 litres/second.

**Of course, we're proud of our harvest machine offering. As a brand we have placed years of dedication and unique understanding into the design and engineering of our combine harvesters. We create with passion and pride with the farmer at the centre of everything that we do, so don't just take our word for it when we say our combine harvesters are a serious and worthwhile investment, hear it from the people who matter; our customers.**

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# MF ACTIVA & ACTIVA S

Economy of operation and low running costs makes the Activa models attractive to owner/operators farming smaller-to-medium-sized holdings. High performance and reliability are the two key features that make the Activa such a popular choice.

Operator comfort and ease of operation have both been enhanced on the latest model, in response to owner and operator feedback on what they need and want in a straightforward, efficient combine. And, at the end of the day, a good clean sample.



# MF BETA

A comfortable operator is an efficient operator. The cab design and layout on the MF Beta provides the space, comfort, visibility and ease of operation that make the difference when good weather means longer hours on the move.

The advanced AGCO POWER engine has been designed and built to meet the latest emissions regulations, incorporating third generation SCR technology.

Both MF Beta models are also available with the innovative ParaLevel linkage to cope easily with sloping terrain.

The robust, high-inertia cylinder and heavy-duty concave enables the Beta models to take all crops in their stride, while the high-capacity grain tank and rapid unloading rate further boost the Beta's efficiency.



ACTIVA	Max Power**	ACTIVA S	Max Power	BETA	Max Power**
MF 7342	185	MF Activa S 7345	260	MF Beta 7360	306
MF 7343	226	MF Activa S 7345 MCS	260	MF Beta 7370	360
MF 7344	260	MF Activa S 7345 MCS ParaLevel	260	MF Beta 7360 ParaLevel	306
MF 7342 MCS	185	MF Activa S 7347	306	MF Beta 7370 ParaLevel	360
MF 7343 MCS	226	MF Activa S 7347 MCS	306	MF Beta 7360 PLi	306
MF 7344 MCS	260	MF Activa S 7347 MCS ParaLevel	306	MF Beta 7370 PLi	360

\*MF 7343 STANDARD WITH 5,200 LITRES GRAIN TANK CAPACITY AND UNLOADING SPEED OF 72 LITRES/SEC. \*\*WITH POWER BOOST | PLI = PARALEVEL INTEGRALE SYSTEM (LEVELS ON GRADIENTS UP TO 30%)



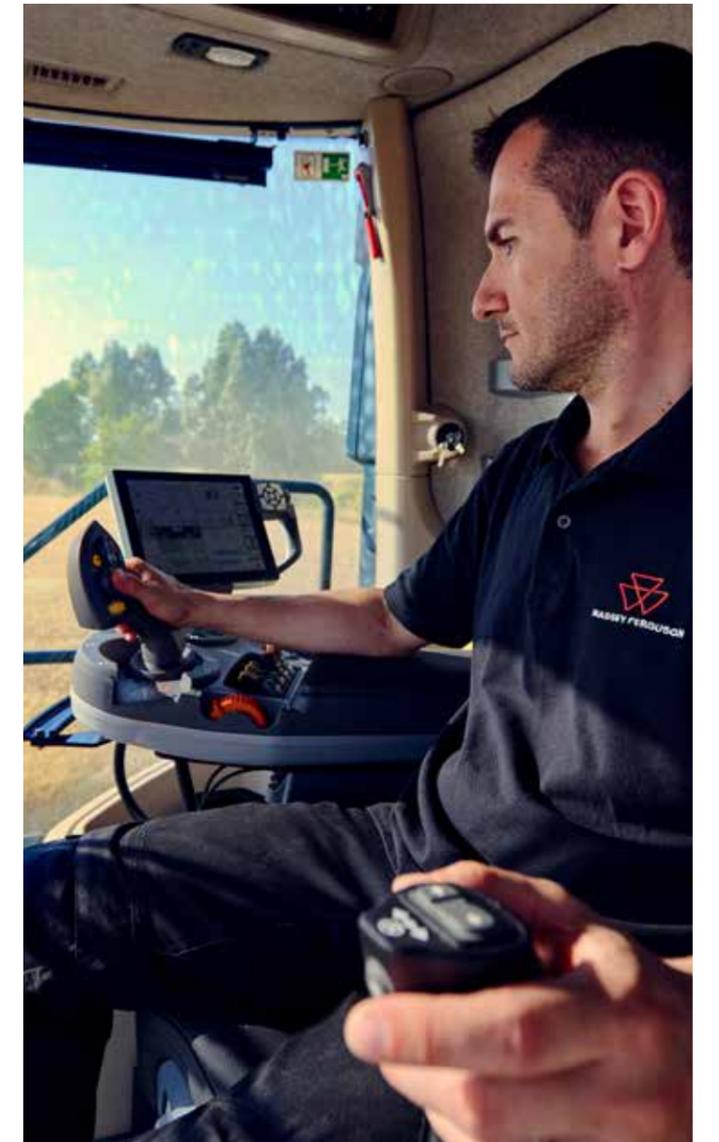
IDEAL	Max Power
MF IDEAL 7	476
MF IDEAL 8	538
MF IDEAL 9	647

