

# AGROЦЕНТР News

12/2020 | The corporate journal of AgroCentre | N<sup>o</sup>47

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## Power to perform

**Penza branch of AgroCentreZakharovo has run a series of demo shows of the JCB Telemaster 320 on Agrarnaya Gruppa farm (Cherkizovo Group) and TNV n.a. Dimitrov farm.**

The robust high-power machine is an indispensable tool for any progressive crop or livestock operation. The JCB Telemaster 320 can handle any load with exceptional precision and ease.

The telescopic loader is equipped with the superb 125-hp JCB EcoMAX engine, an efficient variable displacement

piston pump (maximum flow — 140 l/min) and the unique 6-speed Powershift transmission with a lock-up torque converter in gears 2-6 or 4-6. All this allows producing high torque at low engine speed ensuring unsurpassed fuel efficiency. The heavy-duty centre joint taking both vertical and horizontal

loadings provides increased manoeuvrability.

'We have demonstrated a wide range of capabilities of the machine. One of the tasks was grain loading', says Ali Umarov, Manager of Penza branch of AgroCentreZakharovo. 'The job was just a piece of cake for the powerful telehandler

due to its 5.2-metre lift height, 3,200-kg lift capacity, perfect balance and outstanding manoeuvrability.'

The ergonomic servo joystick controls, intelligent features of the JCB Telemaster 320 and large glass areas providing an unhampered 360° view guarantee comfortable working conditions and allow the operator to feel confident at any site.

*By Aleksandr KUTISHCHEV*

## Direct seeding expert

**Donskikh farming enterprise (Lipetsk oblast) has hosted a demo show of the Horsch Pronto 9NT seed drill held by AgroCentre.**

The Horsch Pronto 9NT is becoming more and more popular in Russia as more and more farmers are switching to direct seeding. The seed drill features the unique TurboDisc seed coulters that ensure perfect ground following and allow sowing at a speed of up to 20 km/h. The wavy cutting discs pre-cut the seed row in a targeted way and remove harvest residue preparing the way for the seed coulters.

'During the field test, the Horsch Pronto 9NT sowed 100 hectares of winter wheat', says Vladimir Polozkov, Manager of Lipetsk branch of AgroCentre. 'Local farmers were impressed with the

sowing depth, rate and the performance of the machine: cereal crops were sowed at 150 kg/ha, at a depth of 3 cm with 125 kg of fertiliser placed simultaneously.

With the two-section 5,000-litre hopper fertiliser can be placed into the row along with the seeds. The seed drill can be optionally equipped with a micro-granular unit, which makes it possible to apply up to three components at the same time (seed, fertiliser and micro-granular compound).

'We are very happy with the field test results', says Anatoliy Donskikh, Manager of Donskikh farming enterprise.

'Our farm is a no-till operation so we have been looking for the right seed drill. We have consulted a number of dealers and considered different options, but the field

test has convinced us that the Horsch Pronto 9NT is just what our enterprise needs.'

*By Viktor BARGOTIN*







# Best value for money

**Rus farming enterprise, Lipetsk oblast, has hosted a pilot testing of Ultraflex Axiobib 2 tyres held by AgroCentre in cooperation with AGCO Corporation and MICHELIN.**

The unique MICHELIN Axiobib 2 tyres providing low pressure during field work were fitted to a mighty Massey Ferguson 8737, one of the most powerful tractors in AGCO lineup, coupled to a Horsch Tiger 4MT cultivator.

‘Progressive farms use premium quality seeds, modern tractors, trailed implements and state-of-the-art technologies’, states Aleksandr Snimshchikov, MICHELIN Agricultural Tyres Expert.

‘However, to achieve maximum profit, farmers have to bear in mind that even such little details as tyre pressure can affect the overall performance. Proper tractor adjustment and optimum tyre pressure ensured by the MICHELIN Ultraflex Axiobib 2 tyres enhance fuel efficiency and increase crop yields.’

During the field trials, AGCO and MICHELIN specialists compared the wheel slippage and fuel consumption

of a Massey Ferguson 8737 tractor fitted with standard tyres and the same tractor with a set of MICHELIN Ultraflex Axiobib 2 on.

