

# JC JOINT VENTURE

*A recent trip to Holland highlighted progress for Cheshire based JC machinery, with Dutch machinery manufacturers Imants and Vredo. Malcolm Benjamin reports*



In the South of the country right on the Belgian border the Imants company has a pedigree going back 127 years. Little known in the UK until recently the company has built a reputation with farmers across the rest of Europe and the United States for its range of spading machines which were first introduced in the early 1970's. To date, UK sales have been primarily to contractors and farmers involved in beet, potatoes and vegetables. An example of the success is the ability to bury straw whilst cultivating after a carrot crop.

Opportunity may be just round the corner for increased sales in the UK after the appalling weather conditions this autumn. A spading machine produces a seed bed in a single pass and with the addition of a mounted seed drill it could be an alternative to more traditional methods. Effectively the spader assists forward motion through its rotation as opposed to creating drag through draft, enabling operation in wetter conditions and reducing wheel slip.

Having won an award for Good Industrial Design, 2013 will see the introduction of the new 48SX series rotary spader. The company claims of

10% more capacity, 10% lighter in weight and 40% stronger through development are quite impressive. The re-design has also changed the appearance as the drive is now through a central gearbox from the pto to a secondary side gearbox driving the main digging rotor as opposed to the previous chain drive. This move inevitably reduces maintenance whilst increasing the strength and durability.

The 485X300 has six banks of arms with the number of spades increased from four to six increasing efficiency with an option of spade shape for light or heavy soils. The spading unit is followed by a spiral rotor leaving a fine tilth or alternatively a power harrow unit can be fitted.

The new 48SX models have a working width of 3m or 3.6m, working depth is 15-35cm, with a forward speed of 7kph, workrate is quoted at up to 2ha per hour with a typical day at around 14.5ha (36 acres).

Tractor horsepower for the 3m model is from 140hp and for the 3.6m 180hp, both with a maximum of 250hp. Prices are yet to be announced but I think with contractors in mind it will be a worthwhile exercise to do a costing to establish the commercial viability for crop

establishment in cereals, as well as the proven use in rootcrop and vegetables.

## VREDO

Moving North to Dodewaard to the Vredo factory where 35 years ago the Vree family (hence Vredo) then agricultural contractors were hit by an exceptionally dry summer. As a result of this the Vredo over seeder was developed using a double disc opener to regenerate the grassland quickly. In 1987 the Vredo double disc system was further developed for use in slurry injection.

For 2013 JC Machinery are pleased to announce their continued involvement with Vredo and will now be distributing the range of slurry injection equipment alongside the over seeders.

## Now available

The current range of slurry injection equipment consists of the Farmer series (ZBF) and the new ZB3 Contractor series. The farmer series offers working widths from 5.2m to 7.2m whilst the contractor models are from 8m to 12m. Suitable for mounting on a tanker or umbilical operation both series utilize the Vredo double-disc-system, the ZB3 has a standard disc spacing of 17.5cm whilst the farmer series has optional 17.5cm to 22.5cm spacing. Both use a Vogelsang distributor.

Also of interest for contractors is the range of Agri Twin over seeders which were launched at LAMMA 2012. Working widths are 4.4m or 5.8m, row spacing is 7.5cm and offer infinitely adjustable seed application from 3 to 210kg per hectare.

With two well established Dutch manufacturers, both with products suitable for contractors and large scale farmers, JC Machinery can move into 2013 with confidence.

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