# MF IDEAL

The very latest technology has gone into this major step forward in combine development and performance. With the Single Helix (single rotor) on the IDEAL 7 and the Dual Helix (double rotors) system on the MF IDEAL 8 & 9 models represents a wide range of combines to be able to offer to our customer base. Each model includes the choice of Flatland, Paralevel, or Trakride, which are all available at 3.5m transport width on either 800 tyres or 30in tracks..

Not surprisingly, The MF IDEAL offers the Streamer 210 unloading system, which is one of the largest grain tanks on the market, together with a fully-automated processing system that operates at maximum efficiency.

The MF IDEAL combine was seen as a game-changer when it was first launched onto the market. Those growers and contractors who have embraced this all-new machine agree wholeheartedly.





Massey Ferguson combines have been used by the Turner family who farm in Suffolk since they replaced another brand nearly 30 years ago. Now two Beta 7370s with 22ft PowerFlow headers harvest 600ha of cereals and herbage seeds each year.

Approximately 800ha of arable crops are farmed in-hand by brothers Ben and Ed Turner at Ampton Hall Estates, near Bury St Edmunds. Altogether 2,000ha is owned, of which some arable land is rented long-term to other farming businesses, and some is on short-term lets mainly for potato and onion production. The rest of the estate is woodland, grass and lakes – much of it within environmental stewardship schemes.

Most of the land is light, and combinable crops are mainly wheat and barley grown for feed, and grain rye. Other crops include sugar beet and forage rye, as well as oilseed rape.

“My grandfather got on well with our local Massey Ferguson dealer, Thurlow Nunn Standen, and we still find the team there excellent to deal with,” explained Ed. “Sales director Chris Tew looked after our account at the start, and he remains interested and involved although most of our dealings now are with his team of sales managers.”

#### **TWO COMBINES ADD FLEXIBILITY**

A pair of Cerea combines with 25ft headers were operated until 2012, when they were replaced by two smaller Beta 7370s with 22ft headers. These performed well and suited the farm, so the Turners have continued to rely on a pair of Betas which are replaced alternately after working two to three harvests.

“Operating two combines provides flexibility, and their combined capacity gives us high daily work rates,” continued Ed. “Most of our land is within one block, and we move the Beta combines between fields with their 22ft headers fitted whereas the wider

## **CUSTOMER FOCUS: AMPTON HALL ESTATES**

headers had to be removed. Over the harvest period this saves a lot of time, and more than compensates for the potential higher work rates available from a wider cutting width.”

Ed, and full-time farm machinery operator Henry Murphy drive the combines. “We enjoy driving them, and if we weren’t both available then we would probably opt for one larger machine. There are many advantages to having two similar machines working though – including the reassurance that if one breaks down, the other will continue harvesting.”

#### **NOT TEMPTED TO CHANGE**

Ed said that although a competitor brand combine was recently trialled, he wasn’t tempted to change. “We always look at what else is available at what price, but we are very happy with the Massey Ferguson combines and the back-up from our dealer. There would have been no advantage from changing brands,” he stressed.

The farm has no grain drier, so harvesting crops when they are ripe and conditions are dry is a priority. The combines work between 10–12 hours per day, and harvest approximately 40ha between them. “The capacity is ample for our farmed area, and we know that in a tricky season with limited weather windows we could work longer hours if needed. Each combine harvests 25–30 tonnes of grain per hour, but we aren’t blessed with heavy land so the capacity is sufficient.”

The Skyline cab is popular with both operators. “It’s spacious and the operator’s view is excellent. Noise levels in the cab are low so it isn’t tiring and it’s easy to have phone conversations while working. The control layout is user-friendly - all the main controls are on the joystick, and almost every aspect of the separation and cleaning performance can be adjusted from the seat.

