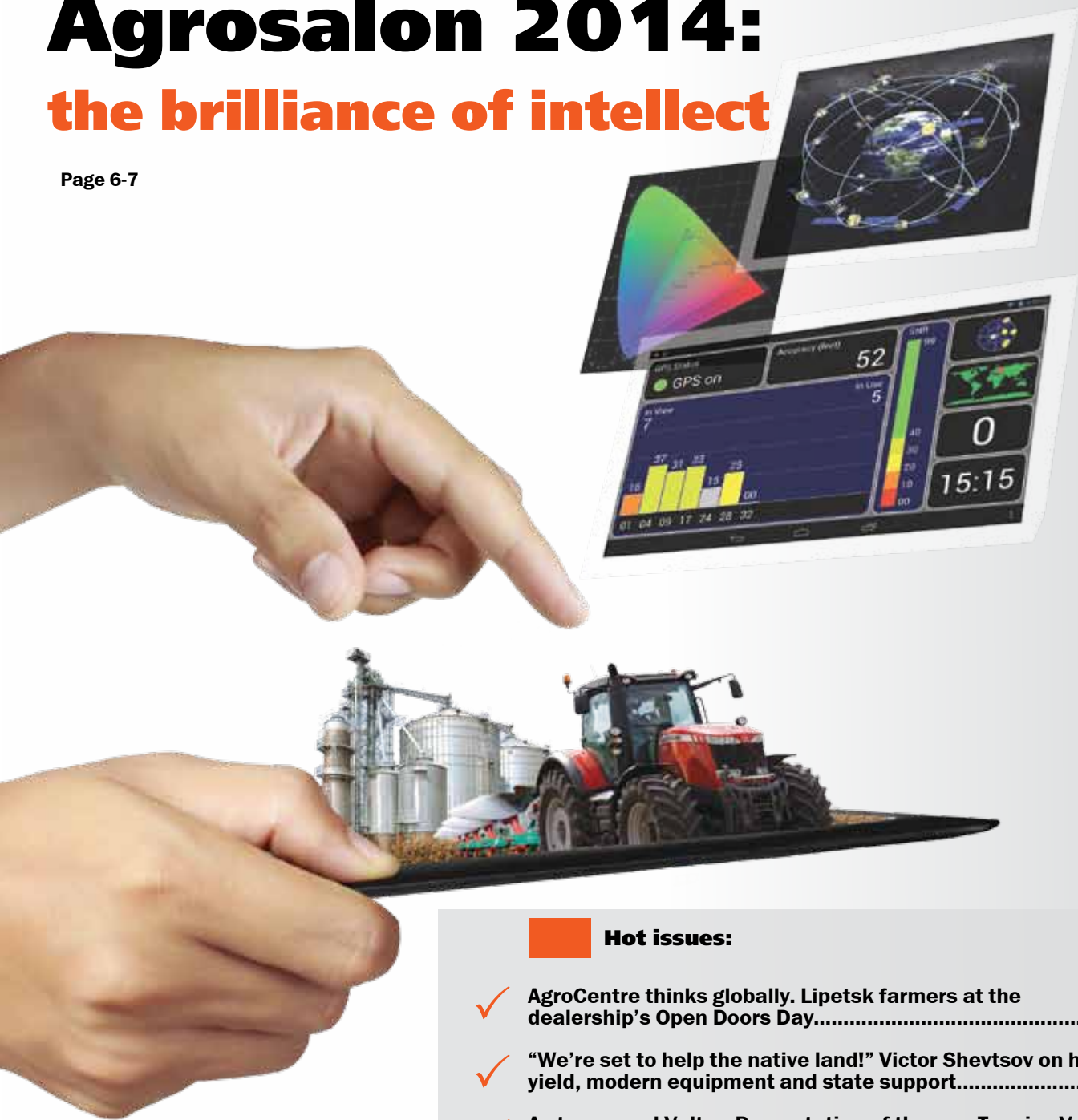


Agrosalon 2014: the brilliance of intellect

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AgroCentre thinks globally

Today in terms of sophistication, tractor equipment comes close to that of a spaceship. Therefore its servicing must be appropriate. Just a sledge hammer and a couple of expressive idioms won't fix a technical problem. So, when buying equipment the farmers carefully think over how it will be serviced and by whom.

On an Open Doors Day held at its new dealer centre, AgroCentreLiski demonstrated its servicing capabilities. Located in the village of Khlevnoye, Lipetsk oblast, this centre is one of the largest both in Russia and Europe. Its production facilities have a floor space of 2,700 m² on a site exceeding 4.5 hectares.

