



PHOTO: DAVID STEMBRIDGE

pulling the same load.” The Deeres, says Dasher, are less than a year old.

The result of these tests? The MF8680 “out-pulled these John Deeres and the Massey used less fuel.”

That, according to Dasher, makes the MF8680 a winner and a keeper.



■ See Robert Dasher’s MF8680 in action and read our **Fall 2011 profile** of the farmer who’s helped put the Vidalia on the national map. Visit go.myFarmLife.com/dasher.

FarmLIFE FIVE

Quick cuts about life on the land.

THIS ISSUE: *Just in time for spring, notes on planting... and such.*

■ **THERE’S AN APP FOR THAT?** Zombie Farm players—some 12 million worldwide—have made it the No. 1 farm-related download in the iTunes



Application Store. And when we say farm-related, we’re using that term loosely. Players plant crops—and corpses—that they then harvest. The corpses become zombies that can be used to battle enemies, which might include ninjas, pirates or aliens. You know, just like what happens on real farms.

■ **YIN.** Of all acres planted to soybeans in the U.S. in 2011, 94% used genetically modified (GM) seed that resists herbicides, mostly glyphosate. Between 65% and 75% of the corn crop and more than 70% of the cotton crop are planted using GM seed.

■ **YANG.** There are at least 13,000 certified organic producers in the United States, up from 2,500 to 3,000 in 1994. That’s when the USDA created a national certification for organic farmers, who must refrain from using almost all chemicals to grow crops or raise livestock.

■ **A VERY MEANING-FULL WORD.** In English, “plant” has at least five definitions: **1** a fixed installation, **2** an industrial facility, **3** to give or place something (e.g., an idea, kiss or foot), **4** any member of the kingdom Plantae and finally, **5** to put something in the ground and hope like heck it grows or becomes a zombie (see above).

■ **REPAST REBATE.** When meals are provided at the work site for the convenience of the employer, 100% of the cost of the meals are deductible. The rationale is that during particularly busy times, such as planting and harvest, the tight schedule doesn’t allow employees time to run into town for meals.

THE ASSEMBLY OF MASSEY FERGUSON ROW-CROP TRACTORS isn’t the only exciting development at AGCO’s Jackson, Minn., plant. Here, in the North American heartland, the plant will welcome guests at a new, state-of-the-art, 17,000-square-foot visitor’s center.

Featuring the theme “Where Innovation Meets Productivity,” the facility has been named “Intivity Center.” It will open later this spring, featuring interactive exhibits about the history of modern farming, and displaying many of the innovations developed at AGCO and by the brands that merged to form the company. The facility will also look ahead, detailing new, innovative technologies on the horizon that will help farmers become all the more productive and meet the planet’s ever increasing need for food.

In addition, the plant will offer tours, allowing visitors to see its tractors and other equipment being assembled, as well as interact with the plant’s greatest asset—its employees.

■ **Stay tuned at go.myFarmLife.com/jackson for more on the center’s opening dates and to schedule a plant tour. You can also read more about the plant, its employees and advanced technology.**

1

2

3

4

5