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Volume 12



**CENTRAL
ILLINOIS
AG** SINCE 1898

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On the Cover

Kopp Farms cutting beans in DeWitt County with their Case IH 8250's and MacDon FD240 draper heads.



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This past year has been a fun one! Through the magazine articles, being in the fields, and events I've been able to meet many more of our customers. Hearing your unique farm operation stories, I can't help but think of the hard work that got each of you where you are today! When we're in-season and the busy-ness of the day gets away from us, it's an honor for me to pull up to your field, snap some photos of your equipment planting, harvesting, or working the ground. It's especially meaningful when several generations of the family are working together. A family farm is one of the most important legacy's around, and it's meaningful to be able to capture some of those moments!

This summer my family was honored on Ag Day at the Illinois State Fair as a Centennial Farm. Our family farm has been around for 109 years. My brothers and I didn't grow up riding in the combine with mom or dad (my dad, Kevin Coers, served in the military) but we grew up living at the original farmstead that our great-great-grandparents lived on and farmed, and that itself carries deep value.

My grandma is a tough lady, one of the few women in the 1960's who drove the tandem hauling grain to the elevator in town and helping thresh corn in the corncrib at winter time. My mom made her mark too, becoming the first female at Mt. Pulaski High School to earn her FFA State Degree. Today, a close family friend tends our acres, but those fields still hold stories. Stories of horses giving way to big iron, of generations learning and leading, and of tradition carried forward...and if you know my family, you know after harvesting the acres each year, there are still a couple weeks when the soil gets worked the old-fashioned way - with Oliver tractors and plows! If only the soil could talk!

Abby Coers

ABBY COERS, MARKETING DIRECTOR
acoers@centralilag.com



I am a senior at the University of Illinois studying agribusiness, where I'm also an active member of the Alpha Gamma Rho fraternity. This past summer, I gained valuable experience through my internship, working in both the parts department and in marketing. These experiences have strengthened my knowledge of the agriculture industry and prepared me for a future career in the field.

Drew O'Donnell

CENTRAL IL AG INTERN
DREW O'DONNELL

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a note from **THE PRESIDENT**

This past year has been a challenging and exciting one in agriculture, and we want to take a moment to thank you, our customers, CIA family, for being at the center of everything we do.

That focus on the future is something I see close to home as well. My son, Collin, is at the University of Illinois in the College of ACES and interning within various departments at Central Illinois Ag during his time off school. He's getting a feel for where his passion is within the dealership and has shown great interest in the business and operations side. It's been exciting to watch him bring fresh ideas and new skills to the table.

Meanwhile, my younger son, Alec, is in high school and has taken an interest in our service department. He spent the summer working with our technicians, learning firsthand what it means to support our customers and keep equipment running strong.

Owen is in grade school and enjoys coming along with me to work now and then, and interacting with customers and employees. The oldest son, David, attends Lincoln Land Community College studying culinary arts. He has found his passion within the food industry, following his dream career.

On a personal note, this December my wife, Kara, and I will be celebrating our 25th wedding anniversary. As we reflect on this milestone, I can't help but feel grateful - for family, for faith, and for the community we've been blessed to share each and everyday with.

With the most recent events happening worldwide, it's refreshing to see leaders like Charlie Kirk boldly stand up for themselves and for Christianity. Kirk's willingness to defend his faith, even when faced with pushback, serves as a reminder that we too are called to remain firm in what we believe.

In many ways, agriculture faces a similar challenge. Farmers are no strangers to criticism, misinformation around sustainability, or outright attacks on the ag industry. Those of us in agriculture must be willing to stand strong and speak up for the truth about the work we do.

Farming is not just a business, it's a calling. It's feeding families, caring for the land, and investing in future generations. When critics question the integrity of agriculture, it's important to respond with courage and confidence, grounded in the truth of the vital role we play in society. Just as faith requires perseverance, agriculture requires resilience.

Tough times come whether it's volatile markets, unpredictable weather, or harsh words from those who don't understand. But the example of standing firm is an encouragement for us all. By continuing to share our stories, advocate for the truth, and lean on the values that have guided agriculture for centuries, we ensure that the legacy of farming remains strong.

Standing up for faith and standing up for agriculture go hand in hand, both requiring conviction, courage, and the willingness to speak truth even when it's not popular.

On behalf of all of us, thank you for trusting us with your operations. We're proud to stand alongside you, and we look forward to continuing to grow together.

Michael Schmidt

PRESIDENT, CENTRAL ILLINOIS AG



THE SCHMIDT FAMILY

Back Row L to R: Alec, Michael, David, Collin

Front Row L to R: Kara and Owen



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COMPARING APPLES TO APPLES



“It’s just a mowing machine,” Ron said. The MyRide feature makes a noticeable difference in comfort, especially when mowing for long periods of time.

Ron also points out that the electric lift on the mower is a game changer, making height adjustments smooth and simple. Purchased in 2007 and running strong at 1500 hours, his Toro 2000 has proven the quality of the brand.

Ron recalls walking into Central Illinois Ag one day when owner Brian Reeser pointed him toward salesman, Todd Irwin. Since then, Ron has turned to Todd for his equipment needs, calling him his go-to guy for anything he’s looking to buy. “Todd has been great to me,” and adds that he’s truly enjoyed working with him to get deals done.

Ron Ferguson, third generation farmer, has been a loyal Toro mower owner for over two decades. Farming corn and soybeans in Dewitt County, he also has over 10 acres of grass to mow over the summer and warmer months.

Purchasing his first Toro in 2000 from his father-in-law, Ron has never looked back. Since that day, it has always been Toro mowers. In fact, he proudly says he has never even considered switching to another brand. His most recent Toro is a 4000 Series, model #74055.

With three Toro mowers, and one on the homestead at his father-in-law’s, Ron is a loyal customer to both Toro and Central Illinois Ag. When purchasing a new mower, it’s comparing apples to apples he explains. He keeps the same features, but with a newer machine.