With standard Massey Ferguson 8737 tyres, soil compaction exceeded the permissible penetrometer value of 40 cm.

The changeover to MICHELIN Ultraflex Axiobib 2 brought the fuel consumption down by 1.8 l/ha (11.25%). The wheel slippage decreased by half to reach its optimum value (7-11%). Low slippage extends the service life of tyres and transmission, reduces soil compaction, increases operational speed

and, consequently, boosts crop yields.

‘MICHELIN tyres have been available in Russia since 1997’, comments Vitaliy Salnikov, Spare Parts Department Manager, AgroCentreLiski. ‘Field tests are an important part of the product promotion strategy. Trials performed by MICHELIN technicians prove to farmers that proper tyres and optimal tractor adjustment are a prerequisite for exceptional performance. The superior quality of MICHELIN tyres makes them quite expensive, however it does not prevent farmers from choosing them for their machinery fleet. They are sure they get their money’s worth.’

*By Viktor BARGOTIN*







# Meet the upgraded Avatar

**Sowing machinery is represented in the Russian market by hundreds of domestic and foreign brands. However, only a few of them can actually deliver efficient performance in challenging conditions. One of such exceptional machines, an upgraded Horsch Avatar SD, is now in AgroCentre's product portfolio.**

The Horsch Avatar SD was unveiled at Agritechnica 2015. One of the competitive advantages of the new seed drill was the direct seeding function, extremely popular with no-till farmers. The next year, the machine was showcased at Agrosalon 2016 in Moscow, however, due to a number of reasons, it was not launched onto the Russian market at that time. Only in 2020, Horsch has announced the start of sales of the Avatar SD in Russia.

'AgroCentre was one of the first dealers to introduce the Horsch Avatar SD to Russian farmers', says Nikolay Kunitsin, Sales Director, AgroCentreLiski.

'It is an incredibly versatile machine. It can be used on light, heavy, stony or clay soils. Besides, the unit is perfectly suited for no-till.'

AgroCentre's portfolio includes two models of the drill: the 6SD (working width 6 m, total weight 9,300 kg) and the 12SD (working width 12 m, total weight 19,000 kg). The Avatar SD features SingleDisc coulters, which guarantee optimum seed to soil contact for quick and safe emergence. The integrated weight transfer system ensures high coulters pressure of up to 350 kg over the entire working width.

'The seed coulters are designed to eliminate

clogging', continues Nikolay Kunitsin. 'Thus, the machine can easily operate in the fields with a lot of residue or in cover crop fields.'

The depth control wheel and the reinforced frame allow for a uniform placement depth. The press wheel enables optimum firming of the seed at the bottom of the furrow providing good access to the moisture inside the soil. The row spacing at a 6-metre working width is 16.7 cm, the hopper capacity is 5,000 l. At a 12-metre working width, the row spacing is 25 cm and the hopper capacity is 5,800 l.

'AgroCentre has shown us all the advantages of the

Horsch Avatar 12SD', says Anton Malkov, Manager of Eko-Agroferma Mikhailovskaya farming enterprise (Ryazan oblast). 'We practice no-till, so this seed drill is a perfect solution for us. One of the major problems with the no-till technology is that the space between the coulters often gets clogged up with soil and crop residue. With Horsch Avatar 12SD, we can forget about this issue. The machine is efficient and user-friendly, it can operate at a high speed. We are very happy with this robust and powerful unit.'

A few years ago, Horsch upgraded the Avatar SD seed drill. Now the operator can adjust coulters pressure depending on the soil type right from the cabin. Optimum coulters pressure ensures high-quality sowing even in extreme weather and soil conditions.

'This year, we have focused on demo shows', points out Nikolay Kunitsin. 'We have arranged field tests in Ryazan, Lipetsk, Krasnodar, Penza, Tambov and Oryol oblasts. The seed drill performed very well. We have already made the first deals and set quite ambitious sales targets for next season.'



