

# Latest New Products From Major Manufacturers

Nearly all the big North American manufacturers of farm equipment launched new products over the past few months. Here, and on the next page, are some of the latest new products you'll see at farm shows this fall.

## New Holland Introduces Big 4-WD's

By Mick Lane, Contributing Editor

New Holland continues to charge ahead in its quest to overtake its big green nemesis in the North American large tractor market with the introduction of four new high-horsepower 4-WD tractors.

Editors and broadcasters from across North America were invited in mid-August to see and drive New Holland's new TJ series tractors on an 82,000-acre family farm in central Colorado. The four TJ series tractors, which replace New Holland's former 84 series, range from 275 to 440 hp in size.

The overall look and feel of the new line is stylish, from the high visibility provided by the sleek, low front hood to the modern cab and operator's station and open and easy-to-reach rear hitch and hydraulic outlets. The tractors also have more power, better fuel economy and are designed to be easy to service.

The TJ275 and TJ325 sport CDC turbocharged fuel-efficient engines, while the larger TJ375 and TJ440 feature a 15 L (915 cu. in.) Cummins. These tractors set 10 records for power and efficiency during tests at the Nebraska Tractor Test Lab, including highest drawbar pull and three-point hitch capacity, highest maximum pto power, highest torque rise, and drawbar and pto fuel economy.

The three smaller tractors in the TJ series come with a standard 24-speed fully synchronized manual transmission. Standard on the TJ440, and optional on the others, is a 16-speed full powershift transmission, which can shift up - or down - either one or two gears at a time at the touch of a button.

The smaller TJs can each handle up to 14,500 lbs. on the 3-point, while the two

larger ones can lift a whopping 19,650 lbs., the highest 3-point capacity on the market.

Big tractors need big hydraulics. For the first time, New Holland is offering its two-pump MegaFlow hydraulics system as an option on the big 4-wheel drives, allowing them to meet the demands of up to 90 gal. of flow per minute. With this system, you'll never run out of fluid for orbital motors on air seeders or other power-hungry applications when you turn the steering wheel. The standard hydraulics package can maintain a 40 gal. per minute flow. If your needs are more than that but you don't expect to need the capacity of the MegaFlow system, you can order the 55 gal. per minute Hi-Flo option.

For daily maintenance and service, the spring-loaded front grille opens easily, and then, one pull on the release handle behind the grille lets a gas cylinder push the entire hood up and out of the way for easy access to the engine and radiator. All daily service points are accessible from the ground. And sight gauges for fuel, hydraulic fluid and transmission fluid can all be read from one spot near the articulation point of the tractor.

TJ Series tractors equipped with synchronized transmission and duals front and back sell for right at \$120,000 for the TJ275 up to \$190,000 or so for the TJ440. Options and other add-ons can boost the price, though.

Allen Rider, vice president of New Holland's North American Ag Business group, used just one word in his description of the TJ series.

"Milestone," he says. "These tractors are the right product at the right time. New Holland is fully prepared to provide the support to all its dealers and customers to



When tested at the Nebraska Tractor Test Lab, New Holland's latest 4-WD's set records for highest drawbar pull, 3-pt. hitch capacity, and highest maximum pto power, according to the company.

make us a major player in the big tractor market.

He says sales of all New Holland tractors, including the big four-wheel drives, exceeded expectations in the first half of 2001 and adds "We will grow even stronger during the second half."

With Deere also reporting increased sales volumes and recent comments from

company officials about taking an even bigger share of the North American market, Rider's comments are akin to hockey players dropping their gloves.

"There is no question that the competition will be extreme," Rider says.

For more information, call toll-free 888 290-7377 or go to the company website: [www.newholland.com/na](http://www.newholland.com/na).

## CNH Committed To Blue *And* Red Customers

When Case-IH merged with New Holland to form CNH about a year ago, there was concern among the two company's loyal farmer customers and the two dealer organizations that the company could not, or would not, continue to support two separate tractor lines.

While it's taken awhile to merge the companies into one business unit, Allen Rider, vice president of New Holland's North American Ag Business group, says the red and blue tractor companies will continue to operate as separate business entities within the new company.

There are some efficiencies to be gained

from the use of common components and producing both tractor lines in the same assembly plants. But both companies have gone out of their way to make sure the red tractors are not clones of the blue ones — and vice versa.

"We have no intention of merging Case-IH with the New Holland line in any way," Rider says. He says doing so would strain customer and dealer loyalties and would likely cost CNH some market share.

"We're committed to supporting all our dealers, including those who may now be selling New Holland and a competitive line of equipment or tractors," Rider says.

## All-New Challenger Tractors

Released at the end of August, four new tracked tractors from Caterpillar range in horsepower from 185 to 255. The new line is the third generation of rubber-belted Challengers from Cat. The all-new "Mobil-trac" undercarriage has a track wheelbase that's 10 in. longer than on previous models.

The longer wheelbase provides more flotation and less compaction without having to use a wider belt. Undercarriages can be customized to fit your intended application, with six different belt widths available and various combinations of idlers, midwheels, and drivers.

Tractors are available with either a standard 3-pt. hitch or a "steerable" hitch that helps stay on the row in row crop work.

The tractors have a new 538 cu. in. Cat C-9 engine. It features a patented injection system that senses load changes for quicker response to changing conditions and improved fuel economy.

The tractor also have a new suspension system that isolates the chassis with two large rubber-fabric springs.

Maybe the most important change to the

new Challengers is the integrated electronic system which links the entire tractor together electronically. Control modules throughout the tractor constantly share performance data so that the engine is monitoring the power train for smoother shifting, optimum power management and the most efficient use of fuel. The comprehensive electronic system also lets you continually monitor performance of every aspect of the machine, diagnose mechanical problems, and integrate with GPS systems.

What's more, you can program repetitive tasks. You simply "record" a series of functions, such as transmission shifting, throttle, 3-pt. hitch position, pto, and implement raising or lowering, and then you can perform that function again and again by simply pushing a button.

Using GPS technology, the tractor also auto-steers when making parallel swaths. The tractor provides accuracy to less than 1 in.

You can read more about the new tractors at [www.cat-ag.com](http://www.cat-ag.com).



Cat's new line of Challengers features a 538 cu. in. engine with a patented injection system that automatically adjusts to changes in load.

## Caterpillar Debuts New Tillage Tools

Caterpillar is expanding into tillage tools in a big way with a new field cultivator and soil finisher.

The two tillage tools are fitted with a new cushion hitch developed by Cat which reduces stress on both the tractor and implement by absorbing side-to-side drawbar movement. As the hitch pivots, urethane cushions ease shock loads when the drawbar swings or when adjusting to changes in the terrain.

Dealers will have the new tillage tools by the spring of 2002. The soil finisher will be



New Caterpillar field cultivator.

available in widths ranging from 24 to 45 ft. Field cultivator widths range from 30 1/2 to 50 1/2 ft.