

TM1060 tyres impress first UK user

A Norfolk farmer and contractor who was the first in the UK to equip one of his tractors with Trelleborg's pioneering TM1060 ProgressiveTraction tyres has found benefits across the board from the new range.

Being a used farm equipment dealer as well as a farmer and contractor, James Murrell sees a wide variety of secondhand tractors sporting a range of different tyre makes pass through his yard at South Burlingham, just east of Norwich close to the Norfolk Broads. At the same time, running two used machines as his own farming and contracting workhorses gives him a good idea of how each stands up to the test of time and hard work, and means he has a vested interest in the best tyre option for tractors focused on the key arable tasks in which he primarily specialises.

"I currently run a pair of Fendts as the main tractors for farm and contract work," explains James, who farms 40ha (100ac) of combinable crops in addition to offering a full range of farm services to others.

"We prefer to use a full conventional ploughing/cultivation establishment system for all crops, including oilseed rape, and a John Deere 8345R was previously our main machine. That's now been superseded by a 300hp 2007 Fendt 930, supported by a 2011 Fendt 724. I'd not had a great deal of experience with Trelleborg tyres until the 930 arrived a while ago. It was fitted with two-thirds worn Trellebogs, and I was considering replacements of another make, but having seen that a lot of new Fendts were being supplied fitted with Trelleborg tyres, I felt that was a good sign.

"Our local Trelleborg Professional Centre, also suggested that I wouldn't want to skimp on tyres if I wanted to get the best out of premium tractors like the Fendts, and convinced me that Trellebogs were a match for anything else available on the market. On that basis I decided to invest in a set of IF 710/70 R42 TM1000 tyres for the rear of the 930, and 600/65 R34 TM800s for the front. We aren't on especially stony ground, so I was keen to go for the best quality tyres, given that stone damage should be a negligible issue."

The new tyres put in an impressive performance in the field with implements including a 3.2m six-leg Farm Force Ultrathill cultivator and a Kverneland LB six-furrow Vari-Width plough opened up to cut 21 inch furrows. This meant that, when coupled with good on-road characteristics and, significantly, a competitive price when compared with other premium makes on the market, James was sufficiently impressed to consider Trelleborg again when the 930 was joined by a newer understudy, the 724. Also in need of a set of new tyres shortly after its arrival as a secondhand machine, enquiries were made about also fitting the 240hp tractor with TM1000s.

With the Fendt 724 relieving the 930 of most topwork and drilling duties, the fully-weighted TM1000-shod 930 now focuses on ploughing and primary tillage.



James Murrell, pictured right with tractor operator and workshop foreman Jonathan Hunt, says that at 1.0 bar all round, the TM1060s are comfortable on the road and work well in the field.





Good experiences with Trelleborg TM1000s on his Fendt 930 led James Murrell to fit the new TM1060 tyres to his Fendt 724

“We talked to our Trelleborg Professional Centre, who suggested there was the possibility for us to be among the first to try the new TM1060s that had been recently introduced,” says James.

With the advantages offered by the flexible carcase construction and double lug design of the new series tyres, he took up the opportunity, and the 724 became one of the first tractors in the country to be fitted with TM1060s, being shod with 710/60 R42 rears and 600/60 R30 fronts. The addition of the new tractor means the 930 is now relieved of drilling duties, with the considerably lighter 724 taking charge of the business’s 4m Maschio power harrow and Kverneland pneumatic drill combination for this season.

“To gain maximum traction from the 930 for primary cultivations, we use 300kg of weights on each rear wheel plus 1,800kg of front end weight, and adjust tyre pressures for the TM1000s according to the load/pressure charts supplied by Trelleborg, but as a rule of thumb run the rears at 1.0 bar and the fronts at 1.5 bar.

“The 724, though, does a lot of road work as well as secondary cultivations and drilling, and we run the TM1060s at 1.0 bar all round, which not only aids the spreading of the load on the land but also helps to maximise driver comfort. With the state of the roads locally, that’s a must, and the TM1060s have proven to make the tractor more comfortable on the road and give it good grip and flotation in the field.”