By Viktor BARGOTIN





# Intelligent spraying

**AgroCentre has presented two novelties from Horsch: the Horsch Leeb 5.280VL self-propelled sprayer and the Horsch Leeb 12TD trailed sprayer. The intelligent sprayers for large areas have been showcased at Agrosalon 2020.**

Troitskiye Nivy farming enterprise has already opted for the self-propelled Horsch Leeb 5.280VL, and AgroCentre is preparing to deliver the machine. Troitskiye Nivy is the district leader in grain production. Last year, the enterprise harvested 30,000 tonnes.

'The farm specialises in cereal crops', says Yevgeniy Ankudinov, Manager of Oryol branch of AgroCentreLiski. 'The total farmland area is over 12,000 ha. Currently, Troitskiye Nivy has 14 trailed sprayers in the fleet, but after purchasing a Horsch Leeb 5.280VL, the management intends to reduce the number of trailed implements by half.'

The innovative Horsch Leeb 5.280VL features the ComfortDriveFlex Chassis, an infinitely variable all-wheel drive, an automated drive control system and a traction control system. The powerful 280-hp engine, the 5,000-litre tank and the radial pump with a capacity of 1,000 l/min ensure excellent performance.

'An important advantage of the machine is the automated boom control', explains Yevgeniy Ankudinov. 'The distance to the ground is adjusted automatically depending on the terrain. The minimum distance is 25 cm. The boom control allows reducing the spraying height. If the boom is positioned high above the ground, the drops of the working liquid evaporate before touching the plants. This causes lower yields and unnecessary costs. The Horsch Leeb sprayer minimises these risks.'

The unique parallelogram suspension enables soft and smooth boom positioning even in hilly terrains and at a high operational speed.

'The unique pneumatic suspension absorbs shock loads and vibrations, keeps the boom stable even at a speed of 25 km/h and facilitates spraying on slopes', states Yevgeniy Ankudinov. 'The clearance of up to 1.35 m and exact tracking exclude tramline damage. The front

cabin on the central tube frame offers unhindered view and guarantees an optimum weight distribution regardless of the volume of the liquid in the tank.'

The Horsch Leeb 12TD trailed sprayer also offers automated boom position control ensuring efficient operation.

'The heavy-duty 36-metre boom moves smoothly without damaging plants',

observes Sergey Panfilov, Manager of Oryol branch of AgroCentreLiski. 'The implement is equipped with a 12,000-litre tank and the innovative tandem axle ensuring perfect coupling to a tractor.'

Novoye Vremya farm in Oryol oblast has chosen the Horsch Leeb 12TD. It is the first Horsch machine in its fleet. The enterprise grows rapeseed, wheat and barley on 1,000 ha. The management of the company has no doubts that the Horsch Leeb will deliver consistently efficient and precise performance in the field.

By Darya DENISOVA





# Going south

**Kuban is one of the leading agricultural regions of Russia. Favourable climatic conditions enable local farmers to produce a wide range of crops of the temperate and subtropical climatic zones. When it comes to cereals, sugar beet and sunflower, Krasnodar area is by far ahead of the entire country. Yet, such outstanding performance would be impossible without powerful cutting-edge machinery.**

Over 400,000 people are engaged in the farming sector of Krasnodar area. The overall farm machinery fleet comprises 45,000 units. Around 150 dealers and equipment manufacturers operate in the region. AgroCentre joined the ranks of dealers of Krasnodar area in 2018 opening its 22<sup>nd</sup> and southernmost dealership.

‘Kuban has a saturated farm machinery market’, says Sergey Lushnikov, Director of Krasnodar branch of AgroCentre. ‘The large number of dealers creates fierce competition over orders for machinery of domestic and foreign makes. Therefore, we are working hard towards establishing the reputation and track record of the best dealer in the region.’

AgroCentre supplies local agricultural producers with Massey Ferguson self-propelled machinery (AGCO corporation) and Horsch trailed implements.

The versatile Massey Ferguson 6713 tractor is gaining popularity in the region. Operator-friendly and easy to maintain, the model is suitable for a wide range of applications both on the farm and in the field. The tractor is equipped with the AGCO Power™ 4-Cylinder 4.4 L 130 HP engine. The open-centre hydraulic system is powered by two gear pumps. One of the pumps ensures an oil flow of 34 l/min, the other allows the electronically controlled rear linkage to lift 5,200 kg.

