

PHOTOS: CHRISTIAN PARLEY



# And The Winner Is ...

“FARMING PROBABLY SAVED me time on a shrink’s couch,” says Bruce Brandt.

“It was therapy,” adds the retired high school assistant principal. “Every evening after I got home from school, I would take my aggressions out on the weeds and get in the dirt, literally.”

Now, managing his 15-acre grove of Chandler walnuts in California’s Central Valley is Brandt’s only “job.” And it’s all the better since he won a year’s use of a Massey Ferguson® 2680 HD low-profile utility tractor at the 2011 World Ag Expo. He likes the tractor so much he’s decided to buy a smaller, but equally capable MF2660.

But his appreciation of red tractors is nothing new. His parents owned a Massey Ferguson 165, and before that a Ferguson 40. He still uses the 165 today.

“I swear the hydraulic controls [on the new tractor] work exactly like the 165 hydraulics,” says Brandt. “Yes, improvements have been made, but Massey Ferguson came up with a great idea and design way back with the 165, and that carries through today.”

He says of his new tractor, “It’s a

■ You can enter to win use of a tractor of your own at the **2012 World Ag Expo in Tulare, Calif.** The dates are February 14–16.

## A Central Valley farmer brings home a new HD Series tractor.

great design all the way around. The draft control senses and keeps [the tooth harrow] at a certain depth. In sandy soil it doesn’t let it dig too deeply. In soil a little tougher, it bears down a little more. It’s awesome.

“It’s really comfortable, too,” continues Brandt. “We cultivate after every irrigation, and I spend a lot of time on the tractor. It’s just really easy to use and gets the job done.”



## What’s New On myFarmLIFE.com

**FALL HARVEST IS** fodder for fine art; just ask the folks at the Corn Palace in Mitchell, S.D. Visit our website at **myFarmLife.com** to learn much more about the process of creating the world-famous murals on the exterior of the building, along with photos of the artwork through the years.



PHOTO: JAMIE COLE

Fall is also the boon time for U-pick operations, and our story on page 21 features a visit with one of the biggest and best. Take a tour of Mercier Orchards, where the family takes us behind the scenes at their agritourism

operation for cider making, packing and shipping, and gives us a closer look at their 45-plus varieties of apples. Online, check out video clips, along with an expanded article and photos.

You can flip through back issues of *FarmLife*™ magazine and revisit the stories you enjoyed, as well as share articles old and new with your friends. Find all those features and more for each article at **myFarmLife.com**.



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