“When starting new fields or crops, I select the standard settings on the display terminal and these are applied automatically. A good view into the grain tank makes it easy to keep an eye on grain quality, and I make minor adjustments on the move until I get the result I need. The combine performs well and there is usually no problem obtaining a good grain sample and low losses while also achieving high work rates and preserving the straw quality.”

There is a clear view of the unloading auger from the seat, and Ed said that controlling it from the main joystick is more convenient and easier than using the Cerea’s foot pedal-mounted buttons. A light on the auger shines into the trailer and works well, but this wasn’t needed this year as harvest was completed entirely in daylight hours.

#### **STRAW FIT FOR BALING**

Up to 90 per cent of the straw is swathed ready for baling for pigs, and the Beta with its straw walkers leaves it in ideal condition. The competitor brand combine trialled was a rotary model, and Ed said that the increased straw damage was immediately evident.

#### **SUPERIOR PICK-UP AND FLOW**

The PowerFlow header is another popular Massey Ferguson feature. “We take it for granted as we have little experience of combines without it, but the benefits are obvious in terms of ensuring an even crop flow and reduced losses, especially in laid or very tall crops such as rye.

“It picks up so well that lifters are only needed in exceptionally challenging conditions, and we haven’t used them for years.”

#### **LOW RUNNING COSTS**

Ed said that the latest Beta 7370 models are very economical - fuel consumption this harvest averaged only 22 litres per hour. “That’s significant with current diesel prices so high, and it also means the tank capacity is more than enough for two days’ harvesting. It’s an easy combine to look after - there is little daily maintenance, it stays clean, and any dust and chaff accumulations are removed by a leaf blower in just a few minutes.”

Ed remains delighted with the Beta combines and can suggest very few improvements. “Most functions are adjusted from the cab, but we still have to get out to engage and disengage the straw chopper. Being able to select chopping or swathing from the seat would add flexibility and convenience. I would also like a more practical cup holder, as drinks are often spilled,” he said.

Asked whether it is likely that the current Massey Ferguson combines will be replaced by another two similar models when they are updated next time; Ed said this remains the plan. “They have a relatively easy life with us and are looked after well, but we usually change them after two harvests while retained values remain high which keeps the cost to upgrade reasonable.

“As well as the combines we have two Massey Ferguson tractors – including a 7715 and a new 8S-265 which is excellent. We are very happy with Massey Ferguson and the service from Thurlow Nunn Standen. When problems occur then there is usually a technician with us within an hour, and they quickly find a solution to keep us working. Machines are only as good as the back-up available, and we don’t need to look elsewhere.”



## CUSTOMER FOCUS: T JASINKSI & SON

High yields and large straw volumes quickly confirmed that a Lincolnshire farming family had made the right decision in upgrading to a Massey Ferguson IDEAL 8 PL combine this year.

Approximately 600ha of arable crops are grown on a mix of owned, tenanted and contract-farmed land by the Jasinski family. Trading as T Jasinski & Son, and based at Ingoldsby, the farm is run by Alex Jaskinski and his father Mark, as well as his mother Angela and wife Caroline. The family farming partnership also operates a transport business, hauling agricultural produce across eastern England and further afield.

The farm is all-arable, and the usual crop rotation consists of winter wheat grown mainly for feed, oilseed rape which is crushed for oil, vining peas for seed, and triticale. Rye was also grown under contract for the 2022 harvest. Soil types range from heavy clay to brash, as well as some easier light land.

### MASSEY FERGUSON FLEET

The farm's tractor fleet has been exclusively Massey Ferguson for more than 20 years, and the current fleet consists of a new 8S-205 which recently replaced a 7718, a 7720 and an 8S-265 purchased last year. Two telehandlers of the same brand include an older 8737 and a TH8043 which was new in 2019.

The first Massey Ferguson combine was a 726 bought second-hand by Mark's father more than 50 years ago and, apart from a short period, Massey Ferguson combines have been used ever since.

### IDEAL REPLACED DELTA

The new IDEAL 8 PL replaced a Massey Ferguson Delta which had been owned for five years, although Alex would have happily bought another the same if the model wasn't discontinued. "We got on very well with the Delta, but operating

machines covered by a manufacturer warranty is reassuring and the Delta's expired in 2021. We had a demonstration of an IDEAL 7 in 2020 and tried an IDEAL 8T with tracks and a 35ft header in 2021. Compared to combines of other brands and of similar size, the IDEAL's straightforward design with fewer wearing parts appealed.

