

MacDon™

PERFORMANCE

GETTING THE MOST FROM YOUR MACDON MACHINE



MY 972s TOOK ON HURRICANE RITA AND WON

A TALE FROM THE GULF COAST

IN THIS ISSUE:
THE NEW LOOK OF MACDON

MACDON'S NEWEST
FLEXDRAPER®
FLEXING 40 FEET OF
HARVESTING MUSCLE



RHEAL REMILLARD
A DAY IN THE LIFE OF A MACDON
PRODUCT DESIGNER



NEW LOOK. SAME GREAT EQUIPMENT.

When you first looked at the cover of this magazine, you may have noticed the new MacDon logo staring back at you. This new logo replaces the familiar MacDon "rainbow" logo in all applications that represent our company and our new generation products.

Why the change? Although the MacDon rainbow logo has served our company well, we felt that it didn't successfully reflect the energy, innovation and commitment to excellence that MacDon is known for. It was time to update our look with something more current.

MacDon's new logo is in the form of a word-mark, and it becomes the official visual symbol for all things MacDon. Its lack of an adorning icon, embellishing swooshes or geometric symbols, projects our company in a simple, straight-forward manner that communicates both our strength and the confidence we have in our products.

It is also easier to read from a distance, an important consideration given that our products are often seen at a distance when at work in the field.

CONTENTS

- 3** NEW MACDON
KANSAS CITY HEADQUARTERS
- 4** 40 FEET OF MUSCLE
MACDON'S LATEST FLEXDRAPER®
- 5** PERFORMANCE TIPS
974 FLEXDRAPER®
- 6** RESCUING MY CROP FROM
HURRICANE RITA
- 8** A DAY IN THE LIFE OF A MACDON
PRODUCT DESIGNER
- 10** THE ALL NEW A30-S
MACDON'S FASTEST MOWER
CONDITIONER YET

MacDon™ PERFORMANCE

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MACDON'S U.S. HEADQUARTERS NOW FIVE TIMES LARGER.

Similar to the MacDon Exhibition and Training Centre in Winnipeg, MacDon's new Kansas City facility will feature a training area and a large product showcase area with adjoining theatre.

In a move reflective of the success that MacDon products have enjoyed across the U.S., MacDon is proud to announce the unveiling of its new U.S. headquarters in Kansas City, Missouri. The new facility is located only a few miles from the old headquarters and measures in at just over 40,000 square feet, making it an impressive five times larger.

for repair parts, training and sales administration. The expanded space will also include classrooms, a theatre and a large presentation area where new products can be showcased.

"In all there will be approximately 16,000 square feet devoted to parts alone. This will give us the ability to maintain a larger



"THIS WILL GIVE US THE ABILITY TO MAINTAIN A LARGER INVENTORY [OF PARTS] TO MEET THE GROWING DEMAND OF OUR EXPANDING CUSTOMER BASE."

"In finding a location for our new facility we wanted to stay in Kansas City," said Paul Jeffrey, U.S. Sales Manager. "Kansas City has been an ideal spot as it is a major mid-west transportation hub and it allows us to efficiently serve our U.S. dealer network in all directions."

The new facility will be located just to the east of I-29 and be close to the airport and other important amenities. It will feature more space

inventory to meet the growing demand of our expanding customer base."

People interested in touring the new facility are encouraged to contact their MacDon dealer, or if they are visiting Kansas City, MacDon directly at (816) 891-7313.



A SIGNIFICANT ADVANCE IN FLEX HEAD TECHNOLOGY

MACDON'S NEW 40' FLEXDRAPER®

PRODUCERS WILL SUBSTANTIALLY INCREASE PRODUCTIVITY

MacDon's new 40' FlexDraper® represents a true breakthrough in flex header technology. It combines MacDon's advanced draper technology with a unique three-section flex frame that allows each section to

rigid profile header, giving operators the best of both worlds. It also features a highly effective float system that employs coil springs to provide exceptional lateral and vertical flotation over rolling and uneven terrain. A key

prevent proper reel tine contact with the crop, which in turn can cause bunching and plugging. The result is the most flexible header yet with wing float and flex capabilities that greatly exceed the performance