“It’s the quality, durability, and thoughtful design features that make mowing a little more enjoyable,” said Ron.

One standout feature that Ron enjoys is the MyRide Suspension System, a suspended seat system that minimizes the bumps of rough terrain.



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CASE IH

Wheat Harvest

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A picture perfect day in the golden wheat field! This year, Bloome Farms harvested their wheat crop in Christian County with a Case IH 8260 and a Case IH 8250. We had some very warm days this summer, a great crop, and beautiful views from the field!



485 STUDENTS TAKE ON FARM PROGRESS SHOW

Central Illinois Ag proudly supported the future of agriculture by providing tickets for FFA students to attend the Farm Progress Show. With 485 students making the trip, the event offered a unique opportunity for them to see the latest advancements in equipment, technology, and farming practices up close. By investing in this experience, Central Illinois Ag is helping inspire and equip the next generation of ag leaders with knowledge and connections they can carry back to their own chapters and communities.



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HONORING THE PAST, POWERING THE FUTURE

When thinking back to the 2025 Farm Progress Show, a lot of attendees will remember seeing the Steiger 785 Quadtrac in the original Steiger Green color. But what makes it important this year compared to other years? We talked with Mark Burns, High Horsepower Marketing Manager for Case IH and got some insight on the most viewed tractor at the show.

“The tie of the [Steiger] green is really about the launch of the biggest tractor that Case IH has ever produced yet,” said Mark. “It’s an opportunity for us to honor where we came from: innovation, entrepreneurship, problem solving. Knowing that there was something not available to producers that they really needed so they went out and made their own. It’s where we came from.”

Although the Steiger green will not be a mass production unit, the newly released Case IH 785 is the latest innovation and highest horsepower tractor available on the market. It’s 10% higher in rated and peak horsepower, and really going after the productivity challenges of needing the extra power pulling implements.

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STEIGER **CASE IH**

LEGACY MEETS INNOVATION

Honoring the past while driving toward what's next, Case IH built the Farmall Super M with legacy at its core. Tailored for those who remember the power and character of the original Super M, the new Farmall 120 Super M pushes the envelope in performance, comfort, and capability

With 120 horsepower under the hood, the 120 Super M isn't just a tribute, it's built to deliver. A four-cylinder Stage V engine powers a 16x16 semi-powershift transmission equipped with Creeper mode and Eco-Speed features, allowing operators to navigate both field work and transport with efficiency and control. The 4WD drivetrain ensures good traction in a variety of terrain and conditions.

Inside the cab, Case IH has blended modern comfort with nostalgic flair. The suspended cab, air ride seat, ergonomic joystick control, and a layout that improves visibility, along with a heritage touch that reminds users of the Super M legacy without compromising on refinement.

"The Farmall M has always been a well-loved tractor with our customers so we wanted to bring that experience back with a more modern version," said Teri Zanella, Marketing Manager with Case IH. "We've added the IH logo to the exterior decal, the steering wheel, and to the seat as a nod to that heritage of the past."

The Farmall 120 Super M preserves the feel and identity of its namesake while adopting the technology and power demands.



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INNOVATION IN EQUIPMENT, DEDICATION TO THE FARMERS

“We’re in the business to really build relationships and take care of people.”-Jamie Meier, National Sales Manager

Nineteen years ago, Jamie Meier joined Landoll Corporation. Company owner Don Landoll entrusted him with the responsibility of expanding the Landoll equipment lineup. Don brought Jamie on board with confidence, knowing he would build a strong, successful team, and he did just that.

“Don hired a team, not just me, when joining the company I brought a strong group of co-workers along with me. We transformed Landoll tillage from yellow to blue when we came on board,” said Jamie.

At the time, the image of Landoll needed to be refocused. They wanted something new to happen and Landoll was a good influence in the market place. Along with adding new products to the lineup, it was the perfect time to change up the color of their machinery.

“It was a well accepted color in the industry, it wasn’t John Deere, it wasn’t Case IH,” said Jamie.

The equipment Landoll was very successful selling was the Landoll Tillage and the Landoll Weatherproofer, mostly used within the Midwest and the cornbelt region. Wanting to expand the customer base and territory, Jamie and his team added a disc, grain drill, coulters chisel, and the biggest release was a VT in 2008. The new product development

strengthened them in the cornbelt, and also picked up customers in other areas where their equipment was now a staple.

Knowing what different regions needs were and being connected to the dealerships helped Landoll take off with their new expanded lineup of equipment. Landoll has always prioritized the needs of their end users as well as making sure they are taken care of, and that have made them successful.

Although Jamie doesn’t have the connection with the farmers, the territory managers do. “When dealerships are stretched thin during the heat of the season trying to keep tractors, planters, and sprayers going, everyone is headed in every different direction that tillage is typically not at the top of the list. That’s where we come in, our territory managers go out to the field and see the customers to take care of the problem. If we can do that, it’s more value we bring to the table,” said Jamie.

Territory Managers at Landoll aren’t just guys in company polos and khakis, Jamie hires guys who want to be hands on going to the field to set equipment, and solve issues. Their team at Landoll is truly an extension to the dealership and resource for the end user, the farmer.

Engaging with the customer is very important because it allows Landoll to make the best of their equipment, to see where updates are needed. Their team is always looking for issues and how to solve them.

“There’s not many farmers out there, and the number of farmers is less and less everyday. So we need to make it a point to solve the problems and take care of them,” Jamie said.

Jamie has successfully led the Landoll company, but he credits the achievements to Don Landoll. The business started in 1963 with Don Landoll and another guy, they had a welding shop and radiator repair. To see where Don has taken the company today is incredible. Jamie said he knew the right people to hire to be behind him, but it was mostly him.

Amongst the ag industry when layoffs are at high, Landoll hasn’t laid off one person. Jamie credits that to diversification. He says that Don has always looked for opportunities during tough times. It takes the team, but ultimately it’s Don who is to credit for the success.