"We priced another brand, but the back-up from our local Chandlers Massey Ferguson depot is exceptional - we just couldn't ask for more, and we have always found the Massey Ferguson team helpful too. We ordered the IDEAL 8 PL with a 30ft PowerFlow header for the 2022 harvest."

### SUPERIOR POWERFLOW

Alex said that he hadn't appreciated the superior performance of the Massey Ferguson PowerFlow header until he tried a competitor machine. "I'd only ever used combines with PowerFlow headers until then and didn't realise how much better they are at picking crops up off the floor and ensuring an even feed to the intake elevator. They make it much easier to get the best performance. The IDEAL also has table tilt adjustment which helps when harvesting short stem and laid crops. Tilting the table forward allows the knife to be pushed down under the crop to ensure it's all picked up, and tilting it back on stony brash land helps avoid taking in stones."

The IDEAL 8 PL was ordered with a 30ft header – the same as the previous Delta. "We have undulating land which is why we particularly wanted the ParaLevel combine, and the narrower header makes it easier to follow the ground contours and avoid losses in short crops - particularly the seed peas. ParaLevel also allows us to manually raise one side of the combine, and there are many situations when we can use it to lift the table clear of gateposts when travelling from field to field without having to remove and reattach it which saves time."

### DRY BUT CHALLENGING HARVEST

The 2022 growing season produced some exceptionally high yields and large volumes of straw including a lot of green stems. Alex said that it was easier to achieve a clean grain sample from the IDEAL than it would have been with the Delta, and that the ability to adjust the separation and cleaning systems from the cab was a significant advantage. Wheat was harvested at 13.5% moisture, but with straw which was still very green in some areas with no problems at all."

### HIGH OUTPUT

"Favourable weather throughout this harvest meant we never felt under pressure so there was no need to push the combine to its full capacity.

"Even so, we achieved rates of almost 60 tonnes per hour in wheat at times, with an average of just under 50, and we harvested 48ha of peas in one nine-hour working day which was exceptional."

Most wheat and barley straw and all the rye straw was baled this year, and the oilseed rape and pea residues were chopped. "The IDEAL is our first combine which allows chopping or swath selection from the cab, and that's a brilliant feature," confirmed Alex. "Conditions were exceptionally dry, but the IDEAL is gentle on the straw and left it in excellent condition for baling."

### POWER AND ECONOMY

The IDEAL 8 PL is reliable and economical. "It's never short of power and we achieved work rates higher than the Delta without us ever feeling we were working it hard," commented Mark. "It uses only slightly more fuel per day, but harvests a much larger area. We filled the fuel tank daily, but that was

only because we have a small, 400-litre bowser. It would have comfortably completed two days of harvesting on a full tank."

Alex said that the Vision cab is quiet and comfortable, and the view from the seat is good. The joystick control layout is slightly different to the Delta, but the new design is more logical, and he got used to it quickly. The headland management system is a major contributor to the higher work rate. "It's a better system than we had on the Delta. As soon as headland turns are completed, the memorised header settings are immediately applied, and the table is levelled and lowered ready for work. It moves quickly so there is no need to slow down and wait for it, and considerable time savings are achieved during a full working day."

"We are very pleased with the new IDEAL," concluded Mark. "It achieves impressive work rates without us feeling we are working it hard, and there is plenty of spare capacity which gives us the opportunity to expand our operation if and when the chance arises. The grain sample is excellent with minimal losses.

"All combines will break down occasionally – but it's the speed and the cost of the fix that is important, and we know we can always rely on the back up from the team at Chandlers."





## CUSTOMER FOCUS: TAYLOR & SON (GROWERS) LTD

Excellent reliability, good performance and a straightforward design were priorities when a Nottinghamshire farming family selected a new Massey Ferguson Beta 7370 combine.

Trading as Taylor & Son (Growers) Ltd, Oliver Taylor farms at Cromwell, near Newark. The farmed area is approximately 360ha, consisting of 320ha of cereals and 40ha of maize and AB15 conservation crops within the rotation. Soil types range from light sand and gravel to heavy Keuper Marl clay. The lighter land dries quickly but irrigation helps crops achieve their potential. The clay land is challenging to farm, but produces good yields if it is treated well, Oliver explained.

