

Reliability meets performance in low running cost McHale baling

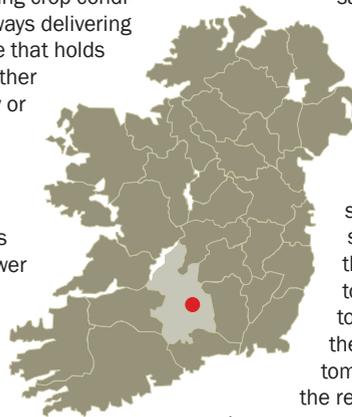
For Tipperary contractor George Hayden from Crohane, Killenaule, Co Tipperary, reliability, performance and low running cost are key features of his McHale bale silage system. George operates two McHale round balers and a wrapper from the McHale range, to provide a bale silage and hay baling contractor service in the south Tipperary region.

He has operated other machines over the years and has found that the McHale machines, designed for Irish conditions, are easier to operate, giving flexibility in the field across a full baling season.

The balers in his fleet include a fixed-chamber McHale F550 which has completed four seasons and a McHale F5600 with two seasons of work through its robust bale chamber. The machines have baled close to 20,000 bales per season, coping with varying crop conditions and always delivering a quality bale that holds its shape whether in silage, hay or straw.

The F550 has baled more than 60,000 bales while the newer F5600 has produced more than 22,000 bales in two seasons.

"We pick up large 24ft swaths of grass on our own home farm with the balers and they are able for the volume though the pick-up and chopper mechanism," said George. "We take out some of the chopper knives for this level of throughput, and with half of the knives,



we are producing a quality bale that's easy to feed in our twin tub Hispec diet feeder," he added.

"We have found that the new F5600 baler, with its load sensing system, offers the scope to increase in-field output. The machine has the same baling dimensions as the F550 with a more modern design for easier use," said George.

"The automatic functions on the McHale F5600 have allowed us to ramp up our output to 65 bales per hour. In one job last year, we used both balers side by side and we baled up 100 acres of hay between 2pm and 9pm on what was a great baling day," he added.

"The load sensing system makes operating the machine so simple for the operator. The in-cab monitor gives the operator a clear view of how the machine is working on a cycle by cycle basis,"

said George. The operator can see the entire bale forming process, the net wrapping and the discharge from the tractor seat. "The driver simply operates the tractor clutch to allow the bale to be discharged; the machine's automatic system does the rest. So it's a real pleasure to operate and you can work a long day with ease," he added.

George operates the McHale F5600 baler behind a Lamborghini R6.165.7 tractor that's rated at over 160hp. "We power the baler with this bigger tractor because it's effortless. Even in heavy grass crops, with this level of power we can operate



George Hayden, who runs a fleet of two McHale round balers and a high-speed wrapper to provide an efficient bale silage contractor business from Crohane, Killenaule, Co Tipperary.

the tractor engine at between 1,600 and 1,700 rpm, so that also gives good in-field economy and that with the standard, rather than economy PTO speed," said George.

20 litres/ hour

"Typically, we will burn about 20 litres per hour when baling with this outfit as the tractor is never under full load, even with a full swath of grass. This gives a fuel usage level of less than 0.3 litres per bale, which is very cost-effective baling," according to George.

"We rotate the blades/knives so that we are usually using half of them. We will sharpen the knives most days and change them once a week. The daily sharpening is easy – just

drop the floor to give good access," he said.

"We find that the knives are every bit as durable as the baler, so a light sharpening is all that they need. And McHale Engineering has kept the cost of replacement knives at a very affordable level through local McHale dealers M&S Machinery of Cashel," said George. This helps further reduce annual running costs.

The reliability factor

The reliability factor of the McHale machines has been a huge benefit for George Hayden. With two seasons of baling complete, he has had minimal service costs with the McHale F5600 baler. "The original F550 baler proved so

reliable as we have only spent €1,500 on the machine with four seasons of work completed," he said.

"We replaced the main rotor chain and one bearing on the machine that has completed more than 60,000 bales and that has impressed me," he said. "We have just changed the net wrap knife after 40,000 bales, so all in all, the F550 has proved to be reliable with low running costs, while achieving a high level of baling output," said George.

Overall, the F5600 and the older F550 have a very low maintenance requirement, and George claims that this saves on downtime in the morning, allowing for a full day's work for him and his team. The baler is

fully automatic, making it very operator friendly.

Wrapper simplicity

George Hayden's McHale 991 high-speed wrapper completes the baling fleet with simplicity of operation and low running costs high on its value rating.

"We've had this current wrapper for two seasons and we like the fact that it's easy to operate. I can have different operators on the McHale 991 wrapper and know that it will not miss a bale," said George.

"Reliability has been important too. Maintenance is easy and other than adjusting the table belt for natural wear, this machine has effectively cost us nothing more than its buying price," he added.

Top specification in McHale F5600 round baler

The McHale F5600 fully automatic round baler is the highest-specification round baler in the McHale F5000 round baler range. It is fitted with a servo-operated load-sensing control valve and an Expert Plus control console, which makes the round baling process fully automatic.

Once the round bale is formed, net is automatically applied. The tailgate then opens automatically, releasing the high-density round bale. The tailgate on the F5600 baler then closes and presurises.

On the McHale F5600 fully automatic round baler, the left hand side of the gearbox drives rollers in the bale



chamber, while the pick-up and chopper unit are driven from the right hand side of the machine. This system ensures direct short transfer paths and optimal power distribution.

The F5600 fully automatic round baler comes standard with all the high-specification features of the F5500 round baler. This baler also benefits from:

- ➔ An Expert Plus control console with a large graphic display.
- ➔ An optional high-capacity 25-knife rotor.
- ➔ Automatic tailgate operation.
- ➔ Drop floor unblocking cycle.
- ➔ Bale kicker sensor.
- ➔ In-cab net adjustment.
- ➔ In-cab bale density adjustment.

McHale 991 High Speed wrapper

For the 2010 season, McHale the bale wrapper specialists have introduced a new model,

The McHale 991 High Speed bale wrapper can deliver 50% more output than previous machines. The McHale 991 High Speed bale wrapper sets the pace for efficient and effective round bale wrapping. The 991 High Speed bale wrapper features practical design, quality components and precision engineering making the McHale bale wrapping range the first choice for contractors and farmers.

McHale Engineering has tested the 991 High Speed against the 991BE (a machine which is recognised in the market place as having an output



All silage bales are wrapped using a McHale 991 High Speed wrapper that's easy to use and ultra-reliable in all conditions.

of 60 bales per hour). For the test McHale made sure that oil flow and table rotations were the same. They found that the McHale 991 High Speed could

wrap 3 bales while the 991BE could wrap two, which equates to 50% more output compared with a similar single dispenser bale wrapper.