Diversification all started in the 1980’s. It was tough times and Don was building trailers. He was approached to build carts for the airports and he of course took on the task to build carts, which then led to an opportunity to

build de-icers.

“Don recognized, generated, and saw the opportunity of building de-icers,” said Jamie.

On Thanksgiving Day in 1984 Don flew down to Texas and signed a deal for \$43.8 million building de-icers. The diversification has carried the company through.

Don Landoll continues to lead the companies success by leading his team and taking care of his employees.

“Don’s been real supportive of customers. Our mission is 100% total customer satisfaction, it’s a harder thing to do than talk. He backs it up,” Jamie explains.

The Landoll team works together bringing good value to the dealerships with equipment, and if there are issues, the territory managers are by the dealerships side to help.

This past year Landoll brought out the 3 bar spike and double reel on the back of the field cultivators, which is a piece that separates them from the competition and creating value for the product. They also upgraded the 7530 to the 7531 adjustable gang VT.

The company added vertical tillage in 2007, purchasing the Precision Planting Tube Max Harrow. The recognized to run vertical tillage equipment it

would blow the stalks off the fields to the fence rows, ditches, etc. but they needed to move the dirt to anchor the residue. This is why Landoll’s VT tool came about in 2009.

It was a 10 degree fixed gang angle to move dirt to anchor the residue. They then saw the need to make the tool adjustable, and that’s when the 7530 came out, going from 5-10 degrees. However, they realized they weren’t using the 5-7 degree much, so they’ve since bumped it up on the 7531 to 8-18 degrees. Now they are approaching the disk gang angle, which can replace the VT type tool or disc, and handle anything in between. Stronger gang angle gives better penetration in the fall if needed and holds the residue in place by keeping it from blowing away.

As Landoll continues to innovate and adapt, the company’s foundation remains rooted in the same values that started it all: hard work, diversification, and a deep commitment to its customers and employees. With leaders like Don Landoll setting the vision and Jamie and his team carrying it forward, Landoll Corporation has built more than equipment; they’ve built lasting relationships and a reputation for standing by the people who depend on them. That dedication is what will keep Landoll growing, evolving, and serving agriculture for generations to come.



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Landoll Team Photo During the Recent Incentive Bonus Meeting - Another Great Benefit of Being a Landoll Team Member!

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Photo: Second Generation of Skinner Farms, Larry Skinner, and third generation, Seth Pate.

SKINNER FARMS

“I wouldn’t change much of what I did in life, it’s always been agriculture in one form or another. The biggest success was just doing a good job.” -Larry Skinner



Larry Skinner has been connected to Case IH for many years. In addition to farming, he also ran a trucking company and worked as a wholesale fertilizer dealer.

“Agriculture has been the greatest blessing in my life. It’s always been what makes me happy,” Larry shared.

He began farming with his mom and dad at a young age and is now the second generation of their family farm. Larry recalls that the first generation of their farm started with horses on his mother’s side of the family. His mother, Helen and father Tracy, started it all in 1945 and he recalls how hard his parents worked to build the farm from the ground up.

“My mom was a determined person. If she said she was going to do something, she did it,” Larry explained.

After World War II Larry’s father returned home and began farming, laying the foundation for what the operation would become.

Growing up Larry recalls picking corn with a two-row corn picker. His mom and him would sit up in the wagon and the corn would fly up in the air, then they would take it to the cribs and in the winter they’d shell it out with a corn sheller.

The first tractors Larry farmed with was a John Deere A and a John Deere G. His dad purchased new at the county fair in 1965 a 190 Allis Chalmers Diesel, that he still has today. He takes it to parades and it helps move items around the farm. This tractor is special to Larry as it holds memories of him farming with his father.

Skinner Farms eventually transitioned to red equipment when his friend, Jim Campbell owned Oakland Farm Supply, a Case IH dealership.

The first red combine on his farm was a Case IH 1688, which his dad purchased new in 1993 and it currently

only has 2500 hours on it. Larry keeps a cornhead on this combine and they use it if they have a breakdown. The cornhead always stays on, and the combine shines ‘like a pewter doll!’ “I keep things that make me happy,” said Larry, “I’ve been offered pretty big money for it. Money’s not the object.”

When it comes to Case planters since the 1970s, starting with an 800 series. Larry credits his fertilizer customers for introducing him to Case planters. He appreciated their simplicity, reliability, and how well they performed in the field.



In 1985 when Case Corporation bought International Harvester, Larry purchased three new tractors off them in one day: 2594 and 2390 which he still has, and a 2290. He traded his Allis Chalmers in and the Case IH units came to the farm.

As he looked to build his own path in agriculture, Larry faced the challenge of not having enough land to farm full-time. So he chose a different

route which was purchasing fertilizer plants and growing a successful business from the ground up.

Alongside his business operations, Larry prioritized being involved with the community and political organizations. “I did a lot of things to get involved with people, when George Bush was running for President, I was in the parade with him,” said Larry, “I’ll never forget. I got to do a lot of things that gave me a lot of world experience. From there I was appointed to a department of ag under a congressman.”

After nearly 30 years in the fertilizer industry, Larry sold his six fertilizer companies and invested in farm ground. He mentions that was when farm ground was about \$2,000/acre. Today, he farms in Douglas County on the acres he invested in with patience and hard work, and has setup a solid foundation for his grandson, Seth Pate, to carry on the legacy.

At first, Seth wasn't sure farming would be in his future. He had plans to go to school and wasn't certain he'd be involved in the operation long-term. Seth didn't grow up around the family farm, in fact, he grew up out-of-state.

"My dad and brother are in the seed and fertilizer business," Seth explains, "so actually getting out in the field is different than seeing it out from the road and it's a whole different world."