Incidentally, this is already the seventh dealership of AgroCentreLiski. Servicing within walking distance, such is one of the company's strategies. As noted by Nikolai Ivanishchev, AgroCentre-Holding Director General, today it is essential to supply farmers not only with highly efficient equipment but also with individual technological solutions.

More than 150 guests attended the event. They included farmers, partners and representatives of the agricultural equipment manufacturers. Each of the invited guests was given an opportunity to appraise the technical capabilities of the centre and see the modern depot of spare parts and the repair zone. The farmers were familiarised with the centre's services. They noted that the repair zone is fitted out like a state-of-the-art facility, from diagnostic equipment in the motor vehicle servicing sections to gantry crane for repairing large-size machines. Today the centre services equipment of more than 50 agricultural enterprises.

"The modern servicing base is a real present for the farmers of our and neighbouring oblasts," says Vladimir Golikov, Director of Agrofirma Rus JSC (Lebedyansky district of Lipetsk oblast).



"Our company's servicing has always been prompt. Today, however, the response to an application for servicing or spare parts delivery is instantaneous. It is very pleasing that the company cares for our future."

On the Open Doors Day, a parade of farming equipment was held for the guests. The demonstration began with the JCB Workmax all-wheel-drive land rovers. These machines carry equipment, materials, people and animals both by road and across country. Workmax has a tipping body with a payload of 400 kg. It can also tow a load of up to 500 kg. JCB officials announced an unprecedented discount sale. All those purchasing the best seller of telescopic loaders, the JCB Loadall 531-70 Agri (lifting capacity 3.1 t, lifting height 7 m) will get a free present, the reliable Workmax! Indisputably, JCB Loadall 531-70 Agri is a real giant in loading and unloading operations.

This machine was followed by the most efficient loader, the JCB Loadall 550-80 AgriPlus, capable of lifting a 5 tonne weight to an 8.1 m height. Its "heart", the JCB Dieselmix (145 hp) engine, and the JCB Powershift transmission maximise its output in all types of applications.

All of the JCB loaders travel in three steering modes: by the front wheels, "track-in-track," and "crab fashion." However, on these machines only the steering mode changes automatically without pausing to adjust the

wheels. The operator can just turn the switch in the right direction and the machine will do all the rest completely on its own.

Agricultural machines from AGCO also took part in the parade. They included the productive and practical combine harvester Massey Ferguson 7347S; the ultra-modern, economical wheeled tractor Massey Ferguson 8690 (340 hp); and the self-propelled, wide operating width (36.5 m) sprinkler Challenger RoGator 1100.

The guests were particularly delighted with the world's most popular caterpillar tractors Challenger MT765C (320 hp) and Challenger MT865C (510 hp). They are ideally suited for work that needs a strong thrust, e.g. jointly with deep diggers, wide grip cultivators, disc harrows and pneumatic drills.

Nikolai Tagintsev, deputy head of Lipetsk oblast, explained the popularity of caterpillar tractors with the Lipetsk farmers quite simply. In the oblast there are many farms with high tilling culture that are genuinely concerned with soil fertility.

"In our oblast we welcome interesting projects and strive to promote them," said Nikolai Tagintsev. "We see that AgroCentre thinks globally. After all, this dealer centre is not just a major servicing base, but also a training ground for specialists of the farming industry."

The new dealer centre was also welcomed by the AgroCentre partners.

"It's a high honour for us that our dealer can afford such a large centre with such highly skilled experts," says Yuri Zybkin, Commercial Director of AGCO RM farming enterprise. "It's very important for us that our equipment should always be in operation since those using it are the ones who are feeding our country. Thank you, dear farmers! Thank you, AgroCentre for such a serious technological breakthrough!"

The Open Doors Day was concluded by Alexander Lysenko, a real Russian strongman, multiple winner of athletic contests. The Alyosha Popovich of today did the seemingly impossible: he dragged the Challenger 665D four tonne tractor over a distance of 30 metres.

The guests who had seen a year and a half ago the site now occupied by the dealer centre, then a wasteland overgrown with weeds, willingly agreed with the Open Doors Day motto – the impossible is possible for AgroCentre!

By Yulia SALKOVA





Väderstad kickoff

AgroCentre has participated in the annual Kickoff event arranged by the Väderstad corporate group, Sweden. This is a rally presenting the novelties of the year 2015.

One of the chief novelties from Vaederstad is the Opus cultivator. This is a more powerful tilling tool than its predecessor TopDown, known the world over. The machine can till to a depth of 40 cm (15 cm more than TopDown). In early 2015, AgroCentre will start delivering the Opus to Russian farming enterprises.

The Carrier cultivator has undergone many changes. The Carrier product range (disc diameter 45 cm) – XL (disc diameter 61 cm) got an intermediate model, L, with a disc diameter of 51 cm.

