

MICHELIN TRAILXBIB TYRES PROVE PERFECT FIT FOR FELTWELL GROWERS



FELTWELL GROWERS

Feltwell Growers in Norfolk is part of the G's Group, an international farming business established in 1952 and one of the largest family-owned fresh produce suppliers in the UK.

MICHELIN'S APPROACH

Feltwell Growers had plans to move its entire fleet of trailers onto tracks, as it looked for the best ways to reduce soil damage at its 5,000-hectare base in the wet Norfolk Fenland.

But after a demonstration arranged by Larrington Trailers, the farm decided to order four new trailers from the Lincolnshire company, specified with MICHELIN TrailXBib VF 560/60 R22.5 tyres and an AgriBrink central tyre inflation system (CTIS).

Supplied and fitted by Michelin Exelagri dealer Bush Tyres, the TrailXBib fitments benefit from Michelin's Ultraflex Technology that allows for greater flexibility – meaning they can work with a larger footprint, reducing the impact on the soil.

Scott Watson, Manager of the Radish Division at Feltwell Growers, says: "We are effectively farming below sea level here and the ground gets very wet, so it's hard for these big heavy trailers to navigate. When fully loaded with vegetables they can weigh up to 19 tonnes.

"We assumed the only thing that would really alleviate soil damage would be to move them onto tracks. But Richard Larrington explained sticking with tyres would save us adding a huge amount of additional weight to the trailers, not to mention a significant sum of money. We agreed to look at the set-up with the CTIS and low-pressure tyres and were blown away with the results."



RESULTS

The test saw two 180hp tractors, pulling 10 tonnes of stone payload in two identical Larrington tandem axle trailers across a wet pool in the field. One trailer was fitted with standard trailer tyres at 4 bar of pressure, while the other trailer was fitted with MICHELIN TrailXBib fitments of the same size running at 1 bar.

The trailer with the standard tyres got stuck and had to be pulled out by two more tractors, while the trailer fitted with the MICHELIN TrailXBib VF fitments sailed through with minimum damage to the field.

"We pretty much made up our minds there and then," says Watson. "We now have two of the trailers with that exact set-up up running in the fields with two more to follow shortly – it's working very well."

He adds: "The CTIS allows us to go from 7 bar for operating on firmer ground down to 1 bar for when we're out on the soggy fields inside a minute and a half. It's a great, sustainable solution for us. We've been really impressed, so much so that other divisions within the group are now looking to run their own trials with the set-up."

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Scott Watson

Manager of the Radish Division at Feltwell Growers



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