

CRANE TAKES THE STRAIN

A Scottish firm is fitting forestry cranes to trailed spreaders to improve the speed and efficiency of lime spreading operations

Jas P Wilson of Dalbeattie is well known as a supplier of equipment to contractors in the forest sector and as the manufacturer of the Botex range of forest cranes and grapples, which are mounted on log trailers. It also fits a range of the cranes to trailed spreaders and supplies a range of clamshell buckets, which John Wilson says is a highly cost-effective method of loading.

It is a view shared by Andrew Dutton of Shrewsbury-based spreading specialists Andrew and David Dutton Ltd, which spreads some 30,000t of lime and fertiliser/yr and has been using Botex cranes for the past 13 years. The

company's three Bredal spreaders are currently fitted with models that are controlled from the tractor cab. "The cranes are reliable and have low running costs," Mr Dutton says, "and they are faster than a telehandler; the fast slewing speed enables us to load our 10t spreader in five minutes, including cleaning up."

There is also no time involved in unloading and loading the crane on a trailer, a point emphasised by Ollie Neil of Bury St Edmunds contractors O. J. Neil Contracting, which applies more than 20,000t/year of chalk and lime.

Its three Bredal spreaders, which are also used to apply Fibrephos on some

12,000 acres, have been fitted with Botex cranes and 1.5t capacity clamshell buckets for the past five years. "We were looking for the most efficient and cost-effective method of loading," he says. "The most economical system is to have the tractor and spreader as a completely self-contained unit.

"The crane may be slightly slower loading than a telehandler but there is no drop in output as there is no cleaning up required, and there isn't the cost of a machine and man waiting; it can take an hour to empty a load of Fibrephos."

Jas P Wilson, tel: 01556 612233.

www.jaspwilson.co.uk