Wheat is the main crop – of which approximately half is for milling and the rest goes for feed. Other combinable crops include winter beans, spring beans, spring barley and oilseed rape.

The Massey Ferguson Beta 7370 with a 22ft PowerFlow header was new for the 2022 harvest. It replaced a 2009 Centora 7278 with a 25ft header, which remained reliable after completing 12 harvests for the Taylor family. “The Centora was discontinued so we had to look at alternatives. A rotary model was considered, but it was out of our budget,” explained Oliver. “The Beta 7370 was the obvious choice. It has six straw walkers rather than eight, and the widest PowerFlow table option is 22ft rather than 25ft, but we were confident that the newer model would give us the output we needed.”

### Loyal to MF brand

Although a competitor brand combine was trialled; previous experience of Massey Ferguson and an excellent relationship with the team at local dealer Chandlers meant that another of the same make was the obvious choice. As well as the combine, the farm’s Massey Ferguson-dominated fleet includes a classic 135, a 4840 articulated model which does most of the drilling,

plus an 8730, a 6490, a 5480 and an 8937 telehandler. “We’ve always used Massey Ferguson, and the only time another tractor brand was used on the farm was when it formed the base of a self-propelled sprayer.

We’ve been dealing with Chandlers since a sales representative who had looked after us for a long time moved there from another dealer. Now James Kirkham is our usual contact, and he is always helpful and responds quickly when we need anything although we know he is busy.”

### Straightforward design

Oliver said that the Beta 7370 performs well. He describes it as a traditional six-walker combine, with a straightforward design which does everything it is supposed to.

The 2022 harvest featured particularly high straw volumes, but wheat crops yielding more than 10t per hectare were harvested at 4kph while chopping the straw, and losses remained minimal. Average harvesting rates of more than 25t per hour were easily achieved.

“It gives us the productivity we need and it’s incredibly economical. Harvesting wheat and chopping the straw - we easily cleared 24ha in a day with average fuel consumption of only 35 litres per hour, and in the lighter spring barley crops, while swathing the straw for baling, we achieved work rates up to 34ha per day.”

Oliver said that the Beta makes it easy to achieve a good sample, and the crop is treated gently so there is little grain damage.

“We started with the standard factory settings for each crop, and then monitored the grain sample and checked for losses in the swath and under the straw. Every field is different so being able to adjust everything from the cab is a big advantage.”

### MCS Plus – an advantage

The Multi Crop Separator Plus (MCS Plus) adjustable concave is standard on the Beta 7370, and Oliver said it was a particular advantage for his mix of crops, providing an extended threshing area for more aggressive separation in tough conditions, and the ability to conveniently rotate a section of the concave away from the drum using an external lever, for more gentle treatment of fragile crops such as beans.

### Can’t fault the cab

Oliver said that although he liked the cab of his previous combine, the new Skyline cab of the Beta 7370 is even better. The main advantages include more space, improved comfort, and a quieter working environment, and he said the main display terminal is clear and easy to use, and the main controls are conveniently grouped on the multifunction joystick for ease of operation. Footrests improve comfort during long working days, and there is a clear view of the header, and into trailers while unloading on the move.

The combine doesn’t have GPS guidance, but Oliver said that it isn’t needed as he spends a maximum of 10 hours harvesting each day, and rarely feels tired. He said that he can’t fault the cab, apart from the brake pedal position which he finds awkward.

### Low maintenance requirement

Apart from an issue with the SCR exhaust treatment system, the combine has been completely reliable. “All it’s needed is routine lubrication, and halfway through harvest we re-tensioned the clean grain elevator,” he explained. “The engine cooling system is brilliant, and although this harvest was very dry and dusty there was little need to blow the cooling packs clean each day

although we did it anyway.”

“I really like this combine,” Oliver confirmed. “It’s got just the right amount of automation, so that there is still plenty to adjust manually and I find that reassuring, especially as we aim to keep it for at least 10 years before it’s replaced.

“It came with a good warranty package and back-up from the excellent Chandlers team, and I think it represents great value for money.”





A Massey Ferguson IDEAL 8T combine, selected following on-farm demonstrations of the new model plus several competitors, achieved all that was expected of it and more during its first harvest on a North Lincolnshire farm.

