



operation over time rather than just when his father is no longer in the picture.

“He may not want his son to have to buy shares in the LLC 20 years from now at twice the price of today,” says Ford. “Really, the living trust, the LLC and buy-sell agreements are just different versions of contracts.”

In the meantime, Elroy plans to continue farming full time for at least the near term, while Terry holds down his “day job” and gladly works the farm whenever needed. In the not-so-distant future, however, Ryan and/or Nicole may take over the operation. Yet for now, they’re pretty content fetching tools, running through farm fields, learning the ropes on the farm that could one day be theirs, and generally getting to spend time with Dad and Granddad. **FL**

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ELROY PANBECKER’S “BRING IT ON”

attitude toward the newest and best farming technology belies his 69 years. That’s why this veteran farmer has been using AGCO equipment for decades. Today’s horsepower stable includes a Gleaner® R65 combine, a Sunflower® 4412 disc ripper, a well-preserved AGCO-brand RT120-A tractor, a Massey Ferguson® 3645 and the young stud, a Massey Ferguson 8680 tractor.

“I think it is probably the leading technology out here, as far as fuel efficiency is concerned,” says Elroy of the 8680. It, like all 8600 series tractors, is equipped with the 8.4-liter AGCO SISU POWER engine that, when coupled with the tractor’s CVT (continuously variable transmission), provides some of the best—if not the best—fuel efficiency in the market. “The nice part,” adds Elroy’s son Terry, “is that the smooth transmission and fuel efficiency don’t

sacrifice overall power or low-end torque to get whatever job is on our plate.”

Terry also appreciates AGCO’s efforts—through its Fuse initiative—at making its equipment compatible with an array of technologies from other companies. For instance, the Panbeckers use third-party displays and controllers they are familiar with to run equipment such as their planter. “I think this will be the future with new implements and tractors,” he says.

Elroy likes what he’s gotten in expertise from Pocahontas Equipment. “They have the parts available and they are very good at taking care of you.” Roger Gerdes, a partner at Pocahontas Equipment, LLC, returns the compliment. “The Panbeckers run a good operation and have tried to stay on top of technology all the time,” he says. “They are the kind of customers you want at your dealership.”