‘The Massey Ferguson tractor lineup includes the 7 Series and the 8 Series

machines’, continues Sergey Lushnikov. ‘Over the previous financial year, our branch sold 30 self-propelled Massey Ferguson units, 19 of which were 6713 tractors.’

The latest addition to AgroCentre’s portfolio is a formidable pest control weapon — the Massey Ferguson 9330 self-propelled sprayer. The machine features AGCO Power’s tried and tested 66CW3 6.6 L engine delivering an impressive 200 hp. High torque at low revs of under 2,000 rpm ensures immaculate performance and low engine noise. The technology offers excellent fuel economy giving the model an edge over the counterparts in its class. The Massey Ferguson 9330 comes with individual section switch-off sensors as standard

equipment. Fitted with a navigational system, the unit saves chemical solution when running on the headland and excludes overlapping.

‘Last year, we purchased a Massey Ferguson 6713 tractor’, says Oleg Kononenko, Director of Kononenko farm. ‘Having studied the market and weighed the pros and cons of the models produced by domestic and foreign manufacturers, we opted for this machine. The Massey Ferguson 6713 outperforms its competitors due to its technical features, efficiency and ease of operation.’

We are happy with our choice and grateful to AgroCentre team for their professional support. We are very lucky to have such a reliable dealer.’

The German manufacturer Horsch is renowned worldwide for its extensive model range, high quality and best value for money. This year, the entire trailed equipment lineup of AgroCentre has become available to Krasnodar farmers. This season’s novelty in Russia is the Horsch Avatar disc seed drill.





AGROCENTRE RECOMMENDS



‘The new Horsch Avatar seed drill offers unprecedented versatility’, says Sergey Lushnikov. ‘It is suitable for virtually any conditions: after mini-till or conventional seedbed preparation. The seed drill delivers excellent results on heavy, loamy and stony soils. Its performance is reliable even in corn and sunflower residue.’

The Horsch Avatar comes in working widths of 6 m (9,300 kg) and 12 m (19,000 kg). The engineers have increased the disc coulter pressure up to 250 kg per

individual row thus ensuring good soil penetration and precise seed placement. The two-row disk system reduces the power requirement from the tractor. The coulter depth is controlled via the upgraded version of the rubber torsion system.

The row distance is 16.7 cm at a 6-metre working width and 25 cm — at 12 metres. The seed hopper capacity of the Horsch Avatar grain drills is 5,000 and 5,800 litres, respectively. The unit is controlled via the standard ISOBUS terminal.

‘Next year, we are planning to expand our equipment range with the tillage implements from Einboeck’, says Sergey Lushnikov. ‘Their portfolio comprises stubble cultivators, tine harrows, seedbed preparation implements and row-crop cultivators. The quality, versatility and adaptability of the equipment to the Russian conditions has already been proved in the fields of our farmers. Besides, we intend to ramp up Massey Ferguson machinery sales and introduce Horsch implements to the domestic market.’

The season has been challenging for Kuban farmers: the lockdown took its toll on the production process while lack of soil moisture resulted in reduced yields. Krasnodar branch of AgroCentre provides a comprehensive support to local farmers. The company offers favourable leasing conditions with convenient payment terms, which will enable agricultural producers to cut their costs and create a solid foundation for future success.’

By Viktor BARGOTIN





# All-round benefits

**Approaching soil as a living organism is one of the basic principles of Horsch's philosophy. Thus, the company designs machines that save farmers' time, conserve soil and help maximise yields.**

The Horsch Tiger MT cultivator with the 2,800-litre FertiProf unit — a newcomer in the Russian market — arrived at Khabibullin's farm (Penza oblast) for a demo show. The machine with the heavy DiscSystem and TerraGrip tines performed in the field test brilliantly and, ultimately, found its home on the farm.

