



ForageAHEAD

adding value to your forage business

Volume 1, Issue 2

Fall 2003

Farm Show Schedule

This summer the John Deere Forage Team has been busy attending various farm shows around the country. We're planning to have product displays featuring the 7000 Series SPFH at the following shows this fall and winter. Stop by to see for yourself how the added productivity and consistent length-of-cut these machines provide can add more to your operation's bottom line.

Sept. 23-25
Farm Progress Days,
Danville, IL

Oct. 14-16
Sunbelt Ag Expo,
Moultrie, GA

Feb. 10-12
Tulare World Farm
Expo, Tulare, CA

Family matters when buying a SPFH

Productivity, reliability, and durability are just a few of the top considerations when most producers – especially custom operators – purchase a new Self-propelled Forage Harvester. However, when Matthew and Luke Yutzy, of Kramer Homestead Inc., went to purchase a new John Deere 7300 SPFH last fall, they also considered operator comfort, teamwork, and time management.

Kramer Homestead Inc. is a family-owned and -operated dairy and custom forage operation based in Plain City, Ohio. Matthew and Darlene Yutzy, along with Luke and Neva Yutzy, farm together on a 280-acre, 75-cow dairy operation. Luke and Neva's daughters (Kendra, age 20; Rebecca, 18; April, 15; and Nicole, 12) work right alongside the rest of the family milking cows, feeding calves, and going about their daily chores. Kendra and Rebecca take turns milking in the morning with their Dad, and the girls partner up together in the evenings to milk when Matthew and Luke are on the road harvesting. "We couldn't do it without them," says Luke. "They help us tremendously, and allow us to run longer in the evenings. We can stay in the field harvesting longer because we know they're back home milking and tending to the cows."

Besides the dairy operation, the brothers harvest 1,000 acres of corn and alfalfa for local producers and Select Sires – their largest customer. The majority of their new customers store the silage in silos, bags, and bunks, so the brothers need to be flexible with their harvesting equipment and schedule.

While Luke's daughters help with the dairy operation, father Valentine is a cornerstone



The Yutzy family operates a John Deere 7300, similar to this one, on their 280-acre, 75-cow dairy operation in Plain City, Ohio. The family took into consideration the extra comfort and increased productivity this machine offers when they decided to upgrade from their John Deere 6650 SPFH last Fall.

in the forage operation. Valentine is the main operator on the 7300 SPFH.

"With Dad operating the forage harvester, we're all working together," Matthew explains. "It's a good feeling to have everyone working together as a team. We all know and understand each other, since we've been working together for 24 years now. Dad helps us stay busy by running the machine, and we don't have to hire another person. Plus, he understands how our operation works."

Last Fall, Luke and Matthew decided to complement their custom operation by purchasing a 7300 SPFH with a 640A hay pickup and 688 rotary harvesting unit from their John Deere dealer – Shearer Equipment in Wooster, Ohio. Prior to this, they had operated a John Deere 6650 SPFH.

For added productivity, the brothers decided to purchase a Row-Trak™ guidance system for their forage harvester. The Row-Trak system automatically steers the machine by "feeling" a row using a sensor package. Once the operator turns at the end of the row and sets the harvesting unit, the Row-Trak system is turned on and takes control of the steering up until the row ends. This lets their father spend more attention on directing the spout into the wagon.

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Did You Know?

If you are operating a 7000 Series SPFH, **Did You Know...**



- Your SPFH doesn't always recognize when the kernel processor (KP) is reattached to the forage harvester after alfalfa season? Be sure to check address 104 in the SPF main control after you reinstall the KP to ensure the machine knows it's back in the machine.
- When using a 676 harvesting unit, address 100 in the SPF main control unit must be set at "7" for the unit to function properly?
- When using a 676 harvesting unit (model year 2002 and older) a new driveline shield (guard LCA83834) is required for clearance between the IVLOC and frame?
- When using a 688 harvesting unit (model year 2002 and older), a 2-speed gearbox is recommended when harvesting between .75 in. through 1.02 in. length-of-cut? The 2-speed gearbox is included with 2003 and newer models.
- If your forage harvester is equipped with a water innoculant system, the upper and lower limits for header height need to be calibrated for it to work properly? Calibrate address 101 in the SPF main control unit to properly turn the innoculant system on and off when raising the header at the end of crop rows.
- You can order parts for a quick refill of Beka Max to quickly refill the tank? Order a 90 degree elbow fitting (AZ65615), straight fitting with check valve (AZ56312), and hollow grease gun (AZ56314) through your local John Deere dealer's parts department. Also, when filling your Beka Max system, John Deere recommends using HD Lithium grease (TY24416).
- A Row-Trak guidance system will help steer the machine when harvesting corn? Your local John Deere dealer can install the system.
- Your local John Deere Dealer file can file a DTAC case to find the solution if you're not happy with the performance of your rear hydraulic wagon dump flow system, or if you want to increase wagon dump flow for decreased dumping time?
- When installing a 664 and 666R chain header on your 7000 Series SPFH, slight adjustments must be made in the IVLOC and drive shaft shielding? See your local John Deere dealer for more information.
- You can adjust the KP gap while harvesting? The KP can be adjusted from the cab electronically using the overhead control panel.
- You can adjust length-of-cut while harvesting? The operator can simply touch the LOC button, turn the rotary encoder to the desired length-of-cut, and the transmission will instantly change the feedroll speed to chop at the new length.

Or, if you operate a 6750, 6810, 6850, 6910, or 6950 SPFH, did you know...

- If you experience rotary screen plugging in black corn smut or corn conditions you can order a rear rotary screen brush (bundle BZ13359)?

Contact your local John Deere dealer for more information on each of these facts.