Seth recalls coming to visit grandpa knowing he would be part of the farm, but not this involved, but as soon as he started working with his grandfather, things naturally fell into place. Larry had always hoped someone from the next generation would return to the farm, and for Seth, it turned out to be exactly where he was meant to be. While he always knew he wanted to be in agriculture, he hadn't expected it would be on the production side.

Larry is proud to have Seth back on the farm. One of the first things they did together was buy Seth a semi and put his name on the side. Larry loves having the younger generation involved, especially when it comes to the newer technology in today's equipment. He brings fresh knowledge and energy to the farm

with technical and mechanical knowledge. Seth graduated from the University of Illinois in 2022 with a major in Ag Business with a minor in Markets and Management.

Also involved in the operation is Larry's wife, Marsha, who manages the payroll and in years past, even spent time in the tractor.

"You have to go one farther back, and that was my mother. She ran the farm. She ran the tractors. Her and I would go out and buy a farm, then we'd come home and tell dad we bought a farm and he'd say 'ok,'" chuckles Larry. Very proud of his roots and who made Larry the person he is today is his mother, Helen, who started the whole operation.

"Most people get started because they had someone who got them started. Dad come home and started because he worked hard. They had \$25 when they got started, and they died as millionaires. It's because they worked hard and they believed in farming," explained Larry.



His mother was a farm girl through and through. Helen was bidding on a farm at the courthouse one day when another gentleman came over to ask how much she'd be willing to pay for the farm. She let the gentleman know he would know she's done bidding when she doesn't raise her hand anymore. He explains that describes his mother as very determined. His dad on the other hand, he was a businessman but everything was okay with him. His mother - she meant business. She ran the two ton truck, the wagon, and there's a disk still on the farm that she could work ground with.



Today, Larry, Marsha, and Seth also have support from their farmhand, Jim Stevens, who has been with the family farm for over 20 years. Jim helps with many projects and is very loyal to Skinner Farms.

Larry's advice to the younger generation is simple: "If you have a dream, follow it and don't give up. It's too easy to quit. People give up too easy. You need to make a plan no matter what you're doing. Hard work and determination, you've got to dig in and figure out how your'e going to make it work." Larry also tributes his success to treating people right, being honest, and giving everything 110%.

He's spent a lifetime doing just that, building businesses and growing his farm. Larry's success speaks for itself.

Being associated with good people is the step in the right direction. Larry's grateful for the relationship he's built with Jon Yaklich, salesman at Central Illinois Ag. Larry says Jon is very good at what he does and he's always calling to check if I need anything."

He's thankful for both Case IH and Central Illinois Ag. "You have to be friends with the people you do business with. That's one of the big things I like about Central Illinois Ag," said Larry.

Jon helps Larry with his equipment needs, but there's a unique relationship between Skinner Farms and Central Illinois Ag. The younger generation, and from Larry's past success and life experiences, he's able to instill a lot of wisdom and share advice that has gotten him where he is today. "I like to see young people learn, and that's what I like about both Seth and Jon..they both sit down and they love to learn!"



North Star* | Corn Head

GERINGHOFF GETS THE CROP OTHER BRANDS LEAVE BEHIND



GERINGHOFF
Head of the class - no matter the crop



THINKING BIGGER & KEEPING HARVEST MOVING

Andrew Newberg is a third-generation farmer working the land around Clinton Lake in DeWitt County continues the legacy from his mom's family farming operations, now known as BAN Corp. The farming operation's name has a unique story as it takes its name from his mom's maiden name, Blue, and his dad's last name, Newberg. Blue and Newberg = BAN Corp.

The next generation to take on the family farming legacy are Andrew's sons: Logan and Evan. The boys have grown up helping on the farm and enjoy being around the equipment. He jokes that most of what they do right now is fix, clean, and mow, but they do a lot more projects around the farm which has instilled good work ethic within them.

It was Andrew's dad who made the original switch to Brent grain carts about 15 years ago, starting with a 1298 model, and they've continued to be loyal to Brent carts ever since. More recently, Andrew teamed up with a neighboring farmer, Ryan Utterback, to help each other during harvest. That partnership led to the purchase of a Brent 2598 grain cart.

The goal was to go from running two carts to one, as their



Photo: Ryan Utterback, Griffin Utterback, Evan Newberg, and Andrew Newberg

1000 bushel cart often created downtime waiting on an empty load. With the larger 2598, they can keep harvest moving without having to stop and wait for semis to unload.

"We either have no trucks and the combine waiting on them, or too many trucks and they are waiting on us," said Andrew, "it's the extra capacity, compared to just 1,000 bushels, that allows the combine to keep rolling and then also will have enough grain ready to turn multiple trucks when they show up in groups."

The Brent 2598 has sped up harvest during the day and it allows more efficiency to start off the next day as well. Keeping grain in the hopper of the combine and filling up

the Brent 2598 allows BAN Corp to load up their 3 semis and be ready to go the next day.

Another major improvement has been reducing field compaction with tracks, and the cart is pulled by a Steiger 620 Quadtrac. Their previous cart had tires and was often run at full capacity, which took a toll on the soil. The new cart runs on tracks and is typically operated at half capacity throughout the day, which significantly reduces compaction, the pounds per inch is much smaller and the footprint is very light.

Andrew notes that having a larger grain cart makes everything easier. With the smaller cart, if it filled up at the back of the field, it had to be hauled all the way to the front to unload. The 2598 eliminates extra trips and saves valuable time.



The Brent 2598 has been a game changer for BAN Corp, increasing efficiency throughout harvest. Utilizing the technology that comes with his Brent auger cart, also helps BAN Corp with paperwork and accountability. Being with Brent for many years, the UHarvest Pro grain cart scale system isn't new to Andrew but he certainly uses it to the potential to log bushels and make sure they are all accounted for, especially with grain going to different sites. They also use the auto shut off on the scales, entering truck data in the computer, starting it and then when the amount of weight is in the truck it automatically closes.

