

'Toys for the boys' on show

For your grain enterprise – the world's most powerful header; and in your cotton fields – the latest in cotton harvesting innovation from the red and the green. And let's not forget the B-Double with bins that allow you to cart your grain to the terminal and backload with biodiesel – are these just a few of your favourite things? I would burst into the Julie Andrews' chorus now but I don't have the voice and I have far too much of the body!

Do you remember when it was said this country rode on the sheep's back? Well, the sheep has now got some help in the shape of the entire farming sector. It's this sector – your sector – amongst very few others in our economy that's making a positive contribution to Australia's GDP. You are going to have to keep on doing it for a while, so it's important you maintain your efficiency across your whole operation – and that's why it's important that the trade show this year features 'some of your favourite things'.

We are well advanced with our plans to bring you the latest in harvest innovation across grain and cotton.

Toys for the boys?

We are expecting a visit from a world record holding family at the Trade Show. The Claas Lexion 600 is promoted as the most powerful combine harvester in the world. In 2008 its little brother, the Lexion 580, harvested 532 tons of wheat in eight hours near Nottingham in the UK. That was 18 per cent better than the previous world record according to the Guinness Book of Records people.

The average hourly yield was 66.51 tons, and only 1.35 litres of diesel were consumed per ton. The harvesting was done across six different fields with an average grain moisture content of 16.2 per cent just to make things more interesting.

And if you thought you may have difficulty keeping up with this header we will have a B-Double on site that might be able to assist. Not just any B-Double – this one is reputedly the first of its kind in the world.

Custom built for Lowes, the bins have an expandable bladder lining that allows them to carry liquids like biodiesel. You load up at the bulk depot and drive back home to drop the biodiesel off into your on-farm tank. Then, in a matter of one to two minutes using your hydraulics, you can retract the bladder to its storage position in the bin lids and you are ready to transport grain. This unit has been operating in the Goondiwindi area and offers an interesting way to reduce transport costs and maximise efficiency.

And we will also be focusing on harvest efficiency when we get the opportunity to inspect the latest in cotton harvesting innovation.

The 7760 Picker from John Deere builds a round module on the machine while harvesting cotton. Then it wraps the cotton module in a protective film to preserve fibre and seed quality, and minimise any crop loss during handling and transport. The operator carries the module to the end of the field to be transported later to the gin.

Case IH's Module Express 625 Picker builds a square module on the go. It has done two US harvests now, turning a three-to-five person job into a single-person operation. In the words of one US grower, "I'm saving about US\$1,000 per day by running three less tractors, hiring three less operators and eliminating the maintenance costs of extra equipment."

Both these harvesting systems provide efficiencies that are important in maintaining our market share – and both of these

systems are to be at the trade show. This will be the first time in Australia that the two most significant cotton machinery innovations in the past few decades are to be picker 'head to head' so to speak.

And it's not just machinery – on show at the show will also be a new fertiliser range, the monitoring gear that Monsanto uses to measure the effectiveness of its drought proofing gene technology and much more. I look forward to seeing them – and you – there.



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The 7760 Picker from John Deere.



Case IH's Module Express 625 Picker.