## 12-Foot Disc Mower Conditioner With Center-Pivot Steering

RACINE, Wis. — The all-new Case International 12-foot disc mower conditioner, Model 8312, is the first Case IH disc mower conditioner to feature hydraulic center-pivot steering with a mechanical driveline.

Other important features of the new unit include its 12-foot cutting width, automatic roll separation, and cutterbed advancements. The unit is designed for use with an 85-plus horsepower tractor with 1,000 rpm PTO and two hydraulic outlets.

"We've married the cutting advantages of rotary mower conditioners with the maneuverability of hydraulic center-pivot steering found on sickle-bar mower conditioners. This gives farmers the best of both worlds," said David Hess, Case product manager-hay and forage. "With the Case International 8312 Mower Conditioner, customers can mow in conditions a sickle bar can't handle dense, wet, downed, and tangled crops or fields plagued by rodent or fire ant mounds. And, they can do it faster.

"Our hydraulic center-pivot steering lets the operator cut up and down the same side of the field. On-the-go positioning is a one-lever operation, which is handy when you need to adjust for sidedraft on hills or move around obstacles like trees or fence rows. Off-the-field movement is equally convenient, since overall transport width is only 12.5 feet, just slightly more than a conventional 9-foot machine," he said.

The design of the mechanical driveline on the 8312 provides unique advantages, according to Hess. The gearbox, which pivots in conjunction with tongue swing to reduce driveline angles, provides belt-drive power to the cutterbed and hay conditioner roll drives. Belts are high-load carrying reinforced-fiber powerbands for long life. The entire driveline is slip- and overrunning-clutch protected. "These are features that ensure smooth, reliable performance," said Hess.

Another design feature on the 8312 is the overhead mainframe header suspension. Integrated header components are separate from the mainframe. Free-header flotation promotes uniform cutting with minimal scalping.

Advancements in the modular spur gear cutterbed on the 8312 include wider gear teeth for dependability and load-carrying capability, larger idler gear bearings



The new Case International 8312 mower conditioner marries the cutting advantages of rotary mower conditioners with the maneuverability of hydraulic center-pivot steering found on sickle-bar mower conditioners for mowing in tough conditions a sickle bar can't handle.

## Soybean Association Opposes Tax

ST. LOUIS, Mo. — The American Soybean Association (ASA) has joined with a dozen other agricultural associations in opposing the suggested 525 percent increase in inland waterways fuel taxes contained in the Administration's economic proposal.

In a letter delivered to members of several congressional committees, the farm groups stressed the tax increase was neither fair nor well-reasoned.

"Our comprehensive inland waterways system provides U.S. agriculture with a great competitive advantage over other countries, but this tax would put our export competitiveness at risk," the letter reads. "It will mean lost jobs, lost exports and lost farm income at a time when we can ill afford any such losses."

Agricultural products comprise nearly 35 percent of all products moved on inland waterways, and more than half of all export grain moves by barge. The coalition said that under the proposed tax arrangement, the cost of barging

grain would conservatively increase about 10 cents per bushel in addition to the proposed 10 cents per gallon BTU tax. Fuel costs of a typical barge movement on the Mississippi River would increase by \$70,000.

"Asking farmers to pick up the tab on this tax is out of the question," said ASA First Vice President and South Dakota soybean farmer Larry Diedrich. "Increased transportation costs will be passed on to us in terms of lower prices and higher input costs. And the tax does not take into consideration the likely increase in deficiency payments that will result from lower prices."

The coalition also points out that the tax works at cross purposes with the Administration's environmental objectives. Barge transportation uses less fuel per ton-mile, creates less air and noise pollution, uses less steel and other materials per unit of cargo-carrying capacity, and claims a superior safety record in petroleum and hazardous material movements.

than used on competitive units, and a higher-grade finish on the gear teeth to minimize cutterbed contamination and reduce noise. A full-width, steel cradle protects the cutterbed assembly from wear or damage.

Eight heat-treated oval discs, each with two reversible knives, operate at 2,600 rpm. Eight replaceable skid shoes and rock guards are standard. End discs include an anti-wrap cage and crop slinger disc to improve crop flow and reduce recutting. For easy servicing, disc assemblies and adjacent idler gears are individually accessed by folding up front curtains which are held in position, during field operation, with magnetic catches.

Hay is conditioned by inter-

meshing, 110-inch-wide rolls driven through a gearbox and enclosed chain case. Adjustable roll spacing and roll tension on the 8312 provide uniform drying with minimal leaf loss. Adjustable baffles enable an operator to lay 36-inch windrows or swaths up to 106 inches. For non-plugging operation, automatic roll separation is standard.

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