

As well as the world's largest mounted spreader, Bogballe has also launched a new section control system, which can manage different fertiliser spreading rates on each side of the unit, and a free app for machine control via a tablet. **James Rickard** reports.

# Mammoth mounted spreader and section control from Bogballe/KRM

## ► New system to manage spreading

ADDING to Section Control Standard (SCS) which can vary application rate evenly across the full width of the spreader, Bogballe (KRM in the UK) has now introduced Section Control Dynamic (SCD) which offers automatic section control, headland stop/start and variable rate application.

Having been available for two years, SCS regulates the working width and the amount of fertiliser applied symmetrically on both sides of the spreader according to the shape of the field.

## Working widths

Keith Rennie of KRM says: "Due to the amount of overlap, even in wedges, SCS is fine for up to 24m working widths as the spread pattern will remain fairly even.

However, for larger working widths the pattern needs to be managed more accurately which is where SCD will come in."

SCD works by allowing the operator, either manually or automatically via GPS, to alter the spread pattern independently on either side. This is done in eight stepless sections, similar to a sprayer.

However, with a spreader it is about managing the overlap, unlike a boom where it is about avoiding the overlap. It achieves this via a dual shutter system on each disc which controls both the application rate and drop on point to alter the spread pattern.

Because Bogballe spreaders use inward spinning discs (the opposite way to most spreaders) which achieve a 180-degree spread pattern each, the shutters have to compensate for both flow rate and drop on point on both discs. Whether pto driven or

hydraulically driven, disc speed remains constant.

The system can work down to the last two sections (the final three metres on a 24m machine for example) before it completely shuts off, by which time that area has probably been spread three times if you account for overlaps, says the manufacturer.

When managing headlands and overlaps it is important to know where the fertiliser hits the ground, in this case 15m behind the spreader, says Bogballe.

## Virtual boundary

To define when the spreader stops and starts spreading, a virtual boundary can be set up which stops and starts the spreader depending if it is going in or coming out of work.

Using this it will recommence spreading 15m after the spreader has crossed the virtual line because this where the majority of the fertiliser is landing.

Similarly, when approaching the headland, the management system will wait until 15m after the spreader has crossed the boundary before it shuts off.

Four main control options are available; Bogballe's Calibrator Zurf controller, Free Concept tablet, third party GPS assisted controller or the tractor's IsoBus control. It can also work with an N sensor which can be used to control application rate.

It is available on all M models with or without weigh cells (as you can manually control it).

Section Control Dynamic costs £2,450. The dynamic shutter kit for existing M-line spreaders is £245.



The gargantuan M6 can be fitted with Bogballe's new Section Control Dynamic system.



To make Section Control Dynamic work it requires dual shutters on both discs to alter drop on point and application rate.

## World's largest mounted spreader: The M6

DESIGNED as an alternative to large capacity trailed fertiliser spreaders, Bogballe has developed the world's largest mounted spreader.

With a hopper capacity of six tonnes, the M6 mounted mammoth has been born out of the natural progression towards bigger machinery and the demands of customers with larger areas to cover with fewer staff.

Customers also wanted to get on the land sooner in spring for earlier application, which is tricky with a trailed machine as they can make a mess, according to the manufacturer.

To achieve this, Bogballe envisage these spreaders to be used with tracked or large articulated tractors.

Mr Rennie says: "Trailed outfits also lack decent steering systems, unlike sprayers, and therefore a mounted machine will avoid crop damage."

A mounted machine is also less expensive than an equivalent capacity trailed spreader - roughly half to two-thirds of the price, says the manufacturer.

## Focus on spreading

As Bogballe says, it is a spreading specialist and not a transport specialist and the company advocates the

spreader should be kept working with fertiliser brought to it in order to maximise its output.

The focus is on precision with the M6, with calibration taken every 25kg compared to trailed machines which calibrate every 1,500kg, says Bogballe.

Its design concept is similar to the four-tonne M3 but a lot beefier. If six tonnes is a bit much for you, then the machine can be scaled down by spec'ing it with a few less greedy boards.

The M6W, with weigh cell spreader and Calibrator Zurf control, costs £27,195.

## Tablet control

OFFERED as an alternative control interface for Bogballe's spreaders, the firm presented its Free Concept which uses an off-the-shelf tablet.

Tablet control (not the management of your medication), is becoming an increasingly popular solution to machine control as an alternative to IsoBus, says the manufacturer.

With it, the farmer is kept independent from machinery manufacturers' control boxes, terminals and guidance systems.

Once the machine's app has been downloaded, the tablet can be used to operate the spreader.

It also offers GPS section control, access to spread



charts and manuals and the ability to instantly send reports and invoices. If the GPS signal is lost, you still have manual control of the spreader.

However, to make it work, you still need the Zurf controller for its brains plus a communication module and a

GPS antenna. The app is free and it will be initially available for android devices.

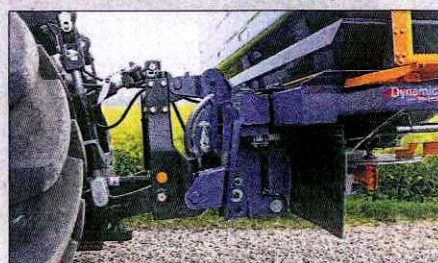
Bogballe reckons tablet control is the future as it makes use of existing tried and tested technology, is a smaller investment, more versatile and gives online access.

## M6 options

- Section Dynamic Control
- Adaptor for category four linkage
- Hopper cover
- Hydraulic disc drive
- Flow control for hydraulic motors (if fitted)
- Agitator for grass seed

## M6 specification and features

- Working width: From 12 to 24m
- Maximum capacity: 5,550 litres (equivalent to about six tonnes)
- Electric calibration
- LED rear lights
- Two by six-tonne load cells
- Controlled by Calibrator Zurf or IsoBus



The M6 can be equipped with category four linkage.