

## Customer Profile

### Profilab makes light work of big acreage

Making the break away from a traditional farming system is always going to be a tough decision. But for one farming family it was not only cost saving that prompted the move, but a need to cover very large areas with a minimum of labour.

A E Sexton Ltd of South Creake near Fakenham in Norfolk decided to ditch the plough as their primary cultivation tool in favour of a Techmagri Profilab, to cut their workload this autumn. Farming 500ha of their own farm, along with a further 1300ha on contract, father John and sons Ben and Toby cover this entire area with only one other full time and one part time man. The autumn workload is immense with 320ha of Oil Seed Rape and in excess of 300ha each of Winter Wheat and Winter Barley. Spring crops include a further 300ha of Barley, 240ha of Sugar Beet with the remainder contracted out for potatoes and other vegetable crops.

The decision to purchase the Techmagri Profilab was initially made to speed up the establishment of the Oil Seed Rape. Supplied by Techmagri UK, factory fitted with a Stocks Turbo Jet Wizard applicator and used in conjunction with a front mounted set of Kongskilde discs, the 4-metre outfit completed the task in a record 14 days, even with some very unsettled weather conditions. Commenting, Ben Sexton says, "The saving in time and manpower was incredible. Previously I would have had 2 men ploughing and me following up with the combination drill. Instead I was able to complete the job on my own in one pass and even where we had large amounts of freshly harvested chopped straw it coped well. Forward speeds of between 10 and 12 kph are normal and the addition of the Centerline 220 GPS guidance system, also supplied by Techmagri, makes bout matching easy. Working to a maximum depth, in dry conditions, of around 14" we have also been able to incorporate a plough-pan busting operation at the same time. All the rape has established well with only minimal slug problems and you know that those roots are going straight down!"

Moving on to the establishment of autumn cereals, the Profilab has completed all the land preparation up to the end of November, with crops being established in one further pass with a 6m KRM Sola drill. Ben comments that, "once again we have made considerable savings in man power, with the elimination of one of the 2 "ploughing" tractors." Further use of the Profilab for spring sowing is planned, although it is not contemplated to completely sideline the plough for all crops.

"We have also noticed a marked reduction in the cost of wearing parts over ploughing, with special Tungsten Carbide and hard faced weld-on point and shin pieces supplied by Techmagri UK, to reduce wear rates on our very abrasive soils", adds Ben. To sum up he says that the Profilab has lived up to all their expectations and that it's "one hell of a strong bit of kit!"

*(Article published in the Farmers Guide January 2009 issue)*



320ha of Oil Seed Rape were established by Ben Sexton (above) of A E Sexton Ltd in just 14 days