

Mowing success

When Shane and Marie Donovan of Taihape needed to replace their combination mowers, the pre-requisite for the replacements was that they could deal with ground that could be steep and rough. After much research, they decided to go with Pottinger, which turned out to be a smart decision.

The 301 Alpha Motion front and Novacat 302 rear mower conditioners excel in such environments, with the Alpha Motion offering 600mm of vertical travel and 16 degrees of lateral oscillation. This combines with superior headstock geometry to bring the weight closer to the tractor for safe operation on the steeper areas.

At the rear, the centre pivot 302 unit supports its cutter-bar evenly over the entire

cutting width, while benefitting from a 45-degree range of movement, which helps to achieve a clean finish on rough ground.

Interestingly, typical forward speeds have increased by up to 4km/hr, fuel consumption has decreased, and higher daily work rates are being achieved, without any compromise on quality of work.

David Donnelly, managing director for distributor Origin Agroup explains that this is down to the slim profile of the cutter bar, combined with the low profile discs, meaning a low drag resistance and smooth crop flow into the conditioner unit. As an added benefit, the cutter-bar layout sees three drive teeth in constant mesh, which offers high strength, long service and low noise characteristics. This all adds up to extra peace of mind and better conditions for the operator. During the

evaluation process, careful consideration was given to the choice of conditioner unit fitted to the mowers—given the need to deal with high volumes of lucerne requiring gentle handling to avoid leaf loss, as well as the need to deal with the hard river stones prevalent in the area.

The Extra Dry tine conditioner chosen is fitted with rubber mounted, V-shaped steel tines, which allows them to flex if an obstacle is encountered, yet are rigid enough to provide an even, positive flow of crop against the adjustable conditioning plate to achieve the desired result.

Shane and Maree sum up the switch to Pottinger with the following comment, "Increased productivity, reduced running costs and customers actively telling us this is the best mowing job they've ever had. It's a win-win." ■

“Increased productivity and reduced running costs; it's a win-win”

Shane Donovan, Peter Detmar (TRC Tractors), Johannes Altmann (Pottinger), Kyle Britton (Origin Agroup), Jason Fletcher (Donovan Contracting)

