

“I reckon my Strautmann Vertimix 1050 paid for itself in Year One”

Robert Logan milks 100 cows on the 165 acre Valley View grassland farm at Rasharkin near Ballymena in Co. Antrim.

Three cuts of silage are taken each year from 75 acres - supplemented by unchopped round bale silage made from small parcels of grazing grass which have got ahead of the stock. The silage forms the main diet for his 100 cows and 60-80 followers.

For a number of years, Robert Logan used a contractor with a self-propelled forage harvester for silage production - feeding grab loads to the cattle in a feeding passages. He subsequently invested in a Strautmann 1050 Vertimix.

He recently bought a Strautmann Super Vitesse 2 forage loader wagon in time for 2005 second and third cuts.



Ballymena dairy farmer Robert Logan

The silage forms the main diet for his 100 cows and 60-80 followers.

“I wanted to increase the yield per cow and decided to invest in a diet feeder.

After looking at several machines, I chose a Strautmann 1050 Vertimix.

By the end of the first year, the rations it produced provided a yield rise of between 1500 and 2000 litres per cow.”

“That’s an extra net margin of £180 per cow after concentrates.”



The Moba MC2150 weigher provides 20 different formulas - stored and called up on demand. The Moba RC 2000 radio modem provides data exchange from the loader driver direct to the weigher.

Robert Logan’s feed supplier analyses his silage cuts and produces a blend of concentrates to complement each cut. The cattle are fed once per day after milking. Here’s how he rates the mixing performance of the 1050:

“The weighed batch of meal goes in first straight from the bin. Then out to the silo where the Matbro loader is used for weighed in grab loads of silage. The weigher is easy to read from the cab and swivels around.”

“The Vertimix enables me to blend my silages so I can control the dry matter.”



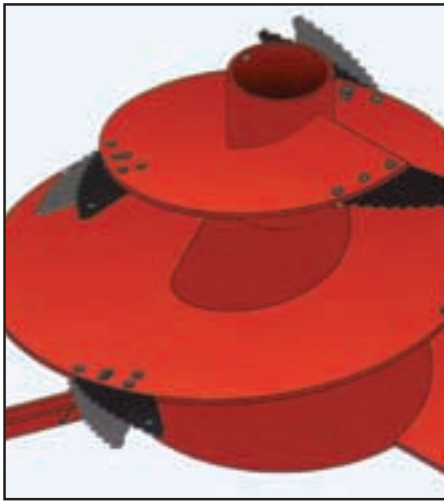
If first cut was wetter than I’d like it, drier silage from second or third cut can also be used to increase the dry matter.

Mixing is fast - the ration in the tub is completely mixed by the time I’ve got back with the next grab load.

You don’t need to keep it running long or the fodder gets too short.”

How does the 1050 Vertimix handle the longer chop loader wagon silage and the unchopped silage bales? *Story continues overleaf...*





Strautmann's Vario mixing auger has long, swept back adjustable knives which reduce power consumption by up to 25% compared with other makes.

"The blades on the auger chop-down any long stems from the wagon silage - and the meal is soon well-blended. The cows eat the entire ration with no picking and no waste. I feed batches of cattle different rations - the young stock are usually fed the round bale silage. I don't have the bales chopped as they are easier loaded into the tub without falling apart. The 1050 easily takes three bales of silage and a bale of straw - there's no need to engage the retractable shear bars to speed up chopping - they're only used for dry single bales. I reckon the tub would hold as many as 5 to 6 damp silage bales."

Robert Logan has a side outlet with a short delivery conveyor. How does he rate the feeding performance of the 1050?

"I chose the standard feed outlet on the side to keep the overall width down to suit my buildings. The feed may not be as even as a paddle mixer, but you soon get used to the technique for placing a fairly even row of feed before the cattle."

The benefits of chopping and blending-in meal with long material in the tub far outweigh more even placement."



Adjustable counterknives help chop bales. The knives can be hydraulically activated. 750-1450 models have front or rear conveyor with PVC belt/slats. Optionally, these can be replaced by one or two side doors with conveyor.

"Another thing I like is the ability to start-up with a full load in the tub. I can mix a ration last thing at night and feed it next morning."

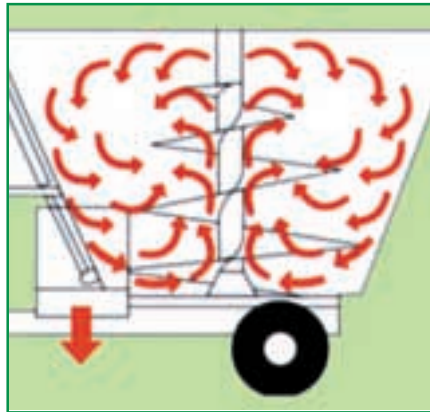
Even after settlement, the mixer handles the re-start with no difficulty - for peace of mind, I select the lower RPM but soon shift up to higher speed.

The machine improves palatability by chopping and mixing the ration well- there is consequently very little waste.

"They eat more - converting the feed into [Extra Milk](#)."

Strautmann claim the Vertimix to be a reliable, low maintenance machine.

How has Robert Logan found it lasted after four years use?



The Vertimix mixing action quickly chops and blends all the ration content.

"I like the 1050 Vertimix. It's never given me any problems - it mixes well and handles bales well."

"I was a bit dubious when I bought it but I wouldn't be without it now."

"My machinery dealer Riddell Bros are a decent firm - 100% and look after me very well - but I've never had them out to the machine and..."

....I've yet to buy a part for her."



An additional clearing device at the lower part of the mixing auger guarantees a fast and constant discharge of the fodder mixture

"The paintwork is good - all the paint is still on it. There is very little maintenance work needed - just a weekly greasing of the PTO shaft, the gearbox reservoir, and the four nipples on the side conveyor."

"It's a really low maintenance machine."



The auger is driven by an extremely robust planetary reduction gearbox set at 26 RPM standard speed on the 1050. An optional secondary gearbox provides a 30% lower start-up speed - intended for lower powered tractors.

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