Now this tool has an X-shaped disc arrangement, which prevents its wobbling to left-or-right. A disc incidence angle

function has also been added. Now this cultivator's roller can be lifted if treatment without packing needs to be applied.

The Tempo furrow drill is being prepared for its pending appearance "in the Russian world." This is designed for sowing sugar beet roots and rapeseeds. For over two years, the machine has been

demonstrating excellent results in sunflower and maize sprouting on Russian fields. Vaederstad experts noted that the machine would not work any worse on beet roots and rapeseeds.

The Rapid RD four-metre drill has also been modified. The feed rollers' mechanical drive has been replaced with a hydraulic prototype which simplifies adjustment. The seed drill, too, has undergone some design changes.

The chief intellectual novelty was the E-control software, an application for iPads.

This convenient and intuitively understandable interface with icons on the display simplifies drill control. An iPad is placed in a special holder developed by Vaederstad and fitted with 8 buttons for convenient operation of the most often used functions. These buttons are a fine supplement to the sensor display.

"Last year this system replaced the standard control unit on Tempo drills," says Alexander Buzulukin, the head of the AgroCentreLiski's orders department. "This year the iPads have also been introduced on the Rapid seeding systems. The E-Control monitors all of the machine's functions, including changes in the sowing rate, wheel track, calibration, introduction of new data, presentation of current information and more."

By Yulia SALKOVA

In contact

AGCO opens a new customer support facility in Russia, the Fuse Contact Centre.

The Fuse Contact Centre offers technological solutions for precision agriculture which make it possible

to integrate and optimise agricultural enterprises. The Fuse Technologies concept includes hardware for

navigation and self-sustained system operation, as well as productivity measuring sensors, and servicing and diagnostics tools. The Fuse strategy employs AGCO products, offering relevant solutions in navigation (Auto-Guide 3000), telemetry (AgCommand) and harvesting

(Fieldstar II). The main mission of the Contact Centre is assistance to customers with installation, adjustment and operation of precise agriculture machinery and AGCO equipment control systems.

"The Fuse technologies are based on the latest achievements in precision agriculture and a global strategy of development and employment of AGCO communication systems," says Rob Lindgren, the department head of Global ATS Service and Training. "The Fuse Contact Centre will supplement servicing tools currently at the disposal of AGCO dealers. If necessary, the Centre will additionally support use of Fuse technologies and assist customers in maintaining their effective and trouble-free operation."





Even though the farming season 2014 ended quite recently, farmers are bracing for the next year. As the 19th Voronezhagro agro-industrial exhibition showed, the farmers put their bets on cost-effective equipment.

At the AgroCentreLiski stand, farmers got interested in the Massey Ferguson 8690 (370 hp) tractor.

"This powerful machine was shown off to advantage when matched with wide grip tools. In addition, it is economical, consuming 20% less fuel than other tractors of the same class," says Ivan Provotorov, AgroCentreLiski sales department manager. "This tractor is fitted with the most powerful six-cylinder AgcoPower engine featuring the lowest fuel consumption. The tractor's

unique dynamic control system 'remembers' work loads and automatically controls the engine and transmission, optimising fuel consumption. The demand for these tractors is now high. I think that in the next farming year there will be more such tractors on the Voronezh fields."

At the Voronezhagro exhibition, the next farming season was also commented on by the head of the Voronezh Oblast Department of Agrarian Policy Alexander Kvasov. He emphasised that the agricultural enterprises of the Voronezh

farming sector have completed the year with excellent results both in crop production and stockbreeding. The work tempo must be maintained, and still higher results must be obtained by resorting to new technologies and employing highly efficient equipment. The forthcoming harvest must be considered as early as now, with winter at hand. So the farmers are busy thinking. The guests of the AgroCentreLiski stand took an interest in the Massey Ferguson Activa 7347S (276

hp) combine harvester. The machine offers outstanding threshing and cleaning quality. It has been designed for maximum adaptation to the fields of each farm. The combine has a variety of reapers for different crops.

The end of the exhibition showed that the demand for cost effectiveness, though power-intensive, equipment is now growing. The Massey Ferguson 8690 tractor demonstrated by AgroCentreLiski was awarded a golden medal of the Voronezhagro 2014 exhibition.

By Yulia SALKOVA

Tested in action

In Kursk oblast, on the fields of AK Olymsky LLC, the Massey Ferguson 8690 (340 hp) tractor paired with the Carrier 820 eight-metre cultivator from Vaderstad showed excellent results in tilling the soil for winter sowing. In five hours, it tilled 10 hectares at a depth of 6 to 7 cm. At a tractor speed of 14 km/h, fuel consumption was around 5 l/ha.