Mark Trotter farms approximately 690ha of arable crops in the Lincolnshire Wolds in partnership with his father Don and brother Stuart. Trading as DWB Trotter & Sons, the family has farmed at Kelstern since 1962. Half of the cropped area is owned or farmed on tenancy agreements while the other half is contract-farmed. The land is in three main blocks up to 10 miles apart and soils range from Chalky Wold to a Clay Loam.

For the Trotter's own crops, the rotation includes wheat, spring barley and spring beans. Oilseed rape is no longer guaranteed a place in the cropping, and vining peas are grown occasionally instead of beans. Wheat, barley and beans are grown for seed, so producing clean, top quality crops is a priority, and the ability to harvest them in peak condition is essential.

#### LIMITED OPPORTUNITIES

"We have to have the harvesting capacity to get crops in the shed," explained Mark. "When choosing combines our main requirements are minimum grain damage, low losses and high work rates. We have modern grain storage, but when seed is our target market we have to dry slowly and cautiously. This means making the most of opportunities to harvest when the crop is in optimum condition and moisture levels are low."

The farm is only 10 miles from the coast and sea mists are common, forcing harvesting to start later in the day than on farms further inland. "On paper, there are plenty of combines capable of achieving the work rates we need, but in the real world our opportunities to harvest are more limited and we have to allow for variable crops and conditions," Mark stressed.

Combines are usually updated every five to six years. During the 2019 harvest, several brands were trialled including the new

## CUSTOMER FOCUS: DWB TROTTER & SONS

Massey Ferguson IDEAL 8T, which was demonstrated by local main dealer Peacock & Binnington Ltd. Mark was impressed by the simple design and excellent performance, and ordered an IDEAL 8T with a 10.7m SuperFlow header for the 2020 harvest.

Minimising compaction and soil damage is considered important, so the new combine was ordered with TrakRide rubber tracks. "We had tracks in the past, but 900-series tyres were a new option when we ordered our previous combine, so we specified those instead," explained Mark. "However, it was wider and more difficult to move around by road which was one of the reasons we were keen to return to tracks. The IDEAL is extremely narrow, and even with 30-inch tracks it remains under 3.5m, whereas we couldn't fit tracks wider than 24 inches on other combines we considered. Another factor was that we were upgrading from a 9.2m conventional header to a 10.7m SuperFlow, and we felt that wider tracks would distribute the extra weight more effectively. Also, riding on tracks rather than wheels would provide a more stable platform for the bigger header."

The latest Michelin CerexBib 2 rear tyres, capable of operating at only 20psi were an option, and these were specified too.

#### SIGNIFICANT ADVANTAGE

Mark said that having used the SuperFlow header for a full harvest, he definitely wouldn't want to use a conventional type again. "In standing wheat a conventional header is fine, but in crops such as oilseed rape or laid barley the SuperFlow's advantages are obvious. The crop flow is always even which maintains a constant threshing and separating load so it's easier to make the most of the combine's capacity.

"It was excellent in oilseed rape too. Conditions were hot and dry and the crop was prone to shelling, but because the header handled the tall crop so well without needing to use the reel we lifted it clear to avoid contact. This meant there was no risk of

shaking the seeds out ahead of the table."

Mark commented that harvesting brackled spring barley and laid oats for a local farmer was also easier. "Being able to tilt the header forward to optimise the knife angle was a help, and both crops were handled easily although they would have been a challenge for the previous machine. Achieving a smooth crop flow improves results and increases productivity."

#### EFFICIENT POWER

The IDEAL 8T's operating efficiency means that less power is needed than for competitor models of similar capacity. "At 538hp, it's 50hp less than our previous combine but operates with a wider header and achieves higher work rates," commented Mark. "Even while working on slopes with the unloading auger running we were never short of power." Fuel consumption while harvesting averaged 55–60 litres per hour; much less than the farm's previous combine, and the tank capacity was sufficient for at least two full days' work.

#### QUALITY ACHIEVED

The IDEAL 8T achieved a very good grain sample which met the standards required for premium prices. "Last year was my 45th harvest operating a combine, and I found the IDEAL easy to set up and there was never a problem obtaining a good grain sample while optimising the work rate," said Mark. "The operator just selects the crop type on the terminal and the settings are applied automatically. It was never far off, but I used my experience and judgement to fine-tune everything through the touch-screen to achieve the results I wanted."