An addition to his Brent 2598 was the water tank. They carry 200 gallons of water with a hydraulic driven pump on the cart in the case of a combine fire. "Often the cart guy is the one who sees the fire, so the water is right at the auger cart in the unexpected time that would be needed," said Andrew.

As a customer of then Goerge H. Dunn, and now Central Illinois Ag, the Reeser/Dunn family have been a valuable part of the BAN Corp. farming operation. "I've never had a complaint on how fast I get service. We're loyal to Central Illinois Ag and at the same time, Central Illinois Ag is loyal to us," said Andrew.





ENGINEERED FOR EVERY SEASON

After a need for a better finish to the soil in the spring, the research and development team at Degelman began looking into a double rolling basket for their Pro-Till unit. The double rolling baskets are smaller than the large 9-bar basket so they spin a lot faster. This allows the dirt clods to process much more efficiently with two baskets hitting the residue versus one. They're also on a walking tandem setup to where it contours the ground and gets that full contact at all times.

"Farmers were wanting a better finish in the spring ahead of the planters, resembling a rolling basket behind their field cultivator, getting rid of the bigger clods" said Matt Walker, Sales Territory Manager covering Illinois, Wisconsin, Indiana and Michigan. "I've got operations running the double roller in Illinois both in the spring and the fall and they are very happy with the way it runs in both seasons."

During the two-year Research & Development stage designing the double roller, Degelman started off with a round bar cage in the front and a flat bar cage in the back. The flat bar in the fall plugged up solid, and the round bar would never plug. Because of that, they switched things up and put a set of round bars on one side, with mismatch across the machine. The machine that had a round bar in the front and rear never plugged in the fall, even when running in muddy conditions. That's how the round bar in the front and rear became the production piece, rather than the flat bar.

"Most guys aren't going to wait for the best conditions, so being able to have a tillage tool they can run anytime is important," said Matt.

The double roller is an add-on option to the Pro-Till, in addition to the already available options of two rubber Otico roller options, two single cage options for the back end attachment of any of the model sizes.

Based on field conditions, it's important to choose the best rear attachment offered. Degelman offers two different Otico rubber roller options: the 'original' design that's been around since the beginning, a solid rubber roller for the valleys and hills, and a newer designed Otico roller.

The newer design Otico roller is a rubber tire with a poly-composite spacer ring. The tire is hollow now instead of solid, compressing when it's on the ground to break the mud off. The scrapers are a 'rock ejecter' per se rather than a mud scraper because of the design.

"We've seen a lot of improvements with the rubber rollers for muddy conditions," said Matt, "the rubber roller does a great job in the spring for creating a nice seed bed, pushing down the rocks, pinning down residue and giving a firmer seed bed for a planter ride. A single cage roller does the opposite, it's going to bring the rocks to the top, fluff up the residue to the top and give a rougher finish. The cage roller is better for a fall tool."

The Pro-Till is a favorite machine, built very heavy duty and solid to last. The weight of the machine allows it to penetrate the ground better in adverse conditions.

The Degelman Pro-Till needs some horsepower to be pulled, however, they do offer the lighter weight models such as the 14', 17', 20NT, and a standard 20' models that are geared toward using a front wheel assist tractor to pull

the tool. Any models larger than that are built on the heavier frame.

The smaller Pro-Till's are bi-fold units, the larger such as the latest 25' model is built on a 3-section. With 3-sections on a larger frame that helps to contour the ground better in hillier conditions.

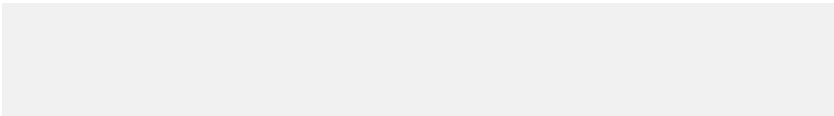
Because the Pro-Till can penetrate tougher soil conditions the tool is doing a deeper tillage than competitors in the fall. The tool is in the range of needing between 15-20 horsepower per foot based on what you're trying to gain out of the tool and based on pulling at 10mph (or faster if the horsepower is there).

As a Sales Territory Manager, Matt explains the importance of interacting with the end user and gaining feedback for improvements.

"We have a really good engineering department that takes feedback very seriously, not wanting to be stagnant in the marketplace, but always wanting to be better and better," said Matt.



**MAKE A
TRUE
IMPACT
ON THE FARM**





MANAGING THE WHOLE FARM THROUGH FIELD OPS

Article written by Case IH

Farming is more than machinery. Today, precision technology and data management are integral parts of how you operate and manage your operation.

That's why Case IH and our dealer network is proud to offer FieldOps.

With FieldOps, you have a single tool that you can tailor to your specific needs, leveraging real-time machine data to help you make more informed decisions, enhance productivity, and improve operational outcomes.

What is FieldOps?

FieldOps is your all-in-one farm management solution.

- Gain increased equipment management insight on your entire fleet, no matter the brand or color. Access machine and agronomic data from anywhere, at any time
- Connect machines, upload boundaries and share information with your trusted partners on one powerful platform.
- Easy to use, easy to set up and manage, and easy to understand. FieldOps is essential in every operation, in every geography, in every farm task.

"FieldOps is a powerful tool to help our customers make better management decisions to improve productivity in all facets of their operation." -Kendal Quandahl, Case IH Precision Segment Lead

29 Central Illinois Ag

Remote Display View

Combined with the in-cab Pro 1200 Display, all machine and precision settings are remotely accessible. Unlike other software applications that offer a screen emulation, FieldOps offers true screen sharing functions to visualize external cameras and provide immediate feedback.

- Use a pointer display to indicate to the operator which button to push.
- Maintain full control while being able to manage settings or diagnose and troubleshoot issues remotely.