"In designing the Massey Ferguson tractors, the engineers placed particular

emphasis on engine fuel efficiency," says Sergey Dorofeyev, sales manager of the Kursk branch of AgroCentreLiski. "PROFI magazine even carried out dedicated tests whose results showed that the second generation AGCO Power engine (8.4 l capacity) installed on the MF 8600 series consumed less fuel than other engines. The efficiency is obtained due to the EEM (electronic engine management) system, which

This autumn AgroCentre held a number of equipment demonstrations in different regions of Russia. Challenger and Massey Ferguson high-end tractors, self-propelled sprinklers, grain combine harvesters and a number of towed tools underwent a real test in action on the farms of Lipetsk, Tambov, Orel, Kursk and Penza oblasts.

uninterruptedly adjusts the fuel injection with due regard to the revolutions and workload."

Oleg Lepsheyev, chief agronomist of the Agropromyshlennaya Kompaniya Holding, incorporator of AK Olymsky,

noted that the tractor appealed to the farmers not only by virtue of its fuel efficiency but also by its movement on the field. The cultivator does not skid or wobble.

By Anna BORDUNOVA



Tractor battle

AgroCentreZakharovo has staged a real tractor battle on the fields of the Kurganovsky LLC, Penza oblast. The prime movers of the world's leading manufacturers competed to see which could prepare the soil for spring seeding faster, better and more economically.

Tractors of two weight categories, 300 hp and 340 hp, took part in the competition. The first to come on the battle field were Massey Ferguson 8690 (340 hp) and Challenger MT685D (340 hp) tractors coupled to a five metre disc harrow. Having fully refuelled, the combatants charged into battle. Moving at a speed of 9 km/h, Challenger tilled down to 20 cm. Its fuel consumption was 13.03 l/ha. Massey Ferguson worked a little slower, at 8 km/h, with diesel fuel consumption of 14.05 litres per hectare, tilling down to 21 cm. The referees noted that both tractors moved almost neck and neck, staying in track and demonstrating excellent disking performance. In two hours the rivals each tilled 8 ha.

Other participants of the contest on the field were Fendt 933 and John Deere 8335 tractors coupled to an eight furrow plough.

The John Deere tractor operated at a speed of 9.5 km/h, consuming 24 litres per hectare. The tilling depth was 30 cm. In a couple of hours, it tilled 5.8 ha. Fendt moved at a speed of 11 km/h, also tilling down to 30 cm. However, in terms of fuel consumption, with 20 litres per hectare, Fendt proved to be more economical than its competitor. In two hours, it ploughed 5.9 ha.

Based on the results of the competition between Massey Ferguson and Challenger, the referees declared a draw. The ploughing match was won by the Fendt tractor, which



outperformed its rival in economic efficiency. "The Fendt tractor is superior to its rivals thanks to the unique Vario stepless transmission," says Aleksey Porokhin, sales department senior manager, Penza branch of AgroCentreZakharovo. "It moves over the field steadily and evenly. Once the tractor draft increases, the Vario transmission automatically revs up the engine. When passing through a difficult area, the engine independently

reduces the revolutions, bringing back the normal work load. The terrain crossing capability of Fendt is like that of a tank. And its agility is superb, as well. The independent front suspension maintains tractor balance, excluding twists and distortions in work."

Aleksey Porokhin said the Fendt tractors are very interesting to Penza farmers. For the new season, they have already placed orders for these machines.

By Anna BORDUNOVA

GSI, different calibre machines

AgroCentre-Zernoviye Tekhnologii has been cooperating with GSI, the North American manufacturer of after-harvest equipment, for two years now. Over this period, the concern's products have become quite popular with Russian farmers. This year the company has supplied seven GSI dryers to agricultural enterprises of the Central Black Earth Zone.

Four tower dryers: one GSI 3500T (80-90 t/h for wheat) and three GSI 3000Ts (70 t/h for wheat) have been commissioned on the farms of AGRO-Invest LLC in the Voronezh, Tambov and Kursk oblasts.

The agricultural holding's farms have already tried out the machines in drying maize, sunflower and wheat. Company specialists point out that the machines are highly productive, bringing the grain to an ideal

state without damaging it in the process. Another asset, not to be found on all modern equipment, is even drying. Tower dryers also take up little space on the ground. For instance, the GSI 3000T diameter is only 5.5 m at a height of 23.5 m.

This year one more GSI 3000T tower dryer began to operate at the Bednenko private enterprise, Belgorod oblast. At the Agrofirma Trio, Lipetsk oblast, a GSI 4000T dryer

(output - 100 t/h for wheat) has been erected. On the Muchkap-Niva farm, preference was given to the GSI 2426 compact modular dryer (70 t/h for wheat). Andrei Palachev, Deputy Director of the enterprise notes that one of merits of this dryer is its ability to grow and improve along with the production facilities by adding suitable modules.

