



# Gator Gets Extreme Makeover

The venerable Gator is getting quite a makeover. John Deere marketers say the progenitor of all utility vehicles needed an update to stay ahead of a growing crowd of competitors.

So Deere engineers added horsepower, smoothed the ride and invented a creative 4-wheel-drive system. The four new models of the new XUV 4 x 4 line are crossover vehicles meant to appeal to both the recreational and work utility-vehicle users.

*The Progressive Farmer* tested the new XUV late last fall on a trail through some North Carolina woods. We found it to be a vast improvement over the HPX Gators, especially its ride. The XUV has an independent rear suspension system that lets one side of the vehicle step over bumps without rattling the passenger compartment.

If speed is your thing, you'll like the maximum 30 mph the XUV can achieve.

Deere engineers added a nice touch for those who realize that speed is not always a good idea. A key-locking speed limiter kit can reduce top speed to 20 mph. Take the key with you and your kids can't hot-rod as fast in the new XUV.

**PRICE: \$9,499 to \$10,599**

**SIX-WHEELED WORKHORSE.** Deere has introduced a new version of its famous six-wheeled utility vehicle. The TH 6 x 4 comes in diesel and gas versions. It has improved steering and brakes and a cargo box with a 1,200-pound capacity.