

KUHN TRIPLE MOWER MATCHES PACE OF BIG FORAGE HARVESTER

PALMERSTON NORTH – (3 August 2009) – Mid-Canterbury farmer and contractor David Clark cannot speak highly enough of his Kuhn 883 triple mower conditioner. He says it has made a huge difference to his silage contracting work.

David and his wife Jayne are in partnership with his parents, Terry and Pam Clark, on their 460-hectare fully irrigated arable property, Valetta Farm, near Methven. David also operates David Clark Mower Conditioning Contractors. He works almost exclusively as a subcontractor to Andrew Jackson Baling Contractors and Jackson & Holmes Forage Harvesting.

David purchased the Kuhn 883 triple mower conditioner with an 8.8m cutting width from Redline Tractors in Timaru last October. The machine was purchased to mow silage in front of a new 450hp Claas 950 harvester.

The Clark family have owned Kuhn-manufactured mower conditioners for many years. "We've had an incredibly good run out of Kuhn-based equipment," David says. "We've had a variety of other mower conditioners over the last 15 years but we changed to Kuhn-based gear 10 years ago. Now we wouldn't consider buying anything else."

"I would view the Kuhn mowers as the Rolls Royce of mower conditioners. They are not the cheapest but I firmly believe in a cost-of-operating basis over their life, and they're the best for our business."

David did have some trepidation about buying a triple mower conditioner, however. "It was our first triple mower – we've only had doubles before. But we've found it easier to work in the paddock than our front-rear trailing machines," he says. "With everything mounted on the tractor it's very manageable. It is a very well-behaved machine."

With front and rear hydraulic top links and electro-hydraulic ground pressure adjustment, the mower can have the cutting height and suspension adjusted on the move. Individual wing lift allows the mower to operate efficiently and neatly in odd-shaped fields."

The 883 triple mower is fitted with a nylon V-tine conditioner, which is a significant change from David's exclusive history with steel-flailed machines. "We were concerned this would be a step backwards but it's been a significant step forward," he says.

"It's easier to drive and we're using no more horsepower to drive the triple at nine metres than we are to drive our steel-flailed double at six metres. And the nylon tynes aren't wearing and failing like the steel ones do."

There is also a marked difference in drying time between the nylon and steel machines. "The difference in the drying time is so pronounced that we can't operate the two machines in the same paddock; we'd have some rows dry and some not. While mowing in front of this Claas harvester, we can keep the drying times consistent because we're matched in output, and that is critical to making quality silage."

The Clarks' Kuhn 883 mower conditioner is driven by long-term employee Duncan Humm, who also loves it. David says a huge part of the success in operating the mower is in the sales and service support available from Redline Tractors, as well as the technical support supplied by Chris Bruce at Kuhn New Zealand in Palmerston North, although their involvement has been limited to setup, as David's Kuhn mower has not suffered from any breakdowns in its first season.

"We've owned a lot of mower conditioners and service support in the field is critical to our buying decision and our decision to stay with a brand," he says. "Far more important than overall purchase price is the cost of servicing and maintaining that machine after the point of sale. We didn't buy the cheapest machine in the marketplace, but in the long run we think it's going to be the best decision."

Images:

- 1. [David Clark Kuhn Triple 1.jpg](#)**
- 2. [David Clark Kuhn Triple 2.jpg](#)**

For More Information Contact Your Local Kuhn Dealer or

*Kuhn New Zealand
P O Box 1265
Palmerston North
Telephone: (0800) 585-007
Facsimile: (06) 356-4939*

