

# contents: spring 2014

## A Message From Bob Crain

### Tip of the Hat

**YOU'VE GOT TO HAND IT TO A MAN** willing to live off the land, the grid and any beaten path whatsoever. That's the story of Ken Deardorff, the last person to receive title to land claimed under the provisions of the U.S. Homestead Act.

In 1974, Mr. Deardorff, whose story is told on page 5, moved to the middle of Alaska, some 200 miles northwest of Anchorage, where he and his family worked 80 acres without much in the way of modern conveniences. Anything he didn't grow or hunt had to be brought in by dog team, boat or bush plane. His 1942 Allis-Chalmers tractor had to be delivered in pieces and reassembled on his land.

Perhaps an extreme example, but that kind of independence and willingness to make something with what the land provides are traits found in so many Massey Ferguson® and AGCO customers. For them, hard work is not something to be avoided.

Take, for example, farmers such as Barry McMillin, an Illinois horseradish farmer, and Bob Bartlett, a seed potato grower from northern Maine. Both are profiled in this issue—Mr. Bartlett on page 18 and Mr. McMillin on page 22—and both represent that telltale self-reliance we associate with the North American farmer.

At Massey Ferguson and AGCO, we salute that enterprising spirit and are extremely proud that producers the world over depend on our equipment and dealer network to help get the job done. We understand there are many choices in farm machinery, so we strive—through a focus solely on agricultural equipment—to be the absolute best partners for producers large and small, as well as those who raise livestock and crops for themselves or domestic and export markets.

While it certainly has its own rewards, farming is still hard work, and that's something we definitely appreciate.



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**ON THE COVER.** David and Bob Bartlett are longtime seed potato farmers in Maine's Aroostook County. Just before harvest, the top side of the potato plant blossoms in spectacular colors that rival autumn foliage. Photographer Ken Lamb captured the white flowers in August for our cover photo.

## first gear

- 3 *Night Shift*
- 4 *Big, Bright, Shiny Fun /// Prolific Productivity*
- 5 *America's Last Homesteader /// FarmLife FIVE*

## advantage

- 7 **inside agriculture: Soft Landing**  
*Most ag industry watchers think a belt-tightening is due, but the overall long-term outlook for the farm economy remains bright.*
- 10 **equipment: Glossary of Benefits**  
*With continuous introductions of customer-focused innovations, Massey Ferguson builds upon a history that spans three centuries and its full line of equipment.*
- 11 **equipment: Tough-As-Nails Paint**  
*New AGCO paint and finishing technologies are state-of-the-art for farm equipment.*

## features

- 12 **Small Hay, Big Needs**  
*With the cost of hay near record highs, more small-acreage farmers are cutting and baling themselves. Two farmers explain how they not only save money, but also how they produce a better-quality product.*
- 18 **cover story: Seeds They Sow**  
*The seed potato business in Maine is still about kin, confidence and connecting directly to customers.*
- 22 **A Crop With Punch**  
*One of a dwindling number of horseradish growers in North America describes the back-breaking work and ponders the crop's future.*

## farmstead

- 27 **in the garden: Ears from the Ground**
- 30 **project: Fishing Storage Bench**
- 31 **in the kitchen: Hearty Pot Roast**
- 32 **country portrait: She's Number One**

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