MACDON'S FLEXDRAPER SIGNIFICANTLY BOOSTS COMBINE PRODUCTIVITY IN BOTH HIGH VOLUME, HIGH BUSHEL CROPS AS WELL AS LOW-PODDING CROPS SUCH AS SOYBEANS, BEANS, LENTILS AND PEAS.



independently follow ground contours in a balanced floating action, while at the same time offering comparable flex range to competitive sized flex auger headers. When on level terrain the FlexDraper's three sections can be easily locked together to form a

advantage of the 40' FlexDraper's unique flexing action is that it allows the header to maintain a consistently close relationship between the knife and the reel, even in maximum flex. This is in contrast to conventional flex headers where the flex action can

range of flexible cutterbars on conventional flex headers.

The FlexDraper's productivity boost comes from the fact that it is a flex draper, rather than a flex auger. Because it is a draper, crop feeding into the combine's feeder house is much smoother with

much less bunching and plugging. This allows the combine's threshing mechanism to operate much more efficiently, a difference that will allow most operators to increase their ground speed significantly compared to an equivalent sized flex auger head, or move up in header width.

Another important feature is MacDon's auto header height control system (Float Optimizer), which allows the header to automatically adjust flotation to ground conditions, eliminating the need for the operator to make constant adjustments. Combine this with the reel's ability to gently lift the crop like a comb before cutting, as well as MacDon's patented C-Shaped cutterbar (which allows cutting at ground level) and you have a header that cuts cleaner with less loss, especially in crop that is downed, lodged or tangled.

To match modern cropping practices the FlexDraper is center mounted to the combine feeder. This enables the combine equipped with the longest unloading augers in the marketplace to unload on-the-go. The 40' FlexDraper is available for most current model combines (Class 6 up to Class 9). For producers requiring a smaller header, the FlexDraper is also available in 30' and 36' sizes.

I have been farming on my own since 1972 and of all the many machines I have bought through the years, the MacDon FlexDraper is the best I've ever seen for increasing productivity. Essentially the FlexDraper has allowed us to maximize the number of acres we can harvest with one combine, and actually eliminated our need to trade up to a larger class. This is because we were able to move up from a 30 foot header to a 36 foot head and run our combine about one mile per hour faster. For example, in soybeans before the FlexDraper we were typically running between 2.5 to 3 mph, but now even though we've gone up to 36 feet we're able to run consistently at 4 mph. As a result, we've enjoyed at least a 40% boost in productivity over our old header.

The soybeans also fed into the machine more evenly and the quality of our grain sample was outstanding. It's almost unbelievable what this header can do and it's tough to convince someone how good it is without them actually seeing it. If my dealer hadn't brought a demonstration header up here I don't think he could have convinced me over the phone.

To anyone who is interested in one I say come and ride with me and it will make you a believer. As for product support that too has been excellent. I'd say MacDon has exceeded our expectations.



DON VILLWOCK
Owner of a MacDon FlexDraper header
President, Indiana Farm Bureau

PERFORMANCE TIPS 974 FLEXDRAPER®

Before you harvest your low podding crops (soybean, beans, lentils and peas) it is best to take a few minutes to make sure that your 974 FlexDraper is running at its best. Below are a few settings to check before heading out into the field. Doing these few checks will ensure that your header works to its full potential. Please note that this information is in the Operator's Manual supplied with your header. Please refer to it before making any of these adjustments. The manual is also online at www.macdon.com.

1. Make sure the flotation is set with a ½ inch gap at the down stop pad. Check this with the header a few inches off the ground. This will ensure that you are not too heavy which would cause pushing or smearing on the ground. It will also verify that you are not too light, which would show up as "wavy" stubble.
2. Be certain that your wing release pins are disengaged so that the wings can flex and follow the ground. This allows the header to follow uneven terrain and shave the ground to recover those valuable beans.
3. Check the reel to cutterbar clearance to ensure that the reel is as close as possible (see Operator's Manual for details). You will find that this setting is much closer than some competitive flex auger headers where the reel can be as much as six inches away from the cutterbar, resulting in much less smooth feeding than the 974.
4. The Float Optimizer is a great feature to help the header follow the ground more closely. The potentiometer measures the amount the header moves and tells the feeder house of the combine to follow. This maintains an even ground pressure for close, clean cutting. Run through the setup in your combine electronics to make sure it is calibrated and turned on.
5. When you need to shave the ground in low podding crops it is better to put the gauge wheels "up" in the storage position so the cutterbar can do the sensing. Also check that your skid shoes match the header angle that you anticipate to be running at. They will help guide the header and provide a smoother cut across the field.