"GSI offers a wide variety of grain dryers for farms of all sizes," says Sergey Sobolev, head of the sales department, AgroCentre-Zernoviye Tekhnologii. "Interestingly, each segment includes a fairly wide range of models, which makes it possible to select the best suitable machine for a specific enterprise, be it a holding or a farm."

By Yulia SALKOVA





Agrosalon 2014, the triumph of intellect

AgroCentre has participated in the most significant farming event of this year, the Agrosalon international exhibition of farm equipment. Despite difficult relations with the West, no chill has been registered in the relationship between foreign manufacturers and Russian farmers.

On the contrary, Russian farmers take an acute interest in innovative solutions and novelties from all over the world.

“Today we face a new phase in the development of agriculture,” says Nikolai Ivanishchev, AgroCentre Director General. “The state is interested in strengthening food security and growth of agricultural production, hence in improving the efficiency of each farming enterprise. This is a chance for us! To realise it, we tried to offer the most efficient machines from the leading manufacturers of equipment. Judging by the number of awards and new products of our partners, the farm equipment manufacturers, we

have coped with this task well!” The partners of AgroCentre got three medals at once.

AGCO Machinery received two silver medals. One was for development of the electronic system for feeding the Valtra N103.4H3 Dual Fuel diesel engine thanks to which it becomes possible to run the machine not only on diesel, but also compressed natural gas, biogas and bio diesel.

“This is a rather new concept for Russia,” says Nikolai Bashkirov, head of the orders department, AgroCentreZakharovo LLC. “However, demand for it is already rising. We are conduct busy negotiations for the supply of tractors powered by this engine.”

Another medal is for a unique electronic system, the Fendt 933 Vario Profi Plus 1 that makes it possible to control the tractor and mounted implements from a single terminal. Although it has been used for several years all over the world, nothing to date compares with it in the simplicity of farm equipment control.

The gold medal of Agrosalon went to the Valley company, one of the leaders in irrigation equipment, for introduction of the Base station 3 system.

“This system enables a specialist to monitor the condition of the field and control irrigation without going out on the field itself. This can be done using just a laptop, iPad or a smartphone,” says Dmitry Gerasimenko,

AgroCentreZakharovo manager for sales of irrigation systems. “It can also remotely activate pumping stations.”

AgroCentre specialists demonstrated to the guests the most popular new products of the year.

The new series of medium class sprinklers that will replace the SpraCoupe are Challenger RoGator 700 machines with a rod length of 24.4 or 27.4 m.

“This model has inherited many of the assets of the RoGator 1100-1300 sprinklers,” says Dmitry Trofimov, AGCO products manager. “It also has an economical engine, AGCO POWER (175 hp), and HydroStar hydrostatic stepless transmission. It automatically chooses the optimum speed



and fuel consumption on different areas of the field. This is one of the most cost effective models, consuming a mere 0.5 litre per hectare. It should be noted, however, that the machine has not inherited the price of the large sprinkler. Despite all the innovations, it is

quite reasonably priced.” The Challenger RG 700 also now has a precise sprinkling and automatic section de-activation system in the base. In the previous model, as well as in rival machines, these functions are only optional. The customers were glad to

see upgraded tilling and drilling machines from Vaderstad, which seems unstoppable in improving its products.

The legendary Rapid 300-400 C/S drill has undergone serious changes in design for more convenient handling rather than just for the sake of appearance. For instance, the bin is now slightly over the chassis, which makes the machine’s operating elements more accessible.

Rapid now has a hydraulic seeding unit drive which simplifies adjustment of the seeding rate. Another asset is maintenance-free hubs. According to Aleksey Kirsanov, regional representative of Vaderstad in Russia, this significantly reduces the number of lubrication points. The new ball bearings also have a longer service life.

The tilling equipment got its share of improvements as well. The discs of the cultivator Carrier L (51 cm diameter) and Carrier XL (diameter 61 cm) have been enlarged expressly for operation with a large quantity of crop residue at a greater depth.

More aggressive TrueCut discs have been fitted on the TopDown machine. These have a milled, not stamped, dented edge thanks to which they retain an excellent cutting capability whatever the extent of wear.

Vaderstad also announced its new tilling system, Opus. The

new cultivator with a gripping width of 6 and 7 m can operate at a depth of down to 40 cm. The first Opus machines will roll off the factory assembly line in 2015.

The smart technology novelty from Vaderstad was E-control, an application for iPad used on Tempo and Rapid drills. This application makes it possible to monitor all of the machine’s functions, including calibration, change of seeding rate and process track width.