A durable – and edible – way to protect silage

In the past, studies have proven that covering bunker silos can significantly decrease dry matter and energy loss since covers keep moisture and air from mixing with the silage. Because of this, producers use a variety of mediums – including plastic and tires, sawdust, soil, limestone, small grain sod, manure, and



molasses – to protect their silage. However, with today's silage bunkers or piles becoming larger, producers are always on the lookout for more efficient and less costly ways to protect their silage.

Dr. Larry Berger, Professor of Animal Sciences, and Nathan Pyatt, graduate student, may have what producers are looking for. Conducting research at the University of Illinois at Urbana Champaign, Berger and Pyatt have been working to develop a salt-starch compound that seals filled bunkers. And results show their new invention is more effective than plastic in preserving corn silage.

Specifically, preliminary test results show the salt-starch compound had only 3-percent silage spoilage. In addition, the relative feed value (RFV) averaged 116 for the salt-starch covering; 110 for the plastic covered bunk. Both tested silage bunks were filled with almost 3,500-pounds of corn silage at 60-percent moisture.

The salt-starch bunker seal mixture in the preliminary trial was comprised of water, salt, flour, vegetable oil, and potassium bitartrate. The mixture was blended together to form a slurry, then applied with a cement trowel to ensure an even depth of about 0.50 in. The covering cured for three days, and was then sealed with a layer of paraffin wax.

The researchers understand this type of labor-intensive application will not work for commercial applications. So further research is being conducted to determine the best commercial application process, as well as correct salt-starch ingredient ratios.

“We’re in the process of evaluating a reformulated mixture that is equally durable but easier to apply with common farm equipment,” shared Dr. Berger. “So far, trials have shown this new mixture has

Family matters, continued from page 1

But this isn't the only feature on the SPFH that gives the family added productivity. “We’re spending less time preparing the machine for operation,” says Luke. “Dad can sharpen the knives and set the shearbar without leaving the cab, and he can do it throughout the day while waiting for a wagon. Also, sharpening at low idle is quieter and burns less fuel.”

Besides the benefit of sharpening and setting the shearbar from the cab, Matthew was happy with the larger cab and how it keeps him comfortable and in control. “The 7000 Series cab is substantially more comfortable than the 50 Series machine. It's more comfortable, has more room, and the noise level is definitely decreased,” says Matthew. “And once I adapted to the new hydro handle and controls, it was even more comfortable.”

The brothers also decided to equip the machine with a central lubrication system. “I like the idea that the bearings are being greased while they are running and hot. It's a more consistent greasing system which lets me rest easy, because I know the system is working to send grease more efficiently to the areas that need it,” explains Luke.

With these added options, the machine is more operator friendly and saves time.

Plus, Luke was able to see where and how his 7300 SPFH was made by attending the Factory Fly-In Program held last November in Zweibrücken, Germany. “The trip was great! It was interesting to walk around a different continent and country and experience the history first-hand,” recalls Luke. “The training helped me prepare for how to handle and maintain our new machine.”

During the program, Luke learned about the new cab and controls, infinitely variable length-of-cut transmission (IVLOC), kernel processor installation and removal, and increased horsepower. He was also able to take a tour of the factory.

“It was intriguing to see all the automation, machining, and the assembly line process,” said Luke. “It was also nice to learn about the machine, see the improvements, and implement them in our operation.”

Edible silage protector, continued from page 3

been very successful, and we're in the process of obtaining a patent on it."

Dr. Berger and Pyatt believe this edible covering is better than traditional coverage methods for several reasons:

- An edible covering not only allows the producer to provide weather protection for the stored forages, but also incorporates added nutrients that would otherwise be supplemented to the diet, such as trace mineral salts.
- Traditional protection methods require extensive labor costs for application and removal.
- An edible covering option eliminates the use of plastic and tires for anchor and disposal.

For more information on this new way to protect silage, read about the study at the University of Illinois Urbana Champaign Extension Web site at <http://traill.outreach.uiuc.edu/beefnet/paperDisplay.cfm?ContentID=439>.



The John Deere 7500 SPFH with 688 rotary harvesting unit will be on display outside the John Deere Pavilion in Moline, IL until September 29. If you're planning a visit to Moline soon, stop by and see this machine for yourself.

Forage Ahead is an informational newsletter published by John Deere Ottumwa Works Forage Division. For more information on the full line of John Deere Self-propelled Forage Harvesters, visit www.deere.com/spfh.

How to stay safe in your SPFH

When harvesting with machines, it's important to think and act in a safe manner. Any machine can inflict physical injury, regardless of make, model, or color. We want machine operators to be safe. No matter your age or number of years experience, it's critical to keep in mind the following safety tips when operating your machine.

If the machine happens to become plugged, follow these steps for the safest removal:

1. Disengage the power
2. Shut off the engine
3. Wait until all moving parts have completely stopped moving
4. Climb down from the cab
5. Remove the necessary shielding to find the plug
6. Carefully remove the plugged crop
7. Re-attach all shielding

Most importantly, never attempt to remove or feed crop into any machine with the engine on and power engaged.

The major contributing factors to safety incidents are:

- Poor maintenance
- Carelessness
- Fatigue
- Weather

To ensure safe operation of your equipment:

- Make sure it is properly maintained, including cleaning of windows and mirrors
- Always pay attention to the job at hand and be aware of conditions and obstacles in your path
- Take regularly scheduled breaks and only operate your equipment when you are mentally and physically able
- Although you can't control the weather, you can decide if it's safe to run the machine. Make the right decision
- Be aware of power lines and other obstructions when transporting. Know the height of your machine, and take caution when moving anywhere

For more information, visit the John Deere safety Web site at www.deere.com/en_US/ag/equipment/safety/index.html.