Real-time monitoring

- Real-time machine monitoring allows you to track equipment location and parameters in 3-5 second intervals. Organize equipment location and logistics.
- Remotely monitor operations.
- All equipment information is in one place.
- Review how a machine was operated each day to provide actionable insight, ensuring a job is completed efficiently.
- Available on Steiger, Magnum, Optum and Puma series tractors.

The user interface and indicators help you plan operational logistics like unloading status or estimated time to complete

in-field activities. FieldOps can direct when grain carts need to be emptied, or when a grain truck needs to arrive in a field. It's truly a powerful working partner.

Analyze agronomic data

- FieldOps seamlessly collects and delivers agronomic data from equipment to a secure account, providing a centralized hub for informed decision-making.

- With instant machine updates and coordinated logistics, operators maximize runtime. Powerful tools like planting and harvesting maps offer deeper insights, while detailed field metrics enhance analysis.

- Easily share data with trusted advisors for even greater precision and productivity.

- We encourage you to set up field boundaries before completing activities. However, if boundaries were not uploaded or used, you must enable unbounded data by selecting the profile icon in the upper right of FieldOps. This allows you to visualize all data layers once a job has started, regardless of boundary setup.

Input tracking

With FieldOps, you have easy access to track product information including seed, chemical and fertilizer inputs.

- Enter financial information to make for easy reconciliation at tax time.

- Automatically track inventory based on purchase quantities entered and

as-applied information, giving up-to-date feedback on product in the shed.

- Easily run reports on products utilized across the operation to track ROI on various inputs.



Harvest tracking

Access field information to know which seed varieties or hybrids are being harvested to provide on-the-go evaluation from the combine.

- Multiple seed varieties can be tracked within the same field, making it easy to reconcile grain storage and scale tickets after harvest. Upload scale tickets and post-calibrate yield layers to ensure optimal reporting across all fields.

Report builder/ Insights Dashboard

Gathering crucial operational information just scratches the surface of what FieldOps can provide.

- Agronomic reports provide field performance information to help you make more informed management decisions.

- Machine reports give detailed equipment information like fuel usage, idle time, and technology utilization across the fleet.

Connectivity Included

We've eliminated subscription fees and renewals, ensuring connectivity for the lifetime of the modem on many machines shipping from the factory. Connectivity is the gateway to FieldOps, allowing you to unlock its full potential.

Field Boundaries

A key aspect of precision technology is boundary management, and you want an easy way to establish field boundaries. Previously, solutions have been cumbersome: uploading data from a third party, drawing the boundaries on a map, or driving around the field. With AI boundary creation in FieldOps, quickly and easily generate an exterior field boundary using existing satellite imagery and a powerful machine-learning tool within FieldOps.

FieldOps users can also visualize unbounded agronomic data by turning on the "Unbounded Data" toggle under account preferences. If a boundary wasn't loaded to the display or previously uploaded in FieldOps, you can still visualize data layers or even create and organize field boundaries based off the new unbounded layers.

Share Data

You rely on your trusted advisors to help make crucial operational decisions throughout the year. With FieldOps, we have made it easier to instantly share critical field information from anywhere, allowing for immediate collaboration.

Advisors can deliver customer prescriptions, guidance lines, field data...anything they would share in person, directly to the equipment through an approved FieldOps account. No more waiting for information...the information comes directly to you.

It's all here with FieldOps

Connect. View. Manage. FieldOps is a powerful tool that can boost your success.





IT WAS LIKE LOSING A PART OF YOUR FAMILY

We bought this tractor brand new in 1982, and she showed up faithfully for work for 43 years. Yesterday she decided she was tired and wanted to retire. I know to some it seems like just rubber and iron, but was much more than that. When we were considering upgrading to a better tractor a few years ago, Nathan said “Dad we need to wait until we can afford to keep the Steiger and buy something outright. It is a member of the family”. He wasn’t wrong. One of Hank’s first words was “tiger”. Farewell old friend.....although Hank says we need to park in one of our yards and call it yard art. So thankful Tallon was able to get out. Thank you to the FCFD and North Piatt for assisting. Also to Doug Franzen of Central Illinois Ag for the quick response with a rental. -Tom Hieronymus

STEIGER CASE II

Tom Hieronymus’s well-known and hardworking 1982 Steiger Panther was more than just a tractor, it was a constant in his farm operation. He bought it early in his career, and for 43 years, it helped him through nearly every planting and harvest season. At Central Illinois Ag, we always enjoyed getting aerial images of the tractor working ground, it was an internet sensation!

Tom’s first tractor was a John Deere 8630, but it didn’t take long before he made the switch to Steiger. “I just loved how simple they were,” he said. “They’re workhorses, plain and simple.” And that’s what he needed, a dependable machine that could get the job done year after year.

That machine saw a lot of seasons and a lot of long days. If only tractors could talk, the Panther would have a lot to say, the memories with this tractor are value and cherished.

During planting season 2025, it caught fire and burned to the ground. The bones of the tractor were all that remained. Thankfully, no one was hurt.

“It was like losing a part of the family,” Tom said, recalling the day the Panther caught fire.



What Tom appreciated most about his Steiger was how easy it was to work on.

“Steiger was just a simple machine,” he said more than once. Simple and reliable are two words that describe his green Steiger perfectly.

After losing the Panther, Tom knew right away that he needed another Steiger. It wasn't just about replacing a tractor, it was about keeping a legacy alive.

From lime green to Case IH red, he recently purchased a 2008 Case IH Steiger 435. “It's a different machine,” Tom admitted.

“The biggest change is all the technology.” He had added some upgrades to his old Panther over the years, but the new model came packed

with features he's still getting used to using.

Even though it's a newer machine, Tom's Steiger 435 is helping carry on the legacy. It may not be the same Panther he spent four decades with, but it's still a Steiger and for Tom, that means a lot.

Every pass across the field with his new Case IH Steiger is a reminder of where he's been and the work that's yet to come. The lime green panther still rides along in the memories of each acre Tom tills on the land.

