

getting started

a message from Bob Crain

It's a Team Effort

WITH COMBINES, GRAIN CARTS, AND TRACTORS in tow, custom harvesters race across the country and against the clock to help reap and thresh grains, corn, and beans just as they ripen. They're a critical link in this country's food chain, as a harvester's specialized skills and equipment allow producers to focus their time and money on other equally important steps in bringing food to the table.

In this issue we give you the second installment of a three-part series on one such custom cutter, Shorty Kulhanek (page 8). He's harvested since childhood, having learned the ropes from his father. Today, family is still a big part of his operation, as are the Gleaners he's used throughout his career. "I grew up with them," he tells us, "and I have no reason to want anything different."

In farming as in life, it seems that with every problem solved or advancement achieved, there comes another series of obstacles. Take, for example, the increase in yields per acre. In "Serious Stubble" (page 20) we talk to several farmers about the steps they take to deal with the increased residue from the higher yields and tougher hybrids they're growing these days.

We detail a number of other advancements, including an electric-drive concept vehicle (page 4) we at AGCO are now developing, as well as the new Super 7 Gleaner (opposite page), which is proving in field tests that it's the best Gleaner yet.

Constant improvement—it's a major focus here at AGCO, and we're sure it is at your operation, too. We're also all about working together, whether that's across our different brands or with our customers, such as those helping us develop the Super 7 and our other innovative equipment. Just like in farming and ranching, at AGCO it's a team effort, and we're proud to be a part of it.



Senior Vice President of AGCO North America

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people in this issue

LEON THOMPSON BERESFORD, SOUTH DAKOTA

Compared to the 2 to 3 tons per acre of residue that crops commonly produced 10 to 15 years ago, farmers are now faced with 5 tons per acre or more. That's in large part due to the higher plant density and genetically-altered crops



grown by many farmers today. Leon Thompson and his son, John, attack the increased residue with a trio of Sunflower tillage tools to work the soil: a 4511 disc chisel, a 40-foot harrow and a 5035 field cultivator (see the story on page 20).

"The higher the yield, the more residue you have ... plus, the yields have been getting better since we've been using the disc chisel for deep tillage." It's a good cycle, believes Leon. What's more, he says, "if we can get in there in the fall with the disc or disc-chisel, we never have any problems with the field cultivator or planter getting plugged." *Dealers: Lynott Implement, Inc., Hawarden, Iowa; Butler Machinery Co., Souix Falls, S.D.*

BLAIR HANSEN HUDSON, IOWA

Blair and his three brothers did what they were told couldn't be done—take a dairy with just 150 cows and make it profitable enough to support their families, plus their parents (see the story on page 16). But they did it with good planning and organization, as well as some innovative approaches to operating their business. To get all the work completed, they also need the most efficient equipment. That's why they chose a Hesston® Hydro-Swing Disc Mower Conditioner—a tool that cuts their 100 acres of hay efficiently without the expense of a self-propelled model.



Dealer: Goos Implement, Ltd., Gladbrook, Iowa