

Krone RX400 GD combi forage wagon:

RX gets some new tricks

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 **KRONE**
THE POWER OF GREEN

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The new RX combi wagon has inherited the moving headboard and other features from Krone's bigger models.

The new RX line-up comprises three models; the RX360 (36m³), RX400 (40m³) and RX430 (43m³), which all share the same chassis and body.

The difference in capacity comes from the body: RX360 has a vertical headboard and back door; RX400 gains the pivoting front from the larger ZX wagons and an increase in capacity of 4m³; and, lastly, the RX430 gets its extra 3m³ of storage capacity from a rucksack tailgate.

There is the option of adding a K80 ball hitch (tongue load of 4t), which is why the drawbar rams have been beefed up with a wider lift range, slim design and impressive suspension. This layout opens up a great view of the EasyFlow pick-up, which measures

more than 2.0m wide and has its camless tines arranged in a W pattern to improve crop flow to the middle, a set-up that works well on curves and slopes. Overload protection is provided by a cam-type clutch.

The rotor on the RX is 880mm in diameter and 1.76m wide. Tines are arranged in helical rows and have 22 x 8mm Hardox plates that are there to extend service life and, in combination with the Hardox-made strippers, prevent wet crop material from being squeezed. The rotor driveline uses an oil-immersed gearbox instead of a powerband as employed on the ZX models.

The cutting system boasts 46 knives. These cut material to a nominal length of 37mm

and can be operated in four different groups (0, 23, 23 or 46) – the typical Krone set-up. Knives have individual protection and are easy to remove from the pull-out drawers. And until the Speed-Sharp knife sharpening arrives in 2018 the blades will need removing. As an aside, the automatic sharpening system is already an option on the ZX.

Preliminaries dealt with, we move on to some of the other interesting features on the RX such as its pivoting headboard. Sourced from the ZX, the system not only delivers handy extra capacity but it's also used to automate the loading process. Two sensors measure the current pressure on the bulkhead and the filling level, and they

in turn move the chain and slat floor. In addition, the pivoting front helps to speed up the unloading process. To do that the headboard pivots to the rear as unloading starts. As the crop is moving to the rear, the board pivots back and forth a couple of times to ensure an effective clean-out.

The body itself is built on 240 x 115 x 5mm box section beams and single-piece 145 x 125 x 6mm cross bearers, combined with closely spaced stanchions, to offer good strength when the RX is used as a trailer for carting maize. Other neat touches are the enclosed beams and sloping mudguards to discourage material from building up on the wagon, plus there is a door and ladder on the side for convenient access to the trailer body.



The headboard can now pivot, and the new rotor, along with the stripper fingers, is made from Hardox steel.



Chain/slat floor has four round steel chains and is powered by a pair of hydraulic motors with fast advance mode. GD models come with two rear beaters, but the majority of UK/Irish machines will be GL versions with no beaters.

The moving floor incorporates four chains (10 x 31mm) with 25 channel steel slats (50 x 25mm), while Krone says the 350mm sloping floor reduces the input power and the risk of squeezing the grass; indeed, this has now almost become a given in wagon design. Hydraulic motors on either side of the body ensure decent drive power and implement the automatic fast advance option which is triggered by a pressure sensor in the spool chest.

For those who want to unload going over a clamp or feed out grass in a passage there are two 470mm discharge rotors at the rear. These are protected by a 2,000Nm clutch located in the main driveline to ensure maximum unloading efficiency.

The RX wagons roll on a hydraulic tandem axle rated to 20t, an upper end spec that gave outstanding stability on our test slopes, even when filled to capacity. Our RX was also fitted with 750/45 R26.5 tyres and had a mechanical forced steering system, although there is the option of plumping for an electric forced steering system or a passive steering set-up. Other boot options include 710/50 R26.5 or 800/45 R26.5s.

The RX is operated via the Krone Delta terminal or the CCI 200 ISObus display. And yet another option is auto drawbar control for loading and unloading, which allows operators to program two drawbar positions – one for lifting/lowering the pick-up, one for unloading and closing the tailgate.

If you like putting in long hours with your wagon, then rest assured the RX has very



A total of 46 knives offer a 37mm chop length, and the blade bank pulls out to the side for convenient service/maintenance access. The Speed Sharp sharpener system will be available from 2018.



The Delta operator terminal is included in the base spec, while an ISObus version is optional and operated either via a CCI display or the tractor's own terminal.

effective and standard fit LED lighting for illuminating the load space. And, to conclude, the RX's optional weighing system is said to be +/- 2.5% accurate.

Summary: Last year Krone unveiled the high capacity ZX combi-wagon, and now it has turned its attention to the RX which has adopted some of the features from the bigger capacity machines. The pivoting headboard on the 400 and 430 is certainly worth a mention, with these units' higher spec suggesting they are aimed at bigger farms and contractors. UK pricing for the RX will be announced shortly, but note the SpeedSharp system and foldable cover sheet will not be offered on the RX until next year. **HW**