JCB, a leading manufacturer of loaders, also demonstrated an outstanding smart product at Agrosalon, coming up with the LiveLink telematic system. This helps farmers and dealers monitor the number of hours worked, fuel consumption and data on the use of the loader. The system can report the operating condition of the machine and the need for maintenance. All the information on the equipment can be easily observed on the website even via a mobile phone.

“The system monitors the loader’s technical condition and reminds us of the need for maintenance and repair. In addition, it controls the machine itself,” says Vasily Bezrukov, Director of the Bezrukov Private Enterprise, Ulyanovsk oblast. “Thus we are insured against unauthorised trips and stealing. Some twenty years ago, we couldn’t even imagine that the equipment would obtain such smart skills!”

This is by no means all that the farmers could see at the exhibition. A delegation from Kursk oblast, for instance, set their sights on the Challenger and Massey Ferguson tractors. “AGCO supplies really good tractors. Around forty of them are at work in our oblast,” noted Aleksey Zolotaryov, Kursk Oblast Deputy Governor. “And their price is reasonable, too. These are powerful, economical, and comfortable machines, easy to use and with nothing extra. I haven’t heard any complaints about their servicing from the farmers. They probably owe these merits both to AGCO and AgroCentre.”

By Yulia SALKOVA





Victor Shevtsov: We are determined to help our native land!

At the celebration of Farmer's Day in Vorobyovsky district, Voronezh oblast, the farming enterprise of Victor Shevtsov was marked out as a leader in grain production. The farm's average productivity of 4 tonnes per hectare is among the highest in Voronezh oblast. Such performance is something even larger agricultural holdings would envy.

According to Victor Shevtsov, the high productivity results from the promptness and timeliness of doing all the field work. A farming enterprise can operate efficiently, make a good profit, support itself appropriately and invest in its own development.

Early sowing saves

"This year we've got on average 4 tonnes per hectare. And this despite the disastrously low rainfall! True, such a situation has been observed in the last five years. What has saved us is early sowing. It's like the saying about the early bird that catches the worm. We sow very rapidly while the soil still holds moisture. We cover 8,000 hectares in 10 to 14 days. If you are not quick enough, you may lose all the harvest and get no profit. We grow practically all kinds of crops, such as grains, leguminous plants, and row crops while our purchasers don't indulge us with high prices."

Plus modern equipment

"Of course, equipment downtime is out of the question. Therefore, over 70% of the machines on our farms are foreign-made. There are domestic-built ones, too, but they are mostly used in inter-row cultivation and transportation.

I've travelled a lot to the farm equipment manufacturing works and foreign exhibitions, where I set my sights on the AGCO equipment supplied by AgroCentre. Over the last two years, we've substantially updated our fleet of farm machines. Among other equipment, we use the Challenger 765C caterpillar tractor, which moves well over soggy soil without trampling it. We're very pleased with the

Challenger Sprague Coupe 4660 self-propelled sprinkler. I think it's the world's fastest sprinkler, operating at a speed of 15 km/h.

This year we've bought the Massey Ferguson 8690 tractor, with 370 hp. The machine showed itself to advantage when coupled with the Challenger 9830-40 (12.2 m) pneumatic drill. It provides a powerful thrust without skidding. The drill, too, is a fine tool. It precludes such common 'sins' as embedding straw in the rut or excessive trampling of the seed bed. We sow one thousand five hundred hectares allotted to grain crops using exclusively this single disc drill. In a day we do 130 to 150 hectares. The sprouts are regular, and the field is pleasant to look at. The machine is of an all-purpose type, applicable to all farming jobs.

We also harvest quickly. The grain has no time to drop

from the ears. In the last two years we've bought four Challenger 670B rotary combine harvesters. We like these machines for their durability.

They operate in the most adverse conditions, on the soggiest of soils. Their other asset is fuel efficiency. We've got other combines on our farm, too. And we are pleased with them just as well. However, they consume 20 to 30% more fuel than the Challenger 670B. All of the AGCO equipment is very reliable. Or, maybe, it's just AgroCentreLiski service working so remarkably.

Overall, today we use on our farms 250 million worth of equipment. We're determined to increase our production. Of course, we wish our officials would understand our needs better. In the last two years we've received subsidies for our investment projects only from the federal agencies and nothing at all from financial

institutions. Now they are saying the state's arrears in paying out subsidies will be cleared, but so far it's just talk."

"I hope that the current sanctions will stimulate Russian farmers to do more. On our part we, too, will help our native land," says Alexander with a smile. "We'll continue our crop production. We've devised a new project, but at the moment I won't speak about it to avoid inviting ill luck. Should trouble occur, we won't supply enough cucumbers and tomatoes for the residents of Voronezh."

