

DAIRY FARMERS STIRRED UP OVER KUHN MIXER WAGONS

PALMERSTON NORTH – (20 March 2009) – The performance and sturdiness of Kuhn Euromix mixer wagons make them the ideal machines for dairy farmers looking to improve the long-term performance of their herds.

With their fast and thorough mixing action, Kuhn Euromix wagons can prepare the high energy feeds modern dairy farms require to maintain peak production at the speed needed to stick to busy schedules.

A highly accurate electronic weigh system is standard with all Euromix models. It tells you exactly how much fodder you are feeding to your livestock, and is accurate enough to register the amount of supplement or molasses incorporated into the ration.

One of the main attractions of Kuhn mixer wagons is their robust engineering. A number of farmers have used Euromix machines for six years or more without any mechanical failures.

Waikato dairy farmers Karl Aitchison and Kevin Henderson each use a big 18 cubic metre Kuhn Euromix II 1860 mixer wagon. The Euromix II 1860 features dual horizontal augers and twin discharge doors so the ration can be distributed from both sides of the machine at the same time. Euromix II mixers feature a robust design, easy loading, and user-friendly controls.

Karl Aitchison has been using his Euromix II for six years. He milks a herd of 1050 cows on a 230 hectare property at Patetonga. He has tried various brews over the years but has settled on a mix of brewer's grain, straw, maize silage and palm kernel. He also adds trace minerals and molasses to the mix over the winter months.

"We produce 475,000 kg of milk solids a year from the herd. We use the feed ration as a top up to maintain production so we feed out with the mixer wagon twice a day, 365 days a year," Karl Aitchison says.

"It is a good, robust machine. It is very, very strong. It travels five kilometres everyday between our two feed pads. We have had one puncture and we have gone through two sets of the chains that drive the elevator. Other than that we have never replaced anything.

"We put up to 11 tonnes in a load, and we have never had to worry about the load scales. Our model has a chain elevator system for feeding out. It never stalls no matter how much product it takes."

Karl Aitchison says the Euromix II mixes so quickly his operator has to be careful he doesn't over mix. "You can't dawdle when you're loading it because it just takes a quarter of an hour to mix. By the time you are done loading, the ration is thoroughly mixed. We actually removed the knife blades because we found it mixed too fast."

Kevin Henderson is also very enthusiastic about his Euromix II 1860. His 174 hectare dairy farm at Rukuhia, south of Hamilton, supports a herd milking herd of 525. Kevin Henderson says he initially looked into getting a mixer wagon two years ago because he wanted to feed kiwifruit to his cows.

"I wanted to upgrade from a feed out wagon to a mixer wagon so we could thoroughly mix the kiwifruit with palm kernel and maize silage. The cows love the kiwifruit so much that if it isn't thoroughly chopped and mixed, they will just gorge on it and leave the rest.

"I checked out the market, and the Kuhn Euromix looked to be the most robust. The Euromix owners I spoke to endorsed it, and it has turned out to be a very sturdy machine," Kevin Henderson says.

Another benefit of the Euromix II is that it is easy to use. "Our three staff all learned how to operate it, and they take turns feeding out. We pull it with a 120hp tractor, which has sufficient to operate it though our feed pad is up an incline and when the wagon is fully loaded the tractor certainly knows it is there."

Both Kevin Henderson and Karl Aitchison say they have received excellent backup and support from their local Kuhn dealer. As Karl Aitchison says, if a tyre or a chain goes and you have 1000 cows waiting to be fed you can't be waiting around for parts or service.

Kuhn NZ Operations Manager Martin Elkins says the Euromix II also comes in a 14 cubic metre model. "Euromix II wagons are available as self-propelled and self-loading units powered by a 173hp, six cylinder diesel engine. While the price tag for the self-propelled versions is not small, it is actually less than purchasing, running and maintaining a tractor, feed out wagon, and loader that they would replace," Martin Elkins says.

The full Kuhn Euromix range includes single auger machines with capacities from eight to 13 cubic metres and dual auger machines with capacities from 16 to 27 cubic metres. Euromix I series mixer wagons have vertical augers. The augers feature Kuhn's exclusive design and are equipped with knives that can rapidly chop a round or square bale.

Images:

1. [Aitchisons DSCF0693.jpg](#)
2. [Aitchisons DSCF0695.jpg](#)
3. [Henderson Euromix 1860 004.jpg](#)
4. [Henderson Euromix 1860 011.jpg](#)

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