'This year, the Horsch Tiger 4 MT with the mounted FertiProf unit has debuted in the Russian fields', says Ali Umarov, Manager of AgroCentreZakharovo Penza branch. 'It has immediately proved to be a top-of-the-range solution for soil cultivation. The Tiger 4 MT with a 4-metre working width suits any soil types in any climatic conditions. The unit is perfect for cultivating after maize, sunflower, rapeseed, soybeans and cereals.'

The 2-row DiscSystem with a disc diameter of 68 cm working 20 cm deep breaks up heavy or derelict soils and

ensures reliable cutting and incorporation of long-fibre harvest residue while the 2 rows of TerraGrip tines with MulchMix points loosen soil up to 35 cm deep.

'We have offered Khabibullin's farm, our long-standing partner, a unique combination of a Horsch Tiger 4 MT and a new FertiProf fertiliser attachment with a hopper capacity of 2,800 for efficient application', continues Ali Umarov. 'Targeted fertiliser placement during tillage is getting increasingly popular as two operations can be done in one pass.'

The owner of the farm, Rashid Khabibullin, has a PhD degree in Engineering and knows the ropes when it comes to the characteristics and capabilities that make farm machines highly efficient.

'All round, the Horsch Tiger 4MT is full of benefits', states Rashid Khabibullin. 'It was in Horsch's fields in Germany that I saw it for the first time.

It grabbed my attention instantly. I had my eye on it until finally it became available in Russia. I was happy to agree when AgroCentre suggested test driving it in my fields. I did some research on the machine and compared it with equivalent models of competitors based on technical parameters before the demo show. Even before the trial, I knew that the cultivator would come to stay.'

During the field test, the unit cultivated cereal, sunflower and soybean stubble at a depth of up to 27 cm and applied diamphosphos at a rate of 300 kg/ha 10 cm and 27 cm deep in one pass.

'Fertiliser placement at a set depth for improved efficiency is a killer function', points out the farm owner. 'Besides, in the hopper system, the air flows through the hydraulic fan so the lines are always dry. Another advantage is the electric metering unit, which allows variable rate

application. The machine features a 4-bar frame with a height of 85 cm for maximum clearance. With the new swivel chassis, the Tiger now can be equipped with a fully-fledged double packer. It is ideal for heavy soils that require a special crushing of the clods. The machine turns on the packer, thus conserving the soil without overloading the frame.'

'After cultivation and fertiliser application with the Horsch Tiger 4MT and a mounted FertiProf unit, our fields are prepared for the spring sowing', says Rashid Khabibullin. 'The machine is now in our fleet and has already worked almost 500 ha of farmland laying a good foundation for the future yield. So, we can enjoy our peace of mind throughout the winter. With such good machinery and such a trustworthy dealer as AgroCentreZakharovo, we can handle anything.'

By Tatyana IGNATENKO





## AGROCENTRE RECOMMENDS



## Zaffrani: soft power

**October is the best time to harvest ripe sunflower heads: the oil content in the kernels reaches the required level and the stalks break easier. To ensure efficient harvesting with minimum losses, farmers need cutting-edge machines. AgroCentreZakharovo is always ready to help agricultural producers make the right choice.**

Farm named after Dimitrov (Penza oblast) and Khabibullin's farming enterprise (Kamenka district, Penza oblast) tested Zaffrani 940N headers designed for row-free sunflower harvesting.

'Both companies are our long-term partners', comments Ali Umarov, Manager of Penza branch of AgroCentreZakharovo. 'They have been using powerful advanced machinery such as Massey Ferguson, Challenger, Horsch, Kverneland and JCB for quite a while. Now is the time for "soft power" – Zaffrani headers designed to meet the highest standards of clean harvesting. The headers cut only flower heads, leaving stalks and leaves in the field. The exclusive stretching shaft system minimises kernel loss and enhances performance.'

The strong point of the Zaffrani 940N header is its 9.4-metre width. Proper combine settings allow for uninterrupted operation at a speed of up to 12 km/h. Thanks to the unique shape

and the layout of the tips, the crop can be harvested in rows of different widths, regardless of the sowing direction. The heavy-duty components and the simplified design reduce wear, maintenance time and costs. The Zaffrani header is extremely light, which makes it exceptionally fuel-efficient! The header saves 2 litres of fuel per hectare thus

increasing the engine life by 30%.

