

Establishing crops in an efficient manner

Kverneland products have been used at J M Harcourt's Church Farm, near Holt, since the 1990's. The farm has about 400 acres down to crops, with 75-80 of these acres being sugar beet; the remainder is cereals, oilseed and beans. An area is also let for a pig unit and several acres of grass.

The first Kverneland plough purchased was a 3 furrow LD85 in the early 1990's.

George Harcourt explains: "Kverneland already had a good reputation in the area and we purchased the LD85 to improve the quality of the ploughing. With a good furrow press this improvement allowed drilling straight onto the ploughed and pressed work. The plough could be adjusted as necessary for slopes, hills and varying soil conditions."

Skip forward in time and Kverneland products are still working on the land.

Getting beet drilled in the ideal window ensures a good start for the crop and is a critical time - things need to go to plan without breakdowns, so the decision was taken to purchase a new beet drill with a neighbour, to share the machine and cost.

The 12 row (electronic) Monopil drill was purchased three seasons ago. The electronics are fully and



George Harcourt, pictured in a barley field drilled by the TS Evo

comprehensively integrated into the machine, allowing control and monitoring of every seed. Initially an older tractor was used with the drill but more recently the drill was matched with a tractor with Isobus.

George adds: "Drill technology has moved on and it is only since we have had the drill that this fact has been realised. Although the basic parts of the drill appear similar, it has been vastly improved mechanically. The drill was 'plugged' into the tractor with Isobus and it worked exactly as it should - although I understand more is possible. Autosteering and drill unit auto shutoff are avenues to explore in the future."

A recent addition to the farm has been a Kverneland TS drill. George continues: "Our aim has been to establish crops at the ideal time in an efficient manner. The TS drill offers tines and plenty of

clearance (stagger), it is simple to calibrate, fill and is easy to pull (4m drill with 125hp) and the clodboards/leveller works well for us."

Ian Marshall is the agricultural Area Sales Manager based at Sculthorpe and is the first point of contact for George. Ian explains: "When you have a minimal window of opportunity for optimal operations, such as beet drilling, you need equipment that will perform well and prove reliable, George has found that in his Kverneland products. Using specialised equipment, that meets your requirements, is key to efficient production."

George adds: "We have been trading with the Eagle Iron Works depot at Sculthorpe ever since I can remember, the convenience of having a dealer close by is a definite benefit to us."

