

PROGRESSIVE DAIRY FARM REVOLVES AROUND GILTRAP FORAGE WAGON

DAN WALLIS AND JODIE MEXTED BEGAN A 50:50 SHARE-MILKING CONTRACT IN JUNE. THE FARM, PEAK FARMING, MILKS 450 COWS AT TE RAUAMOHA, HIGH ON THE SOUTHERN SLOPES OF MT PIRONGIA.

It is a progressive farm in a high rainfall area. It has hectares of native, pine and riparian plantings. A composting barn and a covered feed pad ensure Dan and Jodie can move the cows inside whenever necessary to care for the soil.

When using a feed pad, an important decision is choosing a forage wagon.

Dan says, "It was a no-brainer for us to go for Giltrap. I have had long experience with Giltrap wagons, and if you look after them they last a long time."

A Giltrap RF11 forage wagon arrived on the farm when Dan and Jodie took over the contract.

The RF11 takes 11m³ of feed. A front elevator has heavy duty bars with tapered tines to rip apart clumps. Feed delivery is via a side conveyer belt. Dan and Jodie have the standard 900 mm wide belt, and there is an option



A GILTRAP RF11 TAKES 11M³ OF FEED AND DAN WALLIS FILLS HIS WITH A BUCKET GRAB ON HIS FRONTEND LOADER.

for a 1200 mm version.

Graham Anderson from Giltrap AgriZone Ōtorohanga recommended a bucket grab to load the RF11. Dan uses it to load maize silage and grass silage and even to shake out the large square hay bales. "I swear by it. It's an excellent tool."

So, even though The RF11 is not a mixer wagon, it still takes a mixed load.

"A mixer wagon is a lot more costly and higher maintenance. Ours seems to mix okay, depending on how you put it in."

Dan also likes that the Giltrap forage wagon is a simpler system for staff to use and can



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THE GILTRAP RF11 SILAGE WAGON CAN DELIVER FEED TO PEAK FARMING'S DAIRY COWS IN THE COVERED FEED PAD.



Northland and it lasted well over the 11 years we had it.”

It is ideal to have machinery that can do many jobs. The trucks that deliver wood chip for the herd home cannot fit inside, and so they unload outside and the Giltrap RF11 spreads the wood chip. Its back gate opens automatically when bulk unloading.

The Giltrap RF11 is in use at least six months of the year and the farming model revolves around it.

“We have had a lot of Giltrap gear over the years. It is locally made and the quality is really good. I highly recommend a Giltrap wagon. I have only had good experiences with them,” Dan says.

Starting a new contract is an opportunity to think through the whole system and work out what you need and what you can afford.

Giltrap AgriZone in Ōtorohanga made this very easy for Dan and Jodie.

“We have dealt with Graham Anderson for a number of years. He’s a good salesman who points you in the right direction for what you need and doesn’t BS you. We have traded in a few machines with them, and they were flexible and easy to deal with.” **RC**

◀ also be used in the paddock if necessary.

It has a tandem axle and Dan optioned larger flotation tyres to minimise compaction and increase traction when it is used in paddocks.

The RF11 has a double chassis ready for scales. Dan and Jodie specified second generation Giltrap scales, and he finds them very helpful.

The springers are fed on the pad twice a day with one load. He

sets an alarm to tell him when he has fed half the load in the morning.

“That is handy when I have 1000 things on my mind. With numbers going through my head all day it’s very easy to make mistakes and feed too much.

“Loading multi feeds, you can simply use the tare function between each feed type so you don’t have to add up each as you go. It is so simple.”

The height of delivery is adjustable using his Giltrap quick hitch on the three-point linkage, which suits the various bin heights.

The rate of delivery is adjustable from within the cab and Dan changes it as he goes along. So far he has been unable to block the wagon.

“Today when I was loading hay

with the grabs I noticed a big chunk go in, but it went over the side fine.”

Dan and Jodie have two tractors that take the wagon – a six-cylinder 140-hp and a four-cylinder 110-hp. Both tractors handle it easily when manoeuvring around the feed pad or parking it in a tight shed.

Maintenance is easy thanks to a central grease bank. Dan hoses it out and greases it once a week, and he says with the grease bank, he does not have to climb underneath to do that.

When the RF11 is not in use, it lives in a shed. It has stainless steel sides to resist corrosion and a 35-mm treated, tongue and groove pine floor.

“We bought our last Giltrap forage wagon second hand from

ONE OF THE FIRST THINGS DAN WALLIS AND JODIE MEXTED BOUGHT WHEN THEY BEGAN THEIR NEW SHARE-MILKING JOB IN JUNE WAS THE GILTRAP RF11 SILAGE WAGON.

