



## Variable Emslanders

The new round balers from Krone have belts to roll the bales. We tested the new models in France to find out what's different from the existing models.

After launching VariPack V165 XC Plus and V190 XC Plus, Krone now offers two single-axle round balers that specialise in baling dry crops. Unlike their round baler siblings, which rely on chain-and-slat elevators, these new models have four endless belts to form the bales. We got an initial impression of what it's like baling barley straw with the V190.

### WELL-KNOWN COMPONENTS

The only difference between the two belted models is that they produce bales of different maximum diameters. The V165 forms 0.8m to 1.65m diameter bales and the V190 up to 1.90m

diameters. Both rely on a number of components that were sourced from the existing models, such as the established camless EasyFlow pick-up. This has its tines arranged in a staggered pattern designed to feed the material from the ends to the middle for a smooth flow to the rotor cutter. The 2.15m wide unit had no difficulty in gathering the wide swaths, freeing us from zigzagging down the swath to get uniform bales.

The 530mm diameter integral rotor feeds the material through a 26-blade cutting system with blades spaced at 42mm and controlled by the hydraulic blade group control system which we liked very much. This pushes the blades

actively into their slots, even when these are clogged with debris. Operators can select either 0 or 26 blades or two sets of 13 blades to ensure sharp cuts throughout long working days. This is easily done from the touch-screen terminal. Blockages are removed by dropping the floor hydraulically. For example, if foreign bodies have made their way into the machine, you can manually disengage a dog clutch on the right-hand side of the machine, thereby cutting the driveline to the intake system. This stops the rollers so the machine finishes the bale without the intake rollers revolving and you can remove the blockage once the bale is



Krone has launched a new series of round balers – the VariPack. These models produce round bales of up to 1.90m in diameter.



We really appreciated the rapid open/close cycles of the rear door.



A chain lubricator and an automatic lubrication system are standard specification.

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## SUMMARY:

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**Krone has added two belt type balers**, the V165 XC Plus and the V190 XC Plus, to its baler portfolio.

**Their baling chambers are** made up of four smooth 275mm-wide belts.

**The cutting system has** 26 blades as standard and these can be operated in two separate groups.

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finished. Excellent!

### FOUR BELTS, THREE STEPS

The baling chamber is made up of four smooth 275mm-wide belts. They operate at a speed of 130 metres per minute says Krone. The guide rollers are kept clean by two cleaning rollers; the one at the front is driven by a chain, the other is driven by the belts. A progress bar on the terminal display screen indicates the current maximum bale size. We appreciated having the option to choose from three different soft-core settings. This way, the operator can obtain layers of different densities which are expressed in different percentages. We used the following settings to bale straw: 60% for the core, 80% for the next layer and 100% for the outer layer. When changing over to hay, for example, you can easily alter the settings and choose a soft core to avoid bales getting musty. Nevertheless, for a good and firm shape, you can select a higher density for the outer layer.

We were also pleased with the swift net wrapping cycle and the rapidly opening rear door. It took only five seconds to open and close the door and nine to apply the net – that's really fast. Also, the door closes softly, courtesy of end-stroke cushioned rams. The application of the net and opening/closing of the door is performed either manually or automatically.

The chain drives are hidden under the panels on both sides of the machine. The pick-up and the rotor are driven by a massive 1¼-inch chain on the right-hand side of the machine. A central lubricator is a standard feature. The flow rate for the chain lubricator is set up in-

dividually for each chain.

### STRAIGHTFORWARD ROLL CHANGE

Changing the net roll received plus points. The chute swings easily forward from its park position. Then the operator pushes the net roll effortlessly on rolls into the cradle after this has been folded forward. Lastly, the net is threaded into the feeding system. You can store two spare rolls on the machine in addition to the net roll that is currently used.

The new belt baler made a very good impression during our brief field test, producing well-shaped and boxy bales in good harvest conditions. The tractor, a Deutz Agrottron TTV 6215, pulled the machine at 15km/hr on an approximately 350m-long field. Using 13 blades to cut the material, the machine deposited one bale every 130 metres. It took 45 seconds to produce one bale, which included the netwrap and ejec-

tion cycle. This translates into up to 80 bales (1.85m) per hour.

Weighing in at about 4.3 tonnes, the baler can be fitted with up to 600/50-22.5 tyres for gentle treading. A moisture sensor is an option which our V190 didn't have, but ISOBUS compatibility is a standard feature on the new VariPacks. We controlled our test machine from the new CCI 800 terminal, which was large enough to see the operator interface and provide an extra camera view. The base specification price of the new V190 XC Plus is €84,170 (excl. VAT).

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Rolls inside the chute make it easy to feed the new net roll into its cradle.