



Instead of a single cylinder, the new Claas has nine grain cleaning cylinders, completely eliminating the need for straw walkers.

## NEW "NINE CYLINDER" FROM CLAAS

# Combine Prototype Takes To The Field

By Mark Newhall  
Managing Editor

Several farmers who watched the field demonstrations at the recent Farm Progress Show in Peoria, Ill., noticed that one combine was different from all the rest. Those who noticed began following the machine closely up and down the field, carefully checking grain loss behind the machine. Most were excited by what they saw.

"The first thing I noticed was that there was no grain loss out the back," says Damon Lacey, Middletown, Ohio, one of the first to spot the new combine. Lacey then learned, along with FARM SHOW, that the new Claas combine was strictly experimental, not for sale and not even on exhibit at the show.

A Claas/Ford dealer from Illinois, also watching the demonstration, told FARM SHOW that the Dominator 116 making it's way through the demonstration plots was one of three prototypes now being tested in North America by Claas.

Hinzle Ziegler's Davis County Ford Tractor dealership in Washington, Ind., has been Claas/Ford's largest combine dealership in the U.S. since 1975. Because he knows Claas Company personnel in Germany, he managed to obtain two of the new machines for testing.

"This combine features a totally new concept in threshing," he says. "Rather than a single threshing cylinder, there are nine grain cleaning cylinders, completely eliminating the need for straw walkers and other secondary threshing mechanisms. With 10 times the threshing area of any combine on the market, it has tremendous capacity.

"The combine has one 18-in. dia. cylinder, the same size as in the current Claas 106. Behind the main cylinder there are eight more cylinders,

or what we call beaters, 16 in. in dia. They run one behind the other, crosswise to the direction the combine is moving. Grain moves quickly through all eight beater cylinders, which knock all remaining grain off against a grate below them.

"Unlike the rotary combine, which was first patented in Germany in 1886, this concept is totally new. There's never been anything like it," says Ziegler. "With an 8-row head in 180 bu. corn, the combine can be operated at speeds of 7 mph and more.

"The only limiting factor is the cleaning screen," says Ziegler. "The combine has the same size cleaning screen as the 106, yet it has tremendously improved threshing capacity. Design engineers could easily double the size of the screen. This is probably less of a factor in wheat and other small grains than with corn. We expect more design changes to be made before the machine comes on the market."

The combine has a 180 bu. grain tank that can be extended 100 bu. if the closed top, required in Europe, is removed. Repair work is easier on the new machine, according to Ziegler, because of the simplicity of the system of cylinders. Daily greasing takes a little longer but all grease zerks are located in banks on the sides of the combines.

The third combine prototype, the one demonstrated at the Farm Progress Show, is being moved from dealership to dealership. Canadian farmer Darrell Nystuen, of Naicam, Sask., owner of two 642 Claas combines with his father, tested the prototype combine for about 56 hrs. this summer in barley, rapeseed and wheat.

"We had virtually no grain loss over the cylinders and much less grain loss overall. Conditions were perfect so we couldn't tell how it would work in tough conditions. But, since it was developed for Europe



Engineer Jerry Williamson with planter he designed, incorporating key features of Deere's Max-Emerge.

## HAS MOST FEATURES OF THE MAX-EMERGE

# New Yetter Planter Runs Like A Deere

New from Yetter Mfg., Colchester, Ill., is a forward-fold 6000 series corn and soybean planter that literally runs like a Deere.

Its row units are, for the most part, a copy of Deere's popular Max-Emerge. They're being manufactured by Yetter under a licensing agreement with Deere, according to Jerry Williamson, Yetter's director of engineering who was involved with the design of the new fold-forward planter frame and also designed the new Yetter row units.

"The row units are our own improved design, with certain parts being manufactured under the licensing agreement with Deere. We feel our units have most of the features of Deere's Max-Emerge, plus some extras which we've added," Williamson told FARM SHOW. "For example, the close wheels are independently suspended and adjustable, which allows more accurate seed trench closing on sloped ground and over ridges. Compaction directly over the seed is virtually eliminated. By adding optional Yetter coulters, the system is ideal for no-till or minimum-till planting. Seed depth is accurately controlled and can be set

by simply moving a lever."

The new Yetter planter is designed to fold forward 180° for road transport. The wings tilt up 10° to prevent the front gangs of the planter from hitting the ground when you hit a bump or depression, Williamson points out.

It's available in a 12-row model (30-in. spacing) which folds forward to approximately 15 ft. for transport, and an 8-row model (40-in. spacing) which folds to approximately 14 ft. for transport. The tractor operator folds or unfolds either model right from the tractor without having to back up. Also available are non-folding 4 and 6 row models. Yetter row units can also be purchased separately for mounting on a farmer's existing toolbar or planter frame.

Extra planter units can be mounted, between the regular units for planting soybeans in 19-in. rows, with skip rows for the tractor wheels. "We're not sure yet about the feasibility of adding inter-row units all the way across on the 12-row model, but there shouldn't be any problem on the smaller models," Williamson points out.

In the field, the 8-row front folding model rides on 4 wheels. It's carried by the 2 center wheels when folded for transport. It comes complete with planter units and triple fold, break-away markers.

Yetter is also offering its hydraulic front-fold hinge kit separately for use with other planters. It fits most 2 in. by 7 in. toolbar planters. The kit comes with all hinge parts needed and four hydraulic cylinders. "The hinge is made of ¾ in. steel plate. Since the kit folds equipment forward only, transport height is not affected," Williamson points out.

For more details, contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Yetter Mfg., Colchester, Ill. 62326 (ph toll free 1-800-447-5777, or collect 309-776-4111 in Illinois).

where stalks are often 3 to 4 ft. tall and tough, we expect it to be outstanding," Nystuen told FARM SHOW.

Asked whether he would buy the new Dominator 116 combine once it's on the market, Nystuen said he would probably wait for test results from the Prairie Agricultural Machinery Institute (PAMI), a Saskatchewan-based machinery evaluation laboratory. PAMI reportedly plans to test the combine next year.

A Claas spokesman says the new-style combine was introduced to the European market this year with good results, and may be introduced in North America as early as next year.