'I watched the header operate in our field - it was spectacular!' relates Rashid Khabibullin, farm owner. 'The machine worked smoothly. We were very happy with the results: Zaffrani enabled us to harvest 0.2 tonnes more per each hectare. The average sunflower yield over the



season exceeded 4 tonnes per hectare. However, growing a good harvest is just the first step; it is important to gather it promptly and without losses. From now on, Zaffrani headers will become indispensable at our enterprise. We have already purchased one and are planning to add some more Zaffrani headers to our fleet in the future.'

The Zaffrani implement is versatile and compatible with virtually any type of harvester.

'At the demo show held on our farm, a Zaffrani header was attached to a powerful rotary combine', says Aleksandr Stepanyuk, Manager of Farm named after Dimitrov. 'The equipment delivered excellent performance: kernel losses went down by half. We are glad that our enterprise became a demonstration site. As it turned out, "soft power" was exactly what we needed! The headers have already become an essential part of our fleet.'

The major task of any farmer is to produce a bumper crop and harvest it quickly and, most importantly, without any losses. Zaffrani is a perfect tool to do it!

By Tatyana IGNATENKO





## Unique and indispensable

**Stebnyuk farm (Voronezh oblast) has wrapped up this harvest season on a high note. Why should they not? They have gathered a good crop, and the fleet upgrade on the farm continues by schedule. In November, two new trailers were delivered to the farm by AgroCentre: an SPC 19 and a GPP 23 by the Lithuanian brand Umega.**

Umega trailed machines manufactured in Lithuania for over 100 years have no equivalent in the world.

'Since 1919, Umega has been making agricultural trailers and semi-trailers, grain transporters, manure spreaders, bale trailers and multifunctional push-off trailers', says Grigoriy Dubrovskiy, Umega Representative for Central Russia. 'Due to quality components from top Italian and German manufacturers, our equipment can get to grips with the most challenging conditions.'

The Umega SPC 19 monocoque tipping trailer with a solid 40-cubic-metre shell type body is designed to handle various agricultural

cargos. The payload of 24 tonnes and the function of side and rear unloading distinguish it from the competitors. Thanks to the tandem suspension with parabolic springs, the speed can reach maximum 50 km/h. The recommended tractor power is from 250 hp. The lower centre of gravity and the wider track provide improved stability of the moving unit.

'The trailer is perfect for any type of farm', confirms Maksim Sidelnikov, AgroCentreLiski Voronezh Branch Manager. 'It ensures quick transportation at minimum cost. The trailer can be optionally equipped with a grain auger, a roll-up cover, a tent and a platform for handling root vegetables,

which makes the unit extremely versatile.'

The unique feature of the Umega GPP 23 grain transporter is the capability of increasing the body volume from 23 cubic metres to 32 cubic metres with flexible extension board system. Thus, a farmer pays for one unit, but gets two instead. Besides, it is the only model in the world with a vertical auger for unloading that can be used on both left and right sides. It takes the transporter only 3 minutes to unload 32 cubic metres of farm commodities. Moreover, the Umega GPP 23 is capable of loading any sowing machine within just a few minutes on its own. No additional equipment is required — consequently,

no additional cost. For any other model, a farmer would need to buy an additional implement first.

'We have never had trailers of any other brand except Umega', shares Aleksandr Stebnyuk, Farm Manager, 'When we realised we needed this type of equipment on the farm, we purchased two Umega units at once as we were aware of all positive reviews on the brand and the products. In their first season next year, we expect them to deliver high performance.'

Umega has been available in the Russian market for over 5 years. Year by year, the company is gaining in popularity with our farmers due to the quality and functionality of its implements. The Lithuanian manufacturer offers a comprehensive lineup of reliable and durable trailed equipment to meet various farm needs.

