

McHale Fusion 3 Pro baler wrapper:

# The middle man

For this season, McHale introduced the Fusion 3 Pro, sandwiched between the Standard and Plus variants. It hosts a number of automated features for those wanting to increase operator comfort over the entry level version. We travelled to the firm's headquarters in Mayo to see what else has changed



The Fusion 3 Pro has an optional bale weighing system utilising the wrapper table. This and other information such as bale moisture and job count can be printed off for each customer.

**A**lthough the Fusion 3 has been wearing the same clothes since it was introduced in 2012, each season has seen subtle tweaks under the curvy panels. For 2020, the Pro variant has joined the range, which in short is a Plus model without the film-on-film binding system. Aimed at the user who wants more automated features than the standard model can offer, here is a run down on what you get with a Pro.

Starting at the front, like the other two models, the Pro has the option of a 1,000rpm gearbox. This has a longer input shaft for the gearbox which helps reduce the length of Walterschied P400 pto. The main benefits of the 1,000rpm box is that it allows a slight fuel saving (particularly if 1,000E is selected) as the baler can comfortably operate with 900rpm, so less engine revs. Compare this with the 540rpm gearbox where operators tend to run the pto at 580-600rpm. The thousand speed also allows the rotor to better handle smaller lumps and if it is a bigger wad the engine can pull back to utilise the tractor's increased torque allowing a lump to be better ingested by the baler.

## KEY POINTS

- ▶ The Fusion 3 Pro slots between the standard and Plus versions
- ▶ We previously tested the Fusion 3 Plus in the 7/2015 issue.
- ▶ The Pro benefits from the Itouch display which brings in cab net and density adjustment, camera, drop floor blockage reset, auto knife drop feature, additive applicator control.
- ▶ There are two pick-up options, both have the Adaptive Intake.

On the hose support arm there is an oil pressure dump valve for easier attachment. The return line is 3/4 inch for better flow.

Moving down to the crop intake, the Pro gets a six bar camless pick-up option complete with larger diameter, shorter tines. The tines also disappear down into the bands quicker, which reduces the risk of crop getting pulled into the inner workings. To ease maintenance

## DATA SHEET

### McHale Fusion 3 Pro

|                              |  |
|------------------------------|--|
| Length/width/height          | 5.80/2.76/3.02m  |
| Operating weight             | 5,550kg  |
| Drawbar load                 | 1.00t  |
| Ground clearance             | 40cm   |
| Pickup width <sup>1)</sup>   | 2.10m  |
| Pickup tyres                 | 16 x 6.50-8  |
| Number of tine rows          | Six on camless   |
| Tine spacing                 | 65mm   |
| Tine thickness/length        | 6mm/128mm  |
| Rotor width                  | 1.12m  |
| Rotor diameter <sup>2)</sup> | 540 mm   |
| No. of knives                | 25 (0, 12, 13, 25)                                       |
| Knife spacing                | 46mm   |
| No. rollers                  | 18   |
| Bale width                   | 1.23m  |
| Bale diameter                | 1.25m  |
| Maximum width net            | 1.25m  |
| Wrap and net storage         | 10 + 2   |
| Net supply                   | 1 + 1  |
| Tyre size                    | 560/60 R22.5 standard,<br>650/50 R22.5 on tested machine |
| Base price                   | £85,000  |
| Test spec price              | £93,000  |

<sup>1)</sup> Tine-to-tine distance;  
<sup>2)</sup> manufacturer information



To enhance crop flow this nylon plate has been added, it tightens the gap between the rotor and intake. The plate can also move down slightly as a first line of defence to dealing with lumps or larger rows.



The Itouch display automatically flicks from the main information screen to a camera feed showing the bale transfer and drop off. ISOBus is an option on the Pro and Plus.



The wrap storage bars now have quick release catches.



This cradle makes it easier to load rolls of net onto the platform.

the grease nipple and chain tensioner can be accessed without removing the end guard. The camless pick-up has a double crop press roller as standard.

The intake area directly behind the pick-up gains a nylon plate, the smoother surface improving crop flow and bringing forage closer to the now larger diameter rotor and auger. The gap now measures 37mm versus 84mm with the metal floor. The panel under the nylon plate also has rubber dampers that permit some movement, McHale calls this 'Adaptive Intake' as it can create more room in a large row or if a lump is encountered. If this is not enough for a lump then the drop floor comes into play. The drop floor also benefits from an assisted unlock feature releasing the density pressure and then automatically resetting the floor.

Knife selection is done via the 7in touchscreen, Itouch terminal - ISOBus is an option on the Fusion 3 Pro and Plus. Max count is 25 but



The bands narrow underneath, allowing any broken tines to fall out rather than remaining rattling around and taking out its neighbours.

most operators will choose to engage 12 or 13. The baler has the ability to retract all of the blades for the final part of the bale formation, resulting in a more robust bale suitable for handling and reducing the power requirement.

In the chamber, all of the long-shaft rollers are now 55mm. The bale density can be set from one to 10 on the terminal. The amount of net applied is also set from the display along with the frequency of the auto-lube system. To take the heavy lifting out of net loading, McHale has added an easy lift chute to the side of the



A storage bin has been added under the greaser for new and old cartridges.

platform. Just stand the net in and the mechanism reduces the manual effort.

With regards the wrapping unit, the two 750mm dispensers are now spinning faster. Whereas the early Fusions worked at a rate of 30rpm, machines for 2020 can rotate at 38rpm. Once the film is on, the wrapper can rotate the bale to help remove air and better bind the wrap before placing the bale on the ground. The number of rotations is set on the control box as are tip speed adjustment, and single film wrapping mode can be easily selected. The batteries for the film transmitters are now replaceable.

**Optional bale weighing and moisture measurement** is done through the Itouch screen. The pad for the moisture sensor is located in the side of the bale chamber while the weighing is done via the wrapping table. The weighing system utilises the hydraulic rams used to lower the rear roller, these dip slightly as it measures the bale and then completes the unload. This does introduce a minor delay, but for those focused on maximum output the system can be turned off.

**Summary:** The Pro is an interesting proposition for those wanting a bit more automation than the standard machine without having to stretch to the premium of the film-on-film capable Fusion Plus. While not all of the above features are new for this season, they show McHale is not resting on its laurels. It will be interesting to see how the future Fusion develops, will we see a tandem axle version, increased knife count ...

Mervyn Bailey



The moisture sensor is positioned in the side of the bale chamber.