#### USEFUL AUTOMATION

Mark was impressed by Massey Ferguson's HarvestPlus feature. "Previous combine 'cruise control' systems reacted too slowly to be useful, but HarvestPlus is different. I can set it to achieve a maximum working load, and as soon as there is a

change in crop density it adjusts the travel speed accordingly. It helps maximise work rates and reduces operator fatigue."

IDEAL harvest performance optimisation is available for all IDEAL combines. Using information from acoustic sensors, it identifies spare capacity in the threshing, separation and cleaning systems. Performance is optimised in line with objectives specified by the operator, while keeping grain losses within pre-set levels.

"It wasn't available when we ordered our combine, but I believe it could offer us benefits," suggested Mark. "I'm always keen to invest in automation and new technology, and would be keen to try it."

Mark liked the Vision cab and complimented the all-around excellent visibility. He said the combine's narrow width made moving between fields easier and safer, and allowed it to remain on one side of the road without straddling the centre line. The view of the unloading auger and trailers was very good, and he found it easy to keep an eye on the knife which is further forward than on conventional belt-less headers.

#### POSITIVE EXPERIENCE

"Having completed our first harvest with the IDEAL 8T, I am very happy with our decision to buy it, and it matched or exceeded all our expectations," Mark confirmed. "We had just a few teething issues which we had expected, and one breakdown caused by a child's scooter which passed right through the combine having been dumped in a field, but in each case the Peacock & Binnington team looked after us well and downtime was minimal.

"We don't use Massey Ferguson tractors currently but our positive experience of the IDEAL so far as well as faith in our local main dealer means the brand will definitely be considered in future."



## CUSTOMER FOCUS: C&R MOSCROP & SONS

“It performed exceptionally well” - that’s the verdict of a West Yorkshire-based farmer and contractor after his first harvest with a new Massey Ferguson IDEAL 7 PL combine.

The combine was purchased by C&R Moscrop & Sons, based at Scholes, near Leeds. The family business is run by brothers Chris and Roger Moscrop, and their farm consists of 115ha of owned and rented land of which 72ha is arable cropping including wheat, oats and linseed, and 43ha is permanent pasture grazed by Lincoln Red suckler cattle.

The contracting operation shares the farm’s machinery, and services include baling, cereal harvesting, arable field operations and fencing, plus digger work. “We don’t do much stubble-to-stubble contracting, but have many loyal customers within 20-miles of our base who rely on us for specific operations,” explained Chris. “Harvesting and baling are specialities and we run two round balers and two large square balers producing bales of different sizes.”

### MASSEY FERGUSON PREFERRED

Massey Ferguson tractors dominate the fleet and there are also two Fendt - all supplied by AGCO main dealer Peacock & Binnington. There are also two older tractors of another brand. “We select Massey Ferguson tractors for their reliability,” explained Chris. “They offer great value for money and a good specification and we like using them”.

“The dealer team is great too. We know everyone well, and there is always someone available at the end of the phone.”

Massey Ferguson combines have been used for many years, but as demand for the harvesting service grew, a second combine of another brand was purchased to work alongside the current Massey Ferguson 7280. “Running two straw-walker combines gave us the extra capacity we needed, but left us short of operators for straw baling. We also experienced constant problems with the second combine as it always

skinned the malting barley. In 2017 we traded in both machines for an ex-demonstration Massey Ferguson Delta rotary with a 9.2m PowerFlow header which promised much higher output.”

The Delta performed well, but in 2019 Chris looked at the new Massey Ferguson IDEAL as a potential replacement. “I’m an engineer and was impressed by its simple design, and especially the use of shaft drive instead of large numbers of belts. We discussed the IDEAL with Peacock & Binnington Harvesting Sales Manager Andrew Whiteley and tried to arrange a demonstration. For various reasons it wasn’t possible so, with a big leap of faith and without trying it, we placed an order for a new IDEAL 7 PL,” he added.

The new combine had 4wd and the latest 7.7m SuperFlow header - the first of its type in the UK, and Chris said he was immediately satisfied that he had made the right decision. “Even though the IDEAL is on wheels rather than tracks, it’s under 3.5m wide, so moving it between farms is no problem,” he explained. “The header’s size allows it to be towed behind the combine, which means I can travel to a customer, harvest his crops and return home without needing a tractor or additional driver. The 4wd probably won’t be needed, but when customers are relying on us to harvest their crops at the optimum time, it’s reassuring to know that if the crop is fit but the ground is slippery, we can still operate.”

