



UNBELIEVABLE MACHINES

MANAGING A 30,000-ACRE RANCH and caring for as many as 11,000 head of cattle demands that everyone and everything work on schedule. Fortunately for the Sloan family, owners of Sloan Cattle Company, they love the work, have terrific help and run a 10-machine fleet of dependable, comfortable and fuel-efficient Massey Ferguson® equipment.

"The fuel consumption is just unbelievable," says Chris Sloan, who runs the ranch with his father, Frank, and brother Frankie. About their 7600 and 8600 Series tractors, Chris says, "They burn 33% less than their competitors. And our two [windrowers], they burn 50% less fuel to cut the same amount of acres."

The cabs on the WR9700 Series windrowers are, says Frankie, "the most roomy as compared to other brands. Visibility is better too. John Deere is pretty enclosed, and in that Massey you can definitely see twice as good. Those Massey [windrowers] are definitely the best made on the market."

"The Masseys seem way smoother too," says Chris about the benefits of the CVT transmission. "You don't feel any jerks or any shifts. They've got plenty of power too. They're just amazing." And, he continues, "I've never sat in a more comfortable tractor than the 7600 Series tractor ... and they're tough. We had one start the other day at -30 degrees [Celsius]."

The Sloans also recently switched to two Hesston by Massey Ferguson® 2270 large square balers, which Chris says are dependable and easy to use. Even in their first year owning the large square, says Chris, "we could make 1,000 bales in a day. That [square baler] is a very impressive piece of equipment."

The Sloans work with Caouette & Sons Implements, about whom Chris says, "I've never seen a dealer support their equipment as much. With the amount of equipment we run, you're going to have breakdowns. I don't care what color or brand it is. Even on long weekends, whenever I call, they're there. They're very supportive."

"I can't have any downtime. It's a short season for me to do my hay and Caouette's understands that."

"My favorite job in the world," continues Chris, "is to feed cows. I haven't fed them in a long time, just 'cause I'm too busy doing other stuff."

Change, however, is a possibility. "We might just reduce the herd to 2,000 cows and be a lot more laid back," says Chris, who then pauses, shrugs his shoulders and adds, "Or else it might be 10,000. I can't tell you yet. Come visit me in five years and I'll let you know."

Future plans notwithstanding, all three agree they're fortunate to farm with each other. "I love working with my family," says Frankie. "Every day, I'm just happy to wake up and go do my job."

Adds Frank: "I like working with these two and seeing them grow up on the farm. And it's an awful nice sight to see 650 cows lining up, eating their oats behind a spreader. There's satisfaction in knowing that you've done that ... that you've raised that food for the whole world." **FL**

VISIT THE SLOANS. Video and a photo gallery take you inside the operation at myFarmLife.com/sloan.