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A DESIGNER AT HEART

Wayne Dickson finds great satisfaction in creating his next piece of John Deere–powered equipment

Wayne Dickson enjoys his work so much, some days he feels like he’s already reached retirement.

Not that he’s ever looking to retire from Dickson Industries in Tecumseh, Oklahoma. The fact is, this company president loves nothing more than to work at his computer and design another piece of road-surface preparation equipment.

“I’ve been in business for 34 years, and I feel like I retired 25 years ago,” he says.

Dickson is a country boy at heart. Growing up on a dairy and cotton farm, Dickson developed a fondness for 2-cylinder

“Johnny Popper” tractors. Perhaps it’s no coincidence that for the past 25 years, Dickson has been powering his surface preparation equipment with John Deere diesel engines — a component he describes as the “heart” of his designs.

“The motor is the starting point of every design,” says Dickson. “CK Power furnishes me the model drawing of the motor, and I build the machine out from there. I basically build up a power unit — engine, radiator, muffler, air cleaner, PTO, and pumps and hydraulic system — and then I keep adding on more components, manipulating and moving them around, until I release the design to production.”

Throughout his career, Dickson has designed nearly 500 machines and stakes claim to more than 20 patents. And when he’s not designing, he’s traveling the world telling others about the equipment his company builds.

People listen because Dickson’s designs play key roles in keeping drivers safe on the road. Ever experience boredom, fatigue, or a loss of focus while driving, only to be alerted by the loud rumbling beneath tires as you drive too close to the road edge? Thank Dickson for warning you of your wayward ways. His Rumbler milling machines are responsible for cutting the rumble strips along most interstates and major highways in the United States. He’s also gone global.



To make the RP4140HD more compact and highly maneuverable, Dickson rotated the PowerTech 4.5L engine 90 degrees to shorten the wheelbase.

The Rumbler is the only towable milling machine, making it highly mobile. Designed to cut three to four holes per second, the Rumbler can cut up to 48 kilometers (30 miles) of rumble strip in a day. A blower removes cuttings from the grooves.



Hydraulically driven by a PowerTech 6.8L engine, the Road Pro 6200HD can be fitted with flail bits, milling cutters, diamond blades, brushes, or shot-blasting head.

This year, Rumbler will begin cutting rumble strips along the highways and byways of Australia and Saudi Arabia.

Dickson Industries is also known for its Road Pro machines and currently manufactures 15 different John Deere-powered models. Equipped with interchangeable tools, these machines can perform a variety of functions. They can be equipped with shot-blasting heads to restore the traction surface, flail bits to remove line markers, or diamond blades to cut grooves for inlaid markers.

Dickson says the power and torque of John Deere engines are "more than adequate" to power the tools. "Cutting a groove with a


diamond saw requires a lot of power. That's why we use John Deere: They have bigger pistons and we need the torque."

Dickson's wheels are always turning, and he's continually looking for ways to make his equipment more productive, more efficient, and safer for the environment. Today, half of the Road Pro models come equipped with an integrated 10-filter dust collector that removes dust from the atmosphere. He's currently working on a multifunction Road Pro that can also cut rumble strips.

He's also gearing up for Final Tier 4/Stage IV emissions compliance for the Road Pro and Rumbler. "It will be relatively easy to convert

over to Final Tier 4 on both machines," he says. "The way the existing design is, there will be minimal changes needed to the machines."

It's not that Dickson doesn't enjoy a good challenge. "When I come into work every day, I'm going to have fun designing products and developing new technology. Some people like to fish, hunt, or play golf. I have zero interest in those things. What I do is basically a hobby to me. What drives me is to see that finished product out of production and watch it work. It's halfway amazing."

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