### IMPRESSIVE WORK RATES

The 2020 harvest included many low-yielding crops which had been affected by poor conditions for establishment during winter and spring. However, in better wheat yielding 10t/ha, the IDEAL 7 achieved spot work rates of 60t/hr with negligible grain loss. The IDEAL’s HarvestPlus feature maintains a constant working load by adjusting the travel speed as crop density varies while also monitoring grain losses. Chris said that this worked well and responded very quickly to changes in working conditions. Average working speeds of 8–9kph were achieved

with a throughput of 50–60t/hr in good wheat crops. “I hadn’t expected that sort of performance from a single-rotor combine, especially as we tend to cut stubbles short to maximise the amount of straw for baling,” he said.

Most straw is baled, and the combination of the 7.7m header and extended 9.15m folding unloading auger meant the swath wasn’t run down by grain trailers. Chris said the IDEAL’s gentle threshing action left swaths in great condition. “A customer contacted us as soon as he started using the bales to compliment us on the excellent straw quality. It was the first time he had bought from us but he has already said he will have more this year, and that’s entirely due to the IDEAL’s gentle handling.”

The SuperFlow header’s performance in oilseed rape was described by Chris as ‘unbelievable’. “It was a heavy, long-strawed crop last year, and I was amazed at the way the header fed it so smoothly with no bunching. The work rate was slightly slower than the more powerful Delta, but it produced a much cleaner sample with lower losses.”

Chris said customers were impressed by the IDEAL’s ability to remove awns from winter barley. “A lot of farmers said that their own combines struggled last year, but the IDEAL did a great job without threshing the crop aggressively,” he stressed.

Spring barley was also challenging as, although the grain was ripe, there was a lot of green straw. “A lot of what we harvest is grown for malting so treating the crop gently to avoid grain damage is essential. The IDEAL’s long Helix rotor did a great job, and we had no problem obtaining a good sample with very low losses.”

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# CUSTOMER FOCUS: C&R MOSCROP & SONS

The Superflow header's tilt angle adjustment also helped. "The crop was brackled and heads were close to the ground, but tilting the header forwards and pushing the knife fingers right under the crop to lift it made harvesting easier, and very little was missed," confirmed Chris.

## SLOPES TACKLED EASILY

IDEAL combines are equipped with IDEALbalance, which ensures that crop separation, cleaning and losses are not affected by slopes up to 15 per cent. The IDEAL 7 PL chosen by Chris also had the ParaLevel system, which adjusts the front axle to keep the whole machine level on slopes up to 14 per cent. This means that even on very steep slopes up to 29 per cent, the IDEAL 7 PL can achieve work rates and losses similar to working on level ground, and Chris was delighted with its performance. "It's very effective, and allowed us to use the power available and maintain high work rates. We were very pleased at how quickly the system re-adjusted after each headland turn which meant little time was wasted."

Chris said the IDEAL's ability to maintain its performance in a wider range of working conditions than his previous combines will be an advantage in catchy harvests. "We usually start around mid-day when moisture levels have reduced, then work until late evening. The IDEAL could work earlier and continue through the night if needed, but most customers prefer harvesting when moisture levels are lower. However, if rain is forecast creating added pressure, then working through the night is an option."

## DEALER RELATIONSHIP

Peacock & Binnington's back-up has been excellent. "Initial operator training was arranged in France," explained Andrew. "This would have allowed new operators to take advantage of the earlier harvest there to gain experience in the seat before starting their own crops in the UK. However, Covid-19

restrictions prevented this, so we arranged socially-distanced training in the UK, and made sure that operators could get hold of us throughout harvest if advice was needed." Chris said his IDEAL 7 completed harvest without any breakdowns. Minor repairs and updates were carried out by the dealer team around harvesting schedules to avoid downtime. Daily maintenance was minimal, checks were easily and quickly carried out, and the large fuel tank and efficient engine allowed refuelling every two days.

The Moscrop's IDEAL was purchased with a three-year factory warranty, and will be kept for at least five years before being updated. Chris said the simple design means he has no fears regarding reliability. "The IDEAL 7 is the right model for our situation and being able to operate it as a self-contained unit towing the header behind has improved the flexibility and efficiency of our contracting business. The combine has plenty of spare capacity, and if we worked in a flatter area then we would probably upgrade to a wider header which would keep the combine full at lower speeds. However, most of last year's crops were thinner than usual and we still have much to learn about our IDEAL 7's full capabilities."



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