For tips on configuring your header for local conditions please contact your closest authorized MacDon dealer. They are the best source of information for your area.

HEARING AND SEEING IS BELIEVING



You can be forgiven for being a little bit skeptical when we tell you just how amazing MacDon's FlexDraper® technology is. That's why we've put together a DVD where producers just like you talk about their own experience with the FlexDraper. We've also included footage of the FlexDraper's amazing cutting action.

Order your FREE copy today. Call (816) 891-7313 (U.S.), (204) 885-5590 (Canada) or order it online www.macdon.com



WHILE
HURRICANE KATRINA
DOMINATED THE HEADLINES IN
FALL 2005, IT WAS FOLLOWED BY AN
EVEN LARGER AND ALMOST AS DEVASTATING
STORM. HURRICANE RITA, WHICH WOULD SLAM
ASHORE ON SEPTEMBER 24 NEAR THE TEXAS-LOUISIANA
BORDER, WAS THE FOURTH MOST INTENSE ATLANTIC
HURRICANE ON RECORD AND THE MOST INTENSE TROPICAL
CYCLONE EVER WITNESSED IN THE GULF OF MEXICO. AT ITS
HEIGHT IT WAS A CATEGORY 5 HURRICANE, THE HIGHEST
CATEGORY ON THE SAFFIR-SIMPSON HURRICANE SCALE, BUT
WOULD MAKE LANDFALL AS A CATEGORY 3 HURRICANE. DESPITE
THE DOWNGRADING IN STRENGTH, HURRICANE RITA STILL
CAUSED EXTENSIVE DAMAGE ALONG THE COAST, COMPLETELY
DESTROYING SOME OF THE COASTAL COMMUNITIES BEFORE
HEADING INLAND WHERE IT CONTINUED TO RAISE
HAVOC. IN TOTAL MORE THAN \$10 BILLION IN
DAMAGE WAS CAUSED, INCLUDING THE
DESTRUCTION OF MILLIONS OF DOLLARS
WORTH OF CROPS AND LIVESTOCK
CAUGHT IN ITS PATH.

“MacDon headers rescued our crop from Hurricane Rita”



TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN:

Letter written from
Tommy Ellett to MacDon

I am the managing partner of Angelina Plantation in Monterey, Louisiana. Angelina Plantation is a 26,000 acre farm. The partnership farms 10,000 acres and leases out the balance. In 2005, we planted 5,600 acres of rice, 3,000 acres of soybeans and 1,400 acres of corn and grain sorghum.

I first purchased MacDon headers about five years ago. However, in 2004 we purchased the 30' MacDon headers that we are presently using on our Lexion 585R combines. At that time we thought the MacDon headers were very efficient, but it wasn't until the 2005 harvest season that we realized just how efficient they really were. In September, 2005, Hurricane Rita made her way through Louisiana blowing down the remaining 2,800 acres of unharvested rice. With conventional headers I was looking at slowing harvest down by 60%. Which meant the completion of harvest would have been in mid to late November. But, with the MacDon headers ability to feed the heavy rice crop, that was lying on the ground, into the combine evenly, that allowed the combine to move faster in the field. This now resulted in a 40% reduction in harvest time. We were able to complete harvest by the first week of November before the seasonal rains began. One of the other important features of the MacDon header is that with the belt system there is less grain lost as compared to convention rigid headers. For us this also meant that the improved efficiency of handling a downed crop resulted in less fuel and labor costs than we would have incurred with a conventional header system.


In 2005, Shortline Sales leased us a 25' MacDon header that we ran on a John Deere 9750 combine. We also used a 24' conventional rigid header on a John Deere 9750 combine. The combine with MacDon header averaged ground speed of approximately 1.2 to 1.4 MPH with less plugging and grain loss than the rigid header combine. The 9750 with the rigid header only averaged ground speed of approximately 0.9 to 1.1 MPH. With this side-by-side comparison in the field we have come to appreciate the technology, efficiency and dependability of the MacDon headers.

