

Harvester Has Self-Contained Hydraulics

RACINE, Wis. — J I Case has introduced a new Category III forage harvester, the Case International 8750.

"People in the industry know that forage harvesters haven't changed much in the last decade," said Dave Hess, Case product manager-hay and forage. "But the 8750 features several innovations that increase productivity and convenience. The most important is the self-contained hydraulic system."

The hydraulic system supplies power to drive the feedrolls and attachments. The tongue of the machine serves as the hydraulic reservoir for the self-contained system, and the system pump is belt-driven from the tractor PTO.

"Because of this setup, theoretical cut length can be infinitely adjusted between 3/16 and 5/8 of an inch," said Hess. "All a farmer needs to do is move an indicator to the desired position. This varies the pump output flow and changes the speed of the feedroll drive motor — faster for long cuts, slower for shorter cuts. There are no sprockets to change. No machine with mechanical drive is as easy to adjust."

Conference To Explore Use Of Conservation Reserve Acres

ANKENY, Iowa — What use farmers will make of the 36.5 million acres of cropland enrolled in the Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) once their contracts expire and what options federal policymakers may exercise to keep at least some CRP acres out of crop production over the longer term will be discussed at a national conference on February 10-11, 1994, in Arlington, Va.

The conference, "When Conservation Reserve Program Contracts Expire... The Policy Options," is being sponsored by the Soil and Water Conservation Society (SWCS) in cooperation with several government agencies and many of the nation's leading conservation and agricultural organizations. Participants will include federal and state policymakers, government program managers, and representatives of environmental and agricultural organizations.

The conference program will examine how well the CRP has achieved its multiple purposes; how farmers say they plan to use their CRP acres once their contracts expire; and given federal budget limitations, what options might be available to policymakers for perpetuating the environmental and other benefits achieved with the CRP over the past eight years.

The CRP was created in 1985. Under the program, farmers are paid an annual rental fee for retiring highly erodible and other environmentally fragile land from crop production for a period of 10

years. In return, they must establish and maintain a permanent soil-conserving cover of grass or trees on the retired acres for the life of the contract.

According to Hess, the ability to accurately control cut-length uniformity results in better silo loading, packing and unloading. "It also helps provide consistent, optimum feed quality to promote milk production and improve livestock health."

Another advantage of the self-contained hydraulic system is that it provides built-in overload protection, with no need to adjust slip clutches or stop and change shear bolts. The feedrolls stop when the hydraulic system exceeds relief pressure. Hess noted that the cutterhead, auger, and blower are mechanically driven for maximum utilization of available power from today's high-horsepower tractors.

The 8750 has three-row capacity and is available with a 150 or 200 PTO horsepower driveline. For many operations, the surface area of the tongue on the 8750 provides adequate heat dissipation so supplemental hydraulic cooling is not required. But in high-capacity, long-duration operations, an oil cooler, which is standard equipment on machines with the 200-horsepower driveline, keeps operating temperatures

down. A field-installed cooler option is available for units with the 150-horsepower driveline.

The cutterhead is 18 inches in diameter and 22 inches wide, with 10 spiral knives that make 10,000 cuts per minute. The shear bar has a 1.25 x 2-inch cross-section — larger than competitive models, according to Hess. "This means less deflection under heavy loads, a cleaner cut, longer knife wear and reduced power requirements. The shear bar is reversible and easy to adjust, and that means the farmer will get longer use out of it," he said.

The optional metal detector available for the 8750 detects ferrous metals and stops the feedrolls before foreign objects can enter the cutterhead. This reduces the possibility of downtime and costly repairs, and helps protect livestock.

If the feedrolls stop, either because of metal detection or overload, the operator simply flips a toggle switch to hydraulically reverse the direction of the feedrolls and attachment head and back the crop out. "The hydraulic feedroll drive design eliminates the need for electric clutches or gear boxes which are mechanically shifted," said Hess.

"We designed this forage harvester with an ear to our customers," he said. "More than anything, they want productivity, dependability and ease of use. The 8750 reflects that input."

Among other features, it has a central lubrication bank for 16

difficult-to-access feedroll bearing and pivot points. And it has a simple, effective knife-sharpening system that requires no tools. Knives are sharpened when cutterhead direction is reversed.

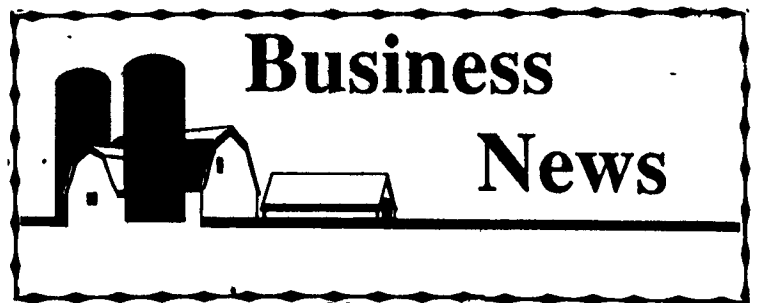
Hydraulic tongue swing is standard, and a convenient, remotely positioned grip-type handle with fingertip switches provides electro-hydraulic control of attachment head height, spout rotation, and of the spout deflector.

The 8750 comes with a choice of optional two- and three-row heads for 30- and 38-inch row spacing, as well as a 7-foot-wide

windrow pickup head. To complement these heads, the forage harvester features four-point mounting with two quick-latches, electro-hydraulic raising and lowering of the head, and convenient adjustment of header height and header drop rate.

Because the attachment head and cutterbox pivots around the centerline of the cutterhead shaft, the relationship between the attachment and feedrolls stays constant.

The Case International 8750 forage harvester is in limited production this year, with full availability for the 1994 season.



The self-contained hydraulic system on the Case International 8750 forage harvester supplies power to the feedrolls, making it possible to provide uniform, clean cuts through an infinitely variable range of lengths.

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