*By Viktor BARGOTIN*



# Roman Gordeyev: rest after job is done



**It had taken quite a while before we were able to interview Roman Gordeyev. His tight schedule and an unexpected business trip made us postpone our meeting several times. Finally, we managed to ask a few questions on the run.**

**Roman Gordeyev manages a small farming enterprise in Sudino village, Yaroslavl oblast. In the 90s, his father Boris began growing potatoes on 5 hectares as a hobby. Today, the farm possesses 250 hectares.**

**‘Roman, are you always so tied up?’**

‘Agriculture is not fun it’s a challenge. I’m my own boss so I must work hard to keep everything under control. One day, I’m a director hurrying to a business meeting, next day, I’m a machine operator wearing overalls, an agronomist or an accountant scrambling through piles of papers. I’m always on the go’, shares Roman Gordeyev. ‘After graduating from Yaroslavl State Agricultural Academy in 2000, I began helping my father. Now I manage the farm, but the entire family is still engaged in the business. My father provides professional advice and takes care of the farm when I’m away, and my mother assists with the accounting. There is no time

to relax! I take a break only if I’m sure everything runs like clockwork!

**‘How has the pandemic affected your business?’**

‘We faced a labour shortage during the harvesting campaign’, shares Roman Gordeyev. ‘Some people got ill, others moved to the town. We had a hard time finding employees to do the harvesting. Luckily, our fleet of modern machinery supplied by Yaroslavl branch of AgroCentreZakharovo allows us to perform all the work with a minimum number of people. We do not need big units. The compact Massey Ferguson models, a perfect fit for our inter-row distance, are the best option for potato fields. They have improved our overall performance by 30%. These tractors are

indispensable assistants capable of handling numerous tasks: soil preparation, cultivation and harvesting.’

**‘Do you often contact AgroCentre’s Service Department?’**

‘To be honest, we haven’t had any serious breakdowns so far’, replies Roman, ‘We have just had some minor issues to deal with. Some time ago, we consulted AgroCentre about the general settings and sensor adjustments. We got a prompt and professional response. We are also happy with the dealer’s preventive maintenance. AgroCentre is conveniently located six kilometres away from our farm.’



**In 2015, the farmer purchased a Massey Ferguson 470 tractor and two years later, he decided to buy one more unit — a versatile medium-power Massey Ferguson-6713 wheeled tractor.**

Roman Gordeyev and his wife combine the farming business with considerable parental responsibilities: the couple brings up three children: a son and two daughters.

**‘Do you want your children to follow in your footsteps and take over the family business one day?’**

‘I don’t think farming is a suitable occupation for women’, he laughs, ‘and my son is too small to start helping on the farm. I believe my children should make their own career choice. Farming, as all other professions, requires a solid scientific background. If a young farmer asked me for advice, I would suggest obtaining a relevant university degree and approaching agriculture seriously. Farming is not an inexpensive pleasure. One needs to make thorough calculations before starting an agricultural business. I wouldn’t recommend taking bank loans — you might end up losing your last shirt!’

*The annual average yield at Gordeyev farming operation amounts to 45 tonnes per hectare. The farmer grows the potato varieties Red Scarlet and Gala — they are extremely popular in Russia. Roman Gordeyev says that he always enjoys a pan of fried potatoes with pickled cucumbers — simple but universally loved food!*

*By Darya DENISOVA*



# Off-season maintenance

Preventive maintenance plays a pivotal role when it comes to protecting machinery and optimising investments. Farmers invest in their fleet to achieve more at lower cost. That is why it is so important to ensure uninterrupted operation of farm machines during the season.

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Publisher: AgroCentre Group of Companies

**Editor-in-Chief:** Ms. Svetlana Ivanovna Weber  
**Address of the editorial office:**  
 79A Radishchev Street, 305004, Kursk,  
 tel. +7 (4712) 39-26-60  
[news@agrocentr.ru](mailto:news@agrocentr.ru)

Signed for printing on 18.12.2020  
 Distributed free of charge  
 Translated by the International Projects Department  
 of EkoNiva-APK Holding, LLC  
 Printed by VIP Publishing House LLC, 5, 1st Mokovsky  
 lane, Kursk, 305007. The circulation of the issue: 90 copies.  
 Order № \_\_\_\_\_