V.M. Shevtsov farming enterprise (Vorobyovsky and Buturlinovskiy districts of Voronezh oblast); in operation since 2008; agricultural land area — 10,500 ha; arable land area — 8,000 ha; personnel — 40 people.

By Yulia SALKOVA



AGROCENTRE RECOMMENDS

The engineers tested the machines in the labs and on the field at 100% workload. As a result, modern farmers get a real workhorse.

The new product line of the Valtra tractors includes seven models with hp varying from 155 to 250. Their turning radius is a mere 5.25 m. The ground clearance has increased, reaching as much as 60 cm. A wheel track of 2,995 mm ensures tractor stability on the road. The upgraded mounted tool in the tractor rear lifts a load of up to 9.5 tonnes while the incorporated mounted unit does up to 5.1 tonnes.

“We’ve tried out the tractors in operation,” said Nikolai Bashkirov, head of the equipment orders department in AgroCentreZakharovo. “We used the plough, the disc and the conventional cultivator, and we loaded and unloaded bales of hay on the farm. The designers have done a really fine job. The tractors are so very simple and convenient to control! They coped with all the tasks perfectly. Next year series T tractors will appear on the Russian market.”

Starting from scratch

The fourth generation, series T Valtra tractors have been created virtually from scratch and designed in four versions: Direct, Versu, Active, and HiTech. The Active model is fitted with the Powershift transmission and a mechanically controlled, load-responsive hydraulic system.

The Versu, Active and HiTech models are a new approach to controlling Powershift fitted tractors.

The automatically controlled Powershift transmission is based on a new operating principle. Here the gas pedal controls not the engine revolutions but the tractor speed as it happens during movement with the Direct stepless transmission. Such a system is very convenient for using mounted tools.

The clutch pedal is required only for starting up the engine.



Valtra, a widely known brand of AGCO, has put on the market new series T tractors. AgroCentre specialists were the first to familiarise themselves with these novelties. AGCO Corporation arranged a dealers’ trip to Germany where the machines were presented.

The brake pedals also can be used for clutch control since the automatic clutch control is permanently engaged here (AutoTraction). The Powershift system has convenient

functions for holding the tractor on a hill slope (hill-hold).

Smartly made

Depending on the tractor model, the reliable AGCO Power engine, 6.6 and 7.4 l capacity,



minimises pollutant emissions by using the SCR Stage 4 system. The turbine is fitted with an electronic overflow valve. As a result, the engine promptly responds when you depress the pedal, developing an excellent torque even at low revolutions. Use of the SCR system and optimised software substantially reduce fuel consumption.

All-inclusive services

The special feature of series T tractors is a roomy, noise-proof cabin providing all the services required. Special outwardly bent posts maximise cabin interior space. It is 20 cm wider than previous generation tractors, offering such amenities as electrical heating of the front and rear windows, a windscreen wiper with 270 degree span, parking cameras, LED torches for work site illumination, taillights, plus six square metres of glazed observation area. In short, the designers have done their best to make the operator’s work comfortable and enjoyable. The extra glazing in the roof front simplifies the use of the front-end loader. Even an audio system and a freezer bag are installed in the cabin!

Convenient in everything!

In creating the new tractors, special attention was given to ease of operation and maintenance. The between maintenance period is 600 hours. The daily oil check is a quick procedure due to inspection ports. The access to radiators and filters is also convenient, requiring no tools. The tractors are fitted both with an automatic steering system (AutoGuide) and telemetric unit (AgCommand). The AutoGuide system uses satellite-supplied and corrective signals for controlling the tractor with an accuracy of 1 cm. The AgCommand remote control system enables the operator to monitor the tractor operation, predict the need for maintenance, and sum up the machine-related information.

By Anna BORDUNOVA



The essential novelty in the Carrier design is the increased disc diameter: L – 51 cm, XL – 61 cm (45 cm on previous models). This change eases work on fields with a large amount of crop residue, including crude types, such as maize and sunflower stubble.

“In the new Carrier L and XL models, the discs are arranged X-wise which prevents the tool from wobbling to the left or right,” says Denis Tarasenko, sales manager of the Belgorod branch of AgroCentreLiski. “The function of changing the harrow angle has also been added (MultiSet), and this makes tilling regular all over the field regardless of the operating depth.”

The Vaderstad designers have also increased the work load

of Carrier wheels on the field. A turn at the end of the run can now be made both on the roller and the wheels. This enhances tool agility. In addition, the support on the road wheels can be used on excessively wet portions of the field or in shallow tilling.

