

Press Information from Knight Farm Machinery

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SINGLE NOZZLE SWITCHING ACHIEVES ACCURACY

Knights Farm Machinery is introducing a new individual nozzle switching system that virtually eliminates the risk of over-application or misses when applying both crop protection products and liquid fertilizer.

The system uses a series of Muller EDS controllers located along the boom, each operating four separate nozzles and capable of switching each of them on and off individually.

When combined with GPS control and the company's Maximiser system, this will enable users to achieve total efficiency and accuracy when matching spray or fertiliser bouts, which will avoid over/under application and misses.

That will be beneficial from both business and environmental standpoints, says Knight's David Main:

"This system takes sprayer control onto the next level. It has the potential to pay for itself very rapidly by preventing over-lapping of sprays and fertilisers.

“With a conventional sprayer that switches off in three metre sections, the first five nozzles could over-apply to a significant area before the sixth one reaches a sprayed area and all six are switched off.

“That could waste significant quantities of product, particularly in long tapering fields. Switching off individual nozzles is far more accurate and much less wasteful”.

“Switching boom sections off at an earlier point risks leaving patches of unsprayed crop. With weeds like Black-grass than can re-infest a crop from a very small plant population, that would be a very costly mistake”.

When combined with the company’s Maximiser system it will also guarantee applications are accurate and even right to the edge of the sprayer area at all times.

He adds that the system could also improve environmental compliance by ensuring that it operates to the highest standards by eliminating over-application of chemicals and fertiliser on field margins and headlands.

The controllers fit neatly onto the spray boom, with the electronics being protected from chemicals themselves via non-return valves.

One of the first systems is fitted to a new 24m Trailblazer 4200 sprayer being supplied to Velcourt’s Mark Harvey, who manages a 1,700 acre mixed farm on

a controlled traffic system at Hinton St Mary Farms Sturminster Newton, Dorset.

The new sprayer replaces an existing Knight machine with sectional switch on/off which has applied both crop protection products and liquid fertiliser on the farm for xxx years: (xxx = how many?)

“The old sprayer had auto shut off in six sections across a 24 metre boom. We wanted to be more accurate, both when applying crop protection treatments and liquid fertiliser.

“We calculate that if we can save just 3.5% of fertiliser over a four year period that would more than pay for the system. We can also switch between the two spray lines on the machine.

“This sprayer also moves us forward in respect of the control systems and bigger display screens. The technology is much improved”.

STORY ENDS.