— Fall Harvest Wrap-Up —

New STS Combines Round Out John Deere Combine Family

GRAND ISLAND, Neb. — Husker Harvest, conducted outside Grand Island, Neb., was the site of the first public viewing of demonstrations of a new line of combines from John Deere.

The Single Tine Separation (STS) combine models from John Deere employ a patented harvesting concept unlike any other harvesting concept, said Don Yarbrough, engineering manager, John Deere Harvester Works Product Development. "Its patented design and unique features make it superior to conventional rotary concepts."

For example, he explained, conventional rotaries typically feature a top cage that maintains the same diameter throughout the length of the rotor. "As a result, crop material tends to compress as it passes through the threshing and separating sections. In a moist or green-stem crop, the material twists, ropes, and may even plug. Separation is inhibited and horsepower requirements are increased.

"The unique STS design, however, features a three-step outer cage. The diameter of the top cage increases in the threshing and separation sections. So, material has room to expand as it accelerates through the separator module. This creates a pull and release effect that offers two big advantages," Yarbrough added. "First, as the crop material expands, grain trapped in the crop mat is freed. Grain savings is significant. Second, the free-flowing material places less torque on the tine separator, so less horsepower is required to maintain tine separator speed."

Other features of the new STS combine models include:

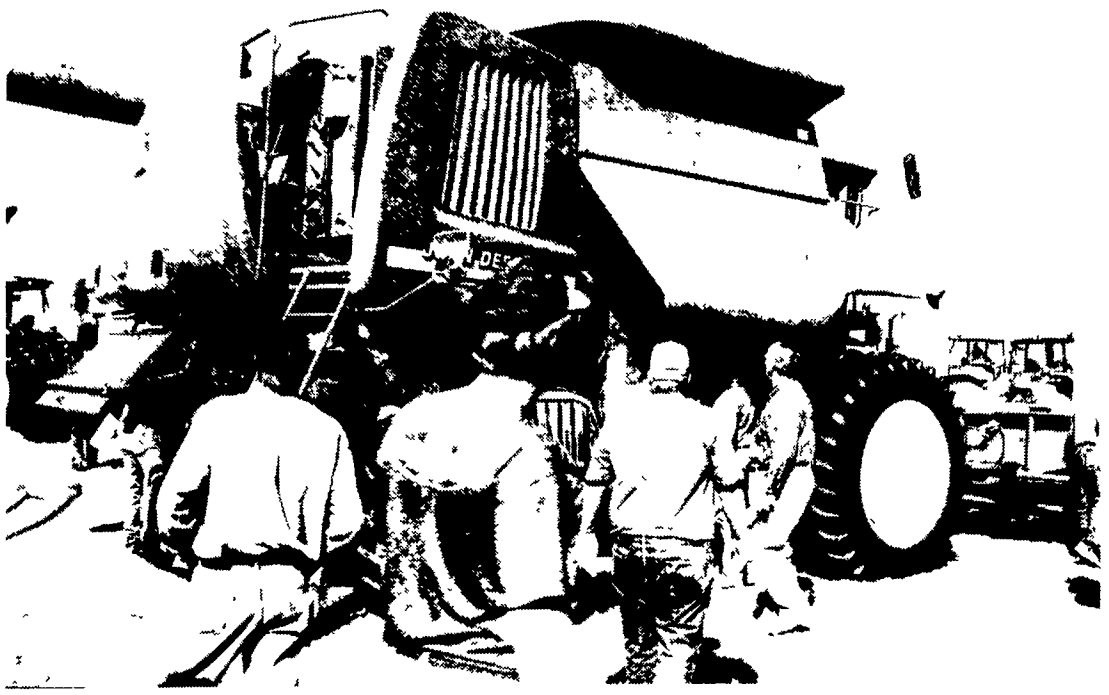
• Feeding performance - especially in moist, green conditions – is one of the biggest drawbacks of conventional rotary designs. Yarbrough said STS combines feature a new Feed Accelerator and Stone Trap System to provide excellent feeding performance in all crops and conditions.

• A new TriStream™ design directs material into the feeding section in three paths, providing more even loading of the feed section and reducing the incidence of slug feeding.

• To provide optimum grain quality, STS combines feature unique threshing elements that gently thresh and help convey material to the separating section. These threshing elements are made of an advanced austempered carbidic iron casting that provides excellent abrasion resistance and extra-long wear life.

• The STS Combines also feature the DynaFlo™ cleaning system, which was designed to closely match cleaning capacity with the increased material loads of STS combines. DynaFlo cleaning is highly efficient and provides convenient adjustments.

Yarbrough said the new combines have undergone field tests, which show that STS combines provide up to 25 percent more capacity in small grains compared to conventional rotaries. The advantages can be even greater in corn and soybeans.



The Single Tine Separator (STS) combines were a hit at the Husker Harvest in Grand Island, Neb.

New Auction Web Site Available For Used Farm Equipment

MOLINE, Ill. — Shopping for used farm equipment after harvest is now just a mouse click away.

A new web site, machinefinderauction.com, launched by Remarketing Services of the John Deere North American Agricultural Marketing Center, allows farmers to bid on used equipment posted for auction by John Deere dealers. The site is designed to complement MachineFinder.com, John Deere's used-equipment search site.

The site is designed to give farmers access to a greater number of choices when they look to purchase used equipment, said Bill Holstun of John Deere. The role of John Deere in the site is to serve as an intermediary or facilitator — building a marketplace for buyers and sellers of used agricultural equipment.

"This new service allows us and our dealers to focus on the business of selling equipment, instead of running an auction site," Holstun said. "This site helps new and existing customers find the best deals possible on used equipment, while giving our dealers one more distribution channel."

Since dealers take various brands of equipment on trade for new and used John Deere machinery, the auction is not to be limited to John Deere equipment. Most equipment is agricultural machinery, but some lawn-and-garden and construction equipment also is available. The site is now in its infancy, but eventually customers will have a choice of virtually thousands of pieces of equipment to fill their everyday needs.

Deere STS combines feature unique threshing elements. Visitors see optimum grain quality.

Just The Facts

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• Low commodity prices will drive 1999 net farm income below the estimate for 1998, but will still approach the longer-term decade average.

• Not only has the United States harvested large crops for several years, but so have other major producing countries, including the European Union, Canada, Australia, Brazil, and Argentina.

• 1999 net farm income, forecast at $43.5 billion will fall below the estimate of $44.1 billion for 1998. On average, cash receipts are forecast to be about $4.3 billion below those of 1998, the lowest since 1994.

• Loan deficiency payments are forecast at over $5.6 billion for 1999. In 1998, about $1.8 billion of direct payments were for loan deficiency payments.

• Direct payments are forecast at $15.5 billion for the 1999 calendar year, up from $12.2 billion in 1998. 1999 payments are projected to be second only to the 1987 high of $16.7 billion.

• Livestock cash receipts are expected to reach their second highest level of the 1990s, rising more than $1.5 billion from 1998. With the exception of hogs, livestock receipts are generally improving.

• Farm prices for corn are expected to remain weak in 1999/2000. The average farm price is expected to be near the 1998/99 forecast of $1.95 per bushel.

• Domestic corn use will likely set another record in1999/2000, while U.S. corn exports will decline because of increased competition from China, continued large exports by Argentina, and declining world trade.

• U.S. agricultural exports are forecast to recover modestly in fiscal year 2000 to $50 billion, the first increase since 1996, and a 2 percent gain from 1999.