

First Off The Line

WHAT A YEAR it's been for Tony Peters. His first child, a daughter named Elliana, was born, on Father's Day, no less. "I couldn't ask for anything better," says the Sherburn, Minn. farmer. Another beginning took place just a few weeks earlier: He watched as his MF8680 rolled off the line at AGCO's Jackson, Minn., manufacturing facility. It was the first Massey Ferguson® high-horsepower tractor to be built and sold locally at the plant.

"I watched everything from cabs being put on other tractors to the first time they fired up the engines," recalls Peters. "I probably asked more questions than any ordinary guy, but everybody was just super to talk to, and real friendly."

Peters farms about 500 acres of corn and beans, and does custom work, spreading about 10 million gallons of manure each year for some 14 customers. Prior to his new tractor, he owned an MF8480, which delivered "amazing" fuel efficiency and dependability, according to Peters, who works with Massey Ferguson dealer Van's Implement in Hull, Iowa.

The new MF8680 performs even better, saving him as much as a gallon an hour. "When you're saving an extra gallon an hour, and you put in maybe 12, even 16 hours a day, that's huge," he says. "Even with the cost of DEF, the savings are still there."

The CVT not only helps save fuel, but also makes the tractor easier to drive. "With what they call pedal mode in my 8680, you pretty much drive it like a car," he says. "In my opinion, the efficiency part is what's going to make or break farming." That's a big reason why, says the new dad, "this tractor makes sense."

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The Legend Of Ninja Cow

NOT LONG AGO, if you were to ask Plattsmouth, Neb., locals what their town was best known for, you'd probably get a variety of answers: the Plattsmouth

Harvest Festival, a \$6 million downtown restoration project or the fact that it's one of the oldest communities in the state. But ask residents that question today and you'll likely hear a completely different and near-unanimous answer: the Ninja Cow.

It all began in September 2011 with an unusual call to Plattsmouth police dispatch, which in turn notified animal control officer Sue Baker. A cow had jumped or fallen from a truck, and it was currently grazing on the front lawn of City Hall. "I went out, and there it was—a large, solid black cow," she says. With police assistance, she attempted to catch the bovine, but it jumped a 4-foot fence and escaped into the woods.

Over the next few months, a legend was born. Everyone talked about the Black Angus that roamed the town by moonlight. While cow-sighting calls came in nightly, she was never seen during the day, foiling every attempt to trap her. After a police officer remarked that she was like a Ninja, the nickname stuck.

*The legend, now
behind bars.*



PHOTOS: TONY PETERS, LORI PETERS; NINJA COW, COURTESY SUE BAKER; RED KNOT, LARRY HENNESSY