



A Nufarm Limited Company

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End User Profile

Property/Organisation	Bailey Ag
Region	Woomelang, Victoria
Machine	RoGator 1396
Application	Contract Sprayer

When you are the sole operator of a contract sprayer operation then reliability is the top-of-mind issue when seeking to maximise productivity. Bailey Ag, owned and managed by Hadyn Bailey, north west Victoria, believes Croplands Equipment's self-propelled Rogator sprayers fit the bill. His most recent purchase a 1386 unit is the third he has purchased from the Adelaide-based supplier.

A former farmer he now earns a living as a full-time contract sprayer working within a 50km of Woomelang. His latest Rogator, purchased in October of last year, followed in the footsteps of his first unit, a second-hand 1254 that he acquired some six years ago. "That one had 2,000 hours on it when I bought it and nearly 5,000 hours when I sold it, Hadyn said. "Then I invested in a 1286, keeping it for two years and notching up more than 2,000 hours," he added.

Making sure they all earn their keep, Bailey Ag's new 1386 unit already has completed 800 hours and 70,000 acres work. "They all have to earn their keep because that's the only way you are going to pay for them," Hadyn said. Currently hard at work ahead of farmer-owned air seeders, applying pre-emergent herbicides, with all eyes are turned skywards in the hope of some winter rains – even though the district has largely turned to no-till cropping systems. That aside, Hadyn has fine-tuned his spray operations to cover in the order of 1500 acres/day at the height of the season. "I can average 60ha/hour all day, including fill time – providing water is in close proximity to the job," he said. "Farmers now understand that all my pricing is based on productivity so I'm encouraging farmers to ensure there's water strategically-placed in their paddocks – to maximise my productivity, also to ensure I complete jobs in a timely and efficient manner," Hadyn said.

Interestingly, Hadyn went from a 1286 unit supplied with 4,800L tank and 30m wide booms to his current 1386 which is equipped with a 6500L tank matched to a 36m boom – ideal for the district's 12m farming systems. His preferred general purpose nozzles, AirMix 02s, deliver a coarse droplet size with alternatives used for different spray applications.

One of the Croplands stable's biggest sprayers it comes equipped with a 311 hp Caterpillar engine with weight distributed equally between the front and rear wheels to deliver unmatched performance in tough field conditions. The RoGator drive system has been designed to be more reliable over the long haul. The designers say that separate hydraulic motors and gear hubs run 'cleaner,' thereby extending the life of hydrostatic components. "We've just been through a very wet summer spraying season with many self-propelled machines getting bogged but the 1386's wider tyres carried the weight a lot better (than rival machines), Hadyn said.

The newcomer carries out much of its work across undulating Mallee country, permitting it to work at speeds up to 33kph, courtesy of an air-bag suspension system, an air seat and, also an air suspended cab. And what's the ride like when negotiating paddocks towards the top-end of a self-propelled's capability? "Just beautiful," according to Hadyn. With "the best cab in its class" acting as a further purchasing incentive, also the wide door entry and panoramic view, there's no doubt the 1386's boom folding mechanism also has appeal. "It's got the best vision of any self-propelled when the boom is folded – important for travelling down

highways, even more so when exiting paddocks,” Hadyn said. “You can see over the top of the boom, instead of looking through the boom, when it’s sitting on its support rests,” he added.

At the end of the day, it’s all about productivity. Hadyn says work rates are between 15 to 20 percent higher compared to his previous sprayer, influenced by the 1386’s bigger tank, also its wider boom. With six months under his belt with the new 1386, Hadyn believes he will have notched up 2,000 hours work within 18 months, prompting him to consider changing it in when he completes 2,500 hours behind the wheel. Supplied by Sunrise Ag, Hadyn Bailey is one of many owners of Croplands Equipments’ burgeoning self-propelled fleet around Swan Hill district. “They are very good, quickly dealing with a couple of small issues,” he said.

Acknowledging to have looked at “another colour self propelled” prior to giving the 1386 the nod, Bailey Ag plumped for its third Croplands Rogator based on the brand’s proven strength, reliability and familiarity. Attributes that stand the test of time, according to Hadyn Bailey who recalled how this year’s good harvest was spoilt by rain. “But the summer rainfall has given us good subsoil moisture although we haven’t had a decent rain for near eight weeks,” he said. “There is still confidence out there but it’s tempered by a little bit of concern, too – an inch tomorrow would make all the difference,” Hadyn added.



CAP: Hadyn Bailey: “I can average 60ha/hour all day, including fill time – providing water is in close proximity to the job.” Rogator 1386 delivers 20 percent productivity boost