Just like the years before, it's still a Steiger leading the way!



Tom in 2025 with the Steiger 435 and his grandpa Owen in 1982 with the Steiger Panther, both about the same age in these photos.



Tom working ground with his 1982 Steiger Panther PTA325 and Case IH Tigermate 255 on April 21, 2021.



EFFICIENCY IN EVERY ACRE

Haas Farms in Heyworth, IL and operated by 4th generation, Brett Haas, alongside his father Bryan and following in the footsteps of his grandfather Dick, has seen equipment play a major role in the farm's success. After graduating from the University of Illinois with a degree in Crop Sciences, Brett began his career with Wyffles Seed before returning to the family farm full-time in 2009.

Around 2015, Haas Farms made the transition from platforms to draper heads. Starting with a 30' MacDon FD75 and over time upgraded to a larger 40' FD2 that the farming operation currently uses at harvest.

For Brett, the decision came from conversations with neighbors and peers who had already been running MacDon draper heads. The draper's ability to start earlier in the day and keep running later into the evening quickly proved its value, giving him a wider productivity window.

There are a lot of advantages of the draper head that has kept Brett loyal to MacDon including the even-feeding, flex in the header, and simple, reliable design. The biggest feature that Brett has been impressed with is the tilt fore and aft.

"Going from a hydraulic full flex platform to the MacDon being a mechanical flex I was nervous, but it was never an issue, and worked perfect," said Brett, "we looked at the competitor draper but they were heavier and more complex than MacDon. So many more things that could go wrong."

Being able to use the same combine while upgrading from a 35' to a 40' draper head was very convenient for Haas Family Farms. Being able to harvest more acres while also running the machine at a quicker speed has been a great help for improvement of efficiency.

Setup was another highlight for Brett. Setting the head up before harvest and keeping those settings through the



season makes switching fields a lot easier and quicker. The longevity of MacDon draper head is certainly an added bonus to the other advantages of the head, Haas Family Farms has used the same draper for seven seasons with very little downtime.

With minor issues, the MacDon technicians did make a visit to his farm for an update to the head, seeing an issue and correcting it shows that MacDon truly does stand behind their own products as well as the importance of taking care of the customers.

Brett also credits Central Illinois Ag for the strong support behind his equipment. He says every purchase through Michael and the Central Illinois Ag team has been a positive experience. "I love being able to work directly with the ownership and have an idea of the character of the organization," Brett said.

MacDon



MacDon® | *The Harvesting Specialists.*

GET MORE THIS HARVEST

MORE SPEED. MORE CAPACITY. MORE FLEX.

Experience the legendary performance of the MacDon FlexDraper®. The FD2 combines over 30 years of FlexDraper innovation into our most advanced platform yet—engineered to perform in any field, in any condition.



*Trust your harvest to the Original FlexDraper® and
GET MORE from every acre. Learn more at MacDon.com*



CUSTOM SOLUTIONS, FARMER FOCUSED

Growing your Thunder Creek Fuel Trailer with your Operation.

“It’s a simple process to add the DEF system, the light tower, or the rear utility box and more to grow with your operation or needs,” said Ryan Baarda, Parts, Service, Warranty Manger at Thunder Creek Equipment.

There are a lot of options when it comes to Thunder Creek Equipment fuel trailers, from simply a fuel trailer to a shop on wheels. The trailers are designed to fit your operations needs. When purchasing a simple Thunder Creek whether it’s an FST 500, 750, or 990 model, the option to add the utility box is an easy process that can be done in the convenience of your own shop.

Ryan explains to add the utility box you’ll need to begin the process by removing the bumper and then move the axles back for tongue weight. When ordering, the instructions are all included making it an easy process. The best part? Thunder Creek has preset locations on all their toolboxes leaving the factory. Making it even more convenient!

Trailers with an empty utility box have the option to add on any of the components at a later time as well. We’ve been able to provide trailers to the younger farmers who make the small investment year after year to add on and soon enough they’ve got a fully loaded trailer (with warranty on all the add-on’s one year after purchase of each individual component!).

“The first toolbox we ever sold, we sold empty,” said Fred Buser, Vice President, Marketing, “we were surprised when farmers asked us to outfit it for them, because it would be easier for them. Some people just want to do their own thing with a blank slate and others want it customized for them.”

Both Ryan and Fred have been with Thunder Creek Equipment from the beginning. Based in Pella, Iowa, Thunder Creek Equipment has built it’s reputation as a smaller, close-knit company that values personal relationships. Their size allows them to stay connected to the farmers they serve, listening closely and responding directly to their needs. This commitment to understanding the demands in the field during season is what drives Thunder Creek to create equipment that truly makes a difference for producers.



Photo (above): Thunder Creek FST990 without a rear utility box with the axle closer to the front of the trailer.

Photo (below): Thunder Creek FST750 with a rear utility box and the axle pushed back.



UTILITY BOX OPTIONS

- Compressor/Generator (combined)*
- Air Compressor with 50' Hose Reel*
- Work Bench with Vise*
- 5 Drawer Tool Chest*
- 2 Drawer Low-Boy Tool Chest*
- Grease Kit Can & Towel Rack*

THE FUEL TRAILER THAT GROWS WITH YOU

Add a rear utility box and field service options at any time. That's the value of Thunder Creek's modular design - high quality products built to grow with you.

Ready for an upgrade?

Stop into your local Central Illinois Ag location today.



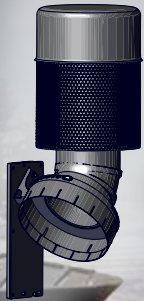
LEARN MORE ABOUT ALL TRAILER
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HILLCO AIR FLOW SYSTEMS

FOR CASE-IH FLAGSHIP COMBINES & CASE-IH TRACTORS

Hillco Air Flow Systems will extend the life of your combine or tractor's air filter in dusty and dirty conditions. The self-cleaning design requires no maintenance and will reduce the amount of dirt entering the air filter. Contact Hillco or Central Illinois Ag for more information.



