



## **PRESS RELEASE**

### **BOOM CONTROL IMPROVES SPRAYER CAPACITY AND ACCURACY – Aug 08**

Applying 1500 litres per hectare of liquid fertiliser from 36m booms is a high output operation and one that requires increasing accuracy both in terms of efficacy in application as well as being environmentally sure. But with the addition of a new, trailed sprayer and automatic boom section shut-off (headland management system), one fenland grower reckons he has the solution to maintain, and manage, spray volume demands on his farm.

"We wanted a high output machine to work alongside our two self-propelled units, but particularly one that could handle high levels of liquid fertiliser," says Bill Legge of A L Legge and Son, Southery, on the Cambridgeshire/Norfolk border.

"We went for a Chafer Sentry with 36m booms knowing it was suited to liquid fertiliser use," says Mr Legge. "But, we also went for the company's headland management system. As booms get wider it naturally gets more difficult for the operator to shut them off with the same accuracy when they might be looking at a target 18 metres away."

Mr Legge says the system is particularly advantageous when it comes to field headlands with angled field margins. "We have been using foam or 'blob' markers with the self-propelled units to show the operator the line he has sprayed but you only need a breeze to dislodge them which makes things difficult.



# Chafer Machinery

"Sprayers can travel faster over the ground these days with a huge expanse of boom and the operator has to take into consideration so many other things, such as being aware of nearby water courses, for example."

Mr Legge comments that the auto shut-off is simply operated by first travelling around the outer tramlines of a field. The system is then switched to 'auto' and from that point on the banks of nozzles on the booms will turn on, and off, as required preventing any over-spray or missed area.

This is the first season auto shut-off has been in use with the 2000ha fenland business, which includes six contract farms. In the first month of use, liquid nitrogen has been applied to 400ha of wheat as a top dressing and compound fertilisers to 400ha on ploughed land prior to planting potatoes as well as 250ha of sugar beet.

"Savings are certainly being made on all our liquid fertiliser and herbicide applications through greater efficiency," says Mr Legge. "It's not so much that we go quicker with the sprayer, but auto shut-off allows us to travel as fast as the machine is capable while still spraying accurately."