“The Carrier cultivator product range is unique in that one and the same machine can be fitted with a distribution harrow, CrossCutter blades or CrossBoard levelling board,” says Pavel Vilchinsky, regional representative of Vaderstad servicing centre in Russia. “The frontal tools are interchangeable. Carrier can be adjusted for operation on stiff stubble directly after the combine or for levelling the ploughed field.”

From demonstration off to work!

The new product of Väderstad, Carrier XL disc harrow, was to be sent this autumn for a demonstration tour on the farms of the Black Earth Zone. However, after the very first demonstration the Carrier XL remained at one of the farms of Belgorod oblast, where it entered into permanent service.

Three types of rollers for Carrier L and XL:

- SteelRunner — traditional roller version.
- Double SoilRunner — a roller with a U-shaped ring section that reduces wear and prevents fouling. The roller is available in ordinary and twin versions. The twin roller has an incline function which is an advantage in operation on wet soil
- CageRunner — a tubular roller designed for light soils.



By Yulia SALKOVA

Opinion

Yuri Ivanovich Vinnik, Vinnik private enterprise (Graivoronsky district, Belgorod oblast):

“We’ve got quite a few fields with crude crop residues. The new Carrier crushes and securely embeds them, doing this at a fairly high speed of 12 km/h. The embedding is regular all over the field, without untreated ‘islands.’ We lowered the tool to a depth of 12 cm. It moved finely even though the tractor is a 300 hp model. Usually such tools need more hp. The experience of using this tool showed that Vaederstad did think about those working on the stubbles and with a large amount of crop residues. At the same time, it remained a multi-role, all-purpose implement like its predecessor.

We thank AgroCentre for giving us an opportunity to try out the new product on our farm. We’ve seen the operation of Carrier 625 XL in real life, checked its adjustments and controls. It’s nice to avoid buying a pig in a poke.”

Red does not mean 'no'!

AgroCentre familiarised Russian farmers with Massey Ferguson equipment for the first time at the company's tractor works in France. A year has now gone by. Today our partners shared their impressions of how the tractors of this brand operate.



Alexander Kolmakov, Director for Crop Production, Soglasie LLC, Tyumen oblast:

"We've used the Massey Ferguson 8690 (340 hp) tractor for half a year. We acquired it expressly for ploughing. With the Kverneland eight-furrow plough, it has ploughed 1,200 hectares at a depth of 25 cm. The Massey Ferguson offers outstanding cross-country capability. We assured ourselves that in our climatic zone there are no barriers to these 'red' prime movers. The tractor even goes across frozen

soils! The machine is quite agile despite its impressive power. The tractor output is 2 to 3 hectares per hour at a fuel consumption of 20 l per hectare. In a shift, i.e. in 10 to 12 hours, the tractor ploughed 70 ha. I should note that at an equal workload, Massey Ferguson, series 8, is more fuel efficient than the other tractor we use on our farm. The AGCO Power tractor engine is second to none in terms of power. Thanks to electronic controls, the fuel is uninterruptedly injected with due regard to the engine's

revolutions and workload, and this is the principle underlying its fuel efficiency. I like the simplicity of controls in the Dyna-VT transmission. The cogwheels don't wobble and the clutch is smooth and without interruptions.

The DTM (dynamic tractor management) function enables the operator to independently adjust the revolutions as per the workload. The ELC (electronic load controller) ensures an effective load management, more precise setting of the tilling depth and terrain following capability.

I think that in terms of comfort this is one of the best tractors in its class. The newly designed, spacious cabin offers a panoramic view thanks to its four, not six, posts, which increases the visibility. All the controls are conveniently located on the right elbow rest.

The tractor is reliable. Not a single breakdown in the season. We plan to acquire a harrow and a drill for it."

Dmitry Filonov, Deputy Director for Engineering, Filonov farming enterprise, Kursk oblast:

"We were the first in Kursk oblast to acquire the Massey

Ferguson 7624 (245 hp) tractor. The machine is remarkably productive. In a season, the tractor worked 380 motor hours. In operation with a six-metre disc cultivator at a rate of 17 km/h, the tractor output is 6.5 ha/h at fuel consumption of 5 l/ha. In 10 hours, the tractor ploughed around 65 hectares at a depth of 5 cm. Using a deep digger, the series seven tractor ploughed 500 ha at a depth of 45 cm. At a rate of 9 km/h, the productivity was 2.2 ha/h and fuel consumption - 19 l/ha. We like the very easy access to components for maintenance and cleaning of the engine air filters, radiators and air conditioning system condenser. One only has to raise the bonnet. The engineers have designed a special bonnet in the form of a single piece to speed up the maintenance. What can still be optimised in the series 7 Massey Ferguson tractors is fitting them with wider wheels."

By Anna BORDUNOVA



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March

Demonstration of farm equipment at agricultural enterprises of the Central Black Earth Zone and the Urals



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