



## It Takes a Team

**THE NEW GLEANER® SUPER SERIES** combines have generated a lot of positive buzz in the industry ... and so has the team that developed them. Schooled in engineering and computer sciences, as well as a host of other disciplines, their technical expertise is among the most respected in the industry. Yet, this group of AGCO employees, based in the small town of Hesston, Kan., also called on another source to help them design these technologically advanced machines—their agricultural roots.

Thanks to those farming connections, employees at the Hesston facility apply real-world experience to the development of every combine and build every machine as if a neighbor or relative will be the buyer. And many times, that's been the case. In fact, there are a fair number of Gleaner combines that are owned by AGCO employees themselves.

One of those employees is Jim Kopriva, a Gleaner combine technical project engineer who still farms during vacations and on weekends with his dad and a brother near Atwood, Kansas. Together, they count on a Gleaner R75 and an R62 to harvest several thousand acres of corn, soybeans and wheat that the three own through a corporate partnership.

Craig May, an AGCO design engineer, still finds the time to work the wheat harvest with his dad, two brothers, and their R62. It could

be said that experience not only helped his family, but made a difference when May helped design the optional folding bin extension on the new Super Series.

Then there are the contributions of Bob and Debbie Honas. The married couple have worked on Gleaner combines as part of an engineering team that has evolved through Allis-Chalmers, Deutz-Allis and, ultimately, AGCO Corporation. Today, both continue to work in AGCO's combine engineering group, where they helped develop the Super Series—what Debbie calls “the biggest and most exciting project yet.”

For Bob, the respect for silver machines started in 1975 when he worked for a custom harvest crew during the summer while in high school. In the early 1980s, Debbie began working at Allis-Chalmers as a test engineer. Later, she became part of the R50 design team for Deutz-Allis, where she met Bob.

Talk to these and others who help build Gleaner combines and you'll hear similar stories about farm families that have close ties to the land. “Our success is really attributed to the people around us,” insists Bob. “Without the prototype shop, the other engineers, all the people in the plant and the customers, we couldn't have accomplished as much as we have.” —*Tharran E. Gaines*

For more about the new Gleaner Super Series, see “Straight from the Farmer's Mouth,” beginning on page 8.