Sincerely,

TOMMY ELLETT
Angelina Plantation

“We were able to complete harvest by the first week of November before the seasonal rains began.”





RHEAL REMILLARD TAKES HIS WORK HOME WITH HIM

*Rheal Remillard,
MacDon Product Designer and Farmer.*

AND THAT'S A GOOD THING.



"At MacDon we truly have a culture of constant improvement and we're very responsive to our customers," said Remillard, who also says that their team actually spends a lot of time in the field listening and working with farmers who use the MacDon products. "You often see different crops and different ways of doing things when you visit farmers. Some of our ideas are the result of problems they are having in certain crops, or variations of modifications that farmers have developed for their own operations. Good design boils down to good communication and understanding the challenges that the farmer is telling you about."

According to Remillard, it also boils down to extensive testing. He says, that at any given time, MacDon has up to 18 people with service trucks testing its new prototypes and product improvements in locations worldwide.

As both a product designer for MacDon and a farmer in his own right, Remillard finds it next to impossible to stop thinking about ways to improve MacDon equipment when he is harvesting his own crops.

"You can't help but think about your work when you're running the equipment on a regular basis," said Remillard, who with two brothers, farms 1,200 acres of oats, wheat, canola and edible beans south of Winnipeg, Canada, where MacDon's manufacturing plant is located. "If you're facing a particular challenge in your own harvesting, chances are that other farmers are having the same problem as well. It's out in the field that I have some of my best ideas."

Remillard, who first joined MacDon in 1977, is part of one of MacDon's product design teams which is currently responsible for the next generation of rigid and flex draper headers as well as reels for both.

"These guys report back from the field daily via the Internet. When I arrive at work in the morning my screen is filled with field reports from around the world, including photos, video clips, computer readouts and detailed performance reports. As such, we have almost instant feedback on the modifications we tried the day before. We never had that level of interaction in the old days."

As important as modern communications plays in MacDon's design process, Remillard says that first hand experience on his own farm still plays a pivotal role in his own designs. He also says having access to his own land has at least one other important benefit when it comes to his job.

"It's nice to be able to take a prototype and try it out on your own farm behind the bush after dark. It gives us the freedom to test the equipment in a completely relaxed atmosphere where we don't have to worry about holding up a farmer's harvest at critical times. As a farmer myself, I know how difficult that can sometimes be for a producer. That's why we are so appreciative of the many farmers who work with us in the testing of our products. It is their cooperation and input that allows us to continually advance the state of harvesting technology."

FASTER, STRONGER...

...WHAT'S NOT TO LOVE ABOUT MACDON'S NEW A30-S



Representing the next generation in mower conditioners, MacDon's new A30-S has been engineered to deliver significantly

improved cutting and conditioning performance in a wide range of crop and field conditions. With the A30-S you'll not only enjoy fast-drying windrows but also greater productivity thanks to the significant boost in operating ground

speed (as compared to MacDon's 5020 model).

Improvements found on the A30-S are extensive and include a new heavy-duty cutterbar design. This design features a Z-shaped profile, which makes the cutterbar much stronger along both the horizontal and vertical planes, and allows it to better withstand impact from field obstacles.

Another important advance on the A30-S is the wide range of conditioning provided by its N-Bar with 9" diameter steel rolls. This allows producers to condition from "crimp" to a gentle crushing action to maximize hay and forage nutrient values.

Additionally, the A30-S's conditioner rolls can be easily unplugged from the comfort of the tractor seat. By simply raising the header, the conditioner rolls will separate to provide power-through unplugging of most crop build-up.

Like all MacDon harvesting machines, the A30-S is built for the toughest conditions. The exceptional durability of the unit is assured by its high-strength cast housing, rugged internal components and heavy-duty flotation springs. These features allow the header to react quickly and smoothly to ground obstructions, reducing the likelihood of damage to the cutterbar and knife components.



Like all MacDon machines the A30-S is built for the toughest conditions.

THE AUSTRALIAN WINDROWING REVOLUTION OF 1975

HOW AN ENTERPRISING FARMER INTRODUCED WