

REBUILT STEIGERS AND VERSATILES SOLD UNDER NEW NAME

"Titan" Tractor Slashes Price Of 4-WD Power

"Farmers who buy big 4-WD's have generally expanded their operations over the past few years but their planting and tillage practices have changed. Today their hours of operation have decreased while horsepower requirements have increased due to the heavy pulling loads of single pass tillage and planting equipment," says Jack Johnson, president of Power Mart, Inc., a new company recently formed by ex Steiger Tractor Co. executives to put a new high horsepower 4-WD tractor on the market.

What's different about the just-introduced Titan tractor is that it's actually a Steiger or Versatile 4-WD that's been rebuilt from the ground up.

"With all the consolidations in the farm machinery business these past years, farmers out looking for a new 4-WD are finding that they've increased dramatically in price to the point where they just don't pencil out. Until now there's only been one solution - to buy new or used. Now we're offering a new alternative," says Johnson, who was one of the founders of Steiger Tractor Co. and served as its president for the first 10 years of the company. Other ex-Steiger engineers and sales people have joined him to put the new Titan tractor on the market.

It has all the best features and benefits of the original tractor but has been upgraded to the power needed for today's equipment, says Johnson. Horsepower has been increased to 360 hp. with a remanufactured Cummins engine, and clutch, transmission components, drive lines and axles have all been upgraded to handle the added engine size as well as the stress of larger sized dual and triple tire configurations.

The Titan is standard-equipped with 20.8 by 38 radial triples that reduce compaction to near that of a crawler, notes Johnson. The cab is reconfigured to increase visibility, reduce noise, and fitted with an equipment console that puts all controls and monitors in one place. The tractor also sports a higher capacity air conditioner and increased front and rear lighting.

Best of all, says Johnson, the Titan carries the same warranty as a new 4-WD's from most major manufacturers (2 years or 2,000 hrs.) but at a price that's 30 to 40% lower at \$79,950. If you bring in your old tractor to have it rebuilt, the price is \$69,950. They work on Steiger Series III and later models or Versatile 800 or 900 series or later models. They disassemble and inspect all parts and then sandblast the frame to bare



New Titan tractors carry the same warranty as new 4-WD's from major manufacturers but sell for 30 to 40 percent less.

steel. The tractors are then reassembled by the company's experienced 4-WD veterans. The last step is to repaint the tractor the company's trademark yellow and black colors.

Titan remanufactured tractors are fitted with 360 horsepower engines. All components used are made by the same suppliers that currently supply components to

major tractor producers.

"Because everything is new on the tractor except for the frame of the original tractor, it will last as long and perform as well as a new machine," says Johnson.

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SAVED \$25,000 OVER PRICE OF A COMMERCIALLY-BUILT STRIPPER

He Built His Own "Stripper" Combine

"I wanted a stripper header but I didn't want to spend the nearly \$30,000 a commercially-built one would cost," says Todd Young, Knobel, Ark. He built his own "stripper" header from scratch for just \$4,700.

Stripper headers pull grainheads off standing stalks of grain, leaving the stalks standing and feeding only grain and chaff through the combine. They were developed in England and are now being marketed in North America by Massey Ferguson. The idea has caught on in certain areas of the country, particularly the Northwest, where wheat yields tend to be the heaviest, and the Mid-South in rice country.

Young started with a 22-ft. wide Deere 222 grain header and fitted it with his home-built stripper reel fitted with heavy plastic "fingers" that strip the stalks yet leave them standing. The biggest benefit of the process is that less crop material feeds through the combine so you can go faster and do a better job cleaning.

"It can be used on any small grain crop where the seed is exposed. Since grain is already threshed when it enters the combine, the machine uses only about half as much fuel. Tilling of the soil is easier since you don't have to deal with mounds of chopped straw. And because only a fraction of the residue enters the combine, there's much less grain loss. It also reduces wear and tear on the combine and saves labor. I figure I save \$9,000 to \$11,000 a year on grain savings, wear and tear, fuel and labor, and I'm able to complete harvest two weeks

earlier, which is a big help if you plan to double crop."

The stripping rotor is housed under a sheet metal housing that rests above and in front of the header. Young used a 22-ft. long piece of 10-in. dia. pipe for the rotor, welding a plate on each end with a center 1 1/2-in. dia. shaft for bearings. It's fitted with 8 pieces of 2 by 2-in. angle iron 22 ft. long that hold the plastic stripping fingers. He used 9 sheets of 4 by 8-ft. 16-ga. sheet metal to make the housing and a vertical shield that goes behind.

Stripping fingers were cut out of two 4 by 10-ft. pieces of 1/4-in. thick UHMW, a durable yet slightly flexible plastic that's used on commercial strippers. He cut out the fingers individually and bolted them to the 2 by 2 angle irons, which attach directly to the 10-in. center pipe. Young notes that he also could have purchased stripping fingers from the manufacturer but that they would have cost nearly \$4,000.

Lubrication consists of just two greasable bearings and two chains that need oiling every 10 hrs. of use. "The stripping fingers are expected to last about 2,500 acres with a replacement of just \$140 if you make them yourself, plus labor. It's very low maintenance compared to a conventional header," notes Young, adding that "anyone who has ever harvested small grains with a conventional combine will quickly catch onto this simple harvesting technique."

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Young fitted the reel (covered by metal shroud) on his stripper combine with "fingers" cut out of durable, and yet flexible, UHMW plastic. The fingers form a keyhole shape that strips grain off stalks.

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