"Huge difference, picked up 4 to 5 gallons per hour. And blow your filter out when you want to, not the combine."
-State College, PA

"We put one on our 620 quad trac and it made a huge difference. I don't have to tap the filters out everyday. It's an amazing system."
-Ririe, ID

"Bought one for our Case IH 8010 combine last year - made night to day difference!"
-Columbus, KS



Coming Soon!
Air Flow Kits for
Midrange Combines



Scan QR code
for pricing
and available
models.

HILLCO PIVOTING SPOUTS

FOR CASE-IH FLAGSHIP COMBINES

"Makes topping off trucks so much easier! We love ours."
-Des Moines, IA

FOR CASE IH 14"
UNLOADING AUGERS

- ▶ Enhanced control when topping off grain carts or trucks
- ▶ Helps with maneuverability around tall grain carts
- ▶ Projects grain stream further than stock spout
- ▶ Controlled with cab mounted foot switch
- ▶ 37° of Spout Rotation



SAY GOODBYE TO CLOGGED FILTERS

The demand for Hillco Air Flow Systems is nothing short of astounding, and it's no wonder why with this year's season being one of the "worst, dirtiest years on the farm." Parts and service representative Clayton Smith along with Larry Skinner, a well-known farmer in the Illinois area had an opportunity to find a solution to clogged filters during season. Here's how it all started and why farmers are flocking.

Clayton noticed consistent frustration from farmers looking for help with one specific issue: clogged air filters. Clayton explained that their area deals with intense field dust and debris, especially in dry seasons. Combine's air filters clogging up has been an ongoing headache for farmers. Filters get packed, equipment efficiency drops, and productivity suffers. That's where Larry Skinner, a proactive local farmer who started his agriculture journey with a chain of fertilizer companies, comes into the story.

Larry, exasperated from fighting a losing battle every year, approached Clayton on a mission to find a solution. After doing a deep-dive and weighing options, Clayton recommended the Hillco Air Flow System. After a 30-minute install and 1300 acres of operation without stopping, Larry was "thrilled to death" by its effectiveness.

"1300 acres and I never had to clean the filter! Before, we had pit crews stationed with air hoses to clean our filters

and my wife, a federal attorney, was taking time off work to make runs to the parts store!" said Larry.

A short while later Larry and a salesman at Central Illinois Ag loaded the back of a pickup with Hillco Air Flow Systems and hit to road to farmers in the area. Then, because Larry "loves saving farmers money" he also attended a Case IH Combine Clinic in Atlanta, IL where he shared his experience with anyone who would listen.

Word spread like wildfire after that, and the rest is history! Now farmers he has never met have Larry's phone ringing off the hook! At the time of our conversation Larry said "this product sells itself—I just had another call on it 15 minutes ago. It's really great to work with a company that clearly cares about its customers!"

Now, thanks to Larry's advocacy and the great support from Central Illinois Ag, demand has skyrocketed. Local farmers are seeing the benefits for themselves—more uptime, less clogging, and smoother operations in the field. Thanks to Clayton and the team, Central Illinois Ag is helping solve one of farmers' most frustrating equipment issues, one Hillco Air Flow System at a time.

In his own words, Larry said, "This kit wasn't known in the Midwest, and I just brought the toy into town!"

COMPACT POWER. BIG RESULTS.

Cole Ritter, a general contractor in Clinton, Illinois, recently purchased his first Takeuchi. Cole is the owner of Ritter Homes, which began in 2015, and works alongside his dad at Ritter Plumbing, founded in 1992. Working in construction and plumbing, Cole depends on reliable equipment to get the job done.

“Another feature that sold me on Takeuchi was the roll up door,” Cole said. He recalls using machines with swing-out doors that made getting out difficult. He also appreciates the TL8’s comfort features.

“Having a radio, air conditioning, and the overall comfort of the cab is nice,” he said. With Illinois’ summer heat, the air conditioning makes long days more bearable.

Another great feature to Cole’s Takeuchi TL8 is the 4-in-1 bucket he purchased in addition to the machine.

“The quick connection for the hydraulic hoses is a really nice feature,” he said, remembering the hassle of connecting and disconnecting hoses on older equipment.

He also noted the convenience of the TL8’s backup camera and the visibility from inside the cab. “You can see all the way around you.”

Cole recently used his Takeuchi TL8 to help in the building of Todd’s home in many different aspect. He’s been using it to backfill around the house and appreciates how the tracks handle uneven surfaces. Swapping forks to move materials while grading or backfilling has also been a huge help. The TL8’s versatility ranges

from housework to backfilling around plumbing.

Central Illinois Ag has been Cole’s go-to for his construction equipment needs and service. He’s always had a positive experience with Todd. “Todd is easy to get ahold of and his communication skills are amazing,” Cole said. He mentions, too, that he’s always had great service working with Kip, Service Manager. “He’s always right on getting any of our construction or mowing equipment worked on,” said Cole.

He bought a Takeuchi TL8 from Todd Irwin at Central Illinois Ag. Cole says he chose the machine not only for the brand but also because of “good reports” from people he knows. Getting the chance to test drive one before buying helped seal the deal.

The Takeuchi TL8’s compact size makes it ideal for tight spaces. Cole says he uses it in many ways, including grading around houses.

“It is just easier with this smaller machine to get around the houses and tighter spaces,” he explained.




TAKEUCHI



CLOCKS IN, NEVER OUT.

There's only one member of your crew that will never quit, complain, ask for breaks or wish the day would end. The TL8R2 track loader just wants to work. For those who value uptime above all, nothing else comes close. In fact, anything else is probably in the shop.

THE MARK OF TOUGHNESS

 **TAKEUCHI**



HARVEST 2024





PLANT 2025





PLANTING MORE THAN SEEDS, PLANTING THE FUTURE.

