

CONTRACTOR SUITABLY IMPRESSED WITH POTTINGER'S NEW BALER

VICTORIA CONTRACTOR
JACOB MARSHALL MADE
632 BALES IN A SINGLE DAY
WITH HIS NEW POTTINGER
IMPRESS BALER, AND HE SAYS
ITS IMPRESSIVE WORK RATE IS
SAVING HIS FAMILY BUSINESS
CONSIDERABLE TIME AND
MONEY.

Jacob works in his parent's contracting operation, Bundy Ag, which is based in Maffra, Gippsland. Bundy Ag offers a wide range of services, including bulk silage, hay cutting and baling, full cultivation and transport.

Pottinger will introduce its Impress baler next spring, but the Marshalls have received an initial test unit to run in Australia. Bundy Ag has been running Pottinger loader wagons for several years and they began trialling the Impress in September.

Jacob says the Impress baler has been designed and built from scratch and differs considerably from other balers on the market.

"The rotor spins the opposite way to a traditional baler. The product goes over the top of the rotor to go into the chamber instead of going under the rotor. It means you can put more product in and you can driver faster," he says.

"It also presses the bale a lot tighter than other brands we have had."

The Impress is the first baler Pottinger has designed and it complements the company's extensive experience in designing and manufacturing grass harvesting equipment. It will be available as a fixed-chamber baler, variable round baler and in combination with a bale wrapper.

The Liftup rotor, which turns the crop upside down and conveys it over the rotor, rather than under, enables a natural flow of crop. The forage enters the bale chamber at an ideal angle, to give higher intake capacity, which translates into high baling performance.

Jacob says the Impress has significantly increased his throughput of bales.

"I'm baling almost 20 bales more an hour with hay. In a good crop, I can bale 60-75 bales an hour, and I was doing under 50 an hour with other balers," he says.

"With silage, I used to average about 80 bales an hour, but I managed to get about 100 an hour in one day with the Impress. I had a good heavy crop and I was popping a bale out about every 28 seconds. That's a big saving of time and money."

In early December Bundy Ag had already done about 4000 bales with the Impress this season, and has another 4000 to go.

The baler features a five-row, floating pickup that is 2.3m wide and equipped with a wind guard with swath roller and transfer bars, as well as two cross-conveyor augers.

The bale chamber is designed



to deliver high baling compression and productivity. Jacob says the Impress makes a noticeably heavier bale, which gives their clients value for money.

"With hay, the bales are about 40-50 kg heavier than other bales we've made, depending on the crop," he says.

Another advantage is the crop enters the bale chamber uniformly across the whole width. This means the driver does not have to make steering adjustments to produce perfectly shaped bales, and the bale always starts to form reliably in any situation. Any crop that does fall through is fed back into the flow by the patented cleaning rotor.

"It makes a really nice firm, square edged bale," Jacob says.

"You don't have to weave through the windrow to fill the edges in; you can go straight through and it makes a nice square bale."

The Pottinger Impress features the Flexcut 32 short-chop system, which uses up to 32 knives and has an individual knife protection system that ensures the best forage quality.

The bale chamber has two aggressive starter rollers above and below to make sure the bale forms consistently in every situation.

The variable chamber baler has three endless belts while the fixed chamber baler has large, 50mm diameter self-aligning

JACOB MARSHALL SAYS
THE UNIQUE DESIGN OF THE
INTAKE ON THE POTTINGER
IMPRESS ALLOWS IT
OPERATE MUCH FASTER
THAN OTHER BALERS.

bearings and two different compression rollers to ensure reliable rotation in every operating situation, even with straw.

Jacob says the Impress baler is fully automatic. When the net feeds into the bale chamber the pickup automatically lifts up to prevent any extra product being sucked in when the net is going on. When the net is cut off and finished, the tailgate shuts off and opens automatically.

"You don't have to pull any levers, which helps with driver fatigue."

The Marshalls have not had to do any maintenance on the Impress yet, but greasing is easy. Each grease point does about 10 different bearings at one time.

Bundy Ag runs the Pottinger Impress with a 140hp Massey Ferguson tractor and Jacob says the baler's big tyres provide great stability in soft ground. **AC**

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