



PRESS RELEASE

AUTO SHUT OFF SPRAY SYSTEMS BOOST OVERALL PERFORMANCE – Dec 07

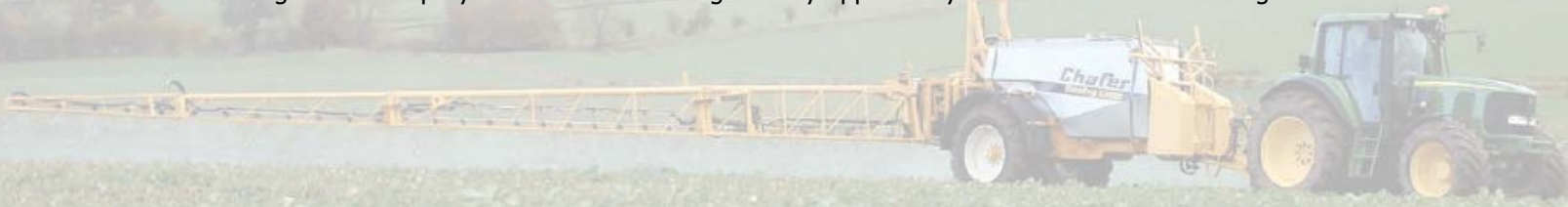
Auto boom section shut-off spray systems improve application accuracy; reduce driver fatigue and boost output on both liquid fertiliser and agrochemical applications.

Lincolnshire arable farmer Daniel King of Pasture Hill Farm, Bourne believes that the auto shut-off system called Swath Manager that is fitted to his new 24m Chafer Guardian trailed agrochemical and liquid fertiliser sprayer has saved him at least £3000 in product cost, effectively paying for itself in its first year.

In March this year Mr King replaced his eight year old Chafer 24m 3000l E Series with a new 24m 4000l Chafer Guardian and has already sprayed over 1700 hectares with it. It is fitted with the TeeJet 844 Rate Control System, which is compatible with Swath Manager and the GPS guidance system called Centreline.

"Increasing tank size was a major reason for changing the sprayer," he says. "Greater output was also wanted in order to apply liquid fertiliser on wheat at a rate of 288l/ha in two splits giving a total of 225kgN/ha," he says. "I am able to cover 14ha per fill up so I am getting much more work done.

"A key point though is that we can also achieve higher output on the agchem side. This means we are able to select the right time to spray rather than have to go at any opportunity even if it's not ideal timing."



Chafer Machinery

Mr King says it is difficult to quantify the product benefit and savings from moving to a bigger sprayer with auto shut-off, but he knows that on the liquid fertiliser side he still has 6t in the tank more than last year having applied it to the same amount of land. With fertiliser currently costing about £140/t this is a saving of £840/annum.

“With large booms there is obviously the potential for more overlap so having an automatic shut off system is a major advantage because the same part of the crop is not treated twice,” he says. “Clearly with the price of fertiliser being so high this can save a lot of money and there is also a reduced chance of over dosing or underdosing on the agchem application side.”

Estimated combined agchem and liquid fertiliser savings this year amount to £2000 over 1450 acres across both his and a neighbour’s land, with an additional £1000 saved on the 500 acres currently being contract farmed.

“The system has paid for itself already,” he says. “We usually have a problem with our wheat lodging somewhere on the farm, especially on the headlands and this is where we have got most of our savings from. Now rather than overlapping by upto 3m in places we are now down to only 25cm.”

The facility of auto shut off means he can now concentrate on driving and turning on headlands, rather than watching where he is spraying. It also means he does not get so tired or lose concentration. When spraying liquid fertiliser Mr King can travel at 16-20kph and at 12-17kph when spraying agchems.



Chafer Machinery

"Auto shut off is easy to operate and it helps to improve driver performance and accuracy. I have tried to confuse the system to see if there are any flaws but I can't. However, the system can be overridden to manual. It's a bit like a mobile phone, you wonder how you ever managed without it."

