

A PERFECT MIX EVERY TIME!



Wes Hurrell of Torrens Vale - west of Victor Harbor SA talks about his Jay•Lor.

Wes and Rita Hurrell run the family dairy farm with Wes's parents, Ralph and Helene, at Torrens Vale, 25km west of Victor Harbor, SA.

The Hurrells have 300 Friesian milkers plus 250 young stock, and produce 2.9 million litres of milk annually. They milk on 120ha and have two additional run-off blocks of 145ha and 74ha where they grow fodder and run heifers and dry cows.

They used to grow almost all of their own silage, producing 600 tonnes of dry matter silage and 400 tonnes of hay in an average year. Contractors chopped 350 tonnes for pit silage with the balance going to round bales. Since the drought, yield has been down by nearly half in the last few years and they've had to buy in more fodder.

For the last seven years the Hurrells have used a competitor's single auger mixer, Wes said it was a bit too small and they had to do three mixes a day. "We really wanted something that could do it in two mixes, so we looked around at what was on offer. Dad checked out several different brands and Jay•Lor was way out in front."

Local dealers G & J East brought a 19 cubic metre Jay•Lor 3650 to the Hurrell's farm for a working demonstration.

"We liked the fact they were keen to demo the Jay•Lor. To us, that said they had confidence in the product," Wes said. "And it's always an advantage to have the demo on-site, with your own feedstuff, your own tractor and your own set-up."

Good machinery goes hand in hand with good practice for the Hurrells. They like to maximise every kilo of intake, feeding out on a properly constructed, roofed feedpad, which means less wastage than feeding out in the paddock. They aim for 22-23kg of intake a day per cow.

After using their new Jay•Lor 3650 for several months, Wes says they are extremely happy with the benefits.

"We're saving 6-7 litres of fuel on a comparable mix, which actually means a saving of 13 litres a day because we're doing only two mixes now instead of three. We're saving up to an hour a day in mixing time."

The Hurrells use a mix including cereal hay, lucerne hay and pasture hay with silage, canola meal, cereal wheat, lupin, and, when it's available, brewers' grain.

"The Jay•Lor has no problem dealing with chunks of compressed silage and it gives a nice fluffy mix that's not too tight," Wes said. "We add up to 1000 litres of water to a six tonne mix

to help it blend, but the fluffiness is down to the good design of the square-sided twin auger. You don't get dead spots. It mixes rapidly and very well, so by the time we've put the grain in at the end, within a minute it is mixed and ready to feed out. It's not over-processed or too fine."

Wes said the Jay•Lor is lighter to drive than other brand equivalents, which means further savings of fuel, and less wear and tear on the tractor.

"We're also getting a more consistent ration with the Jay•Lor, and this is vital for maximising genetic production, manipulating butter fats and proteins to the levels we want. We average nearly 3.5% protein and 3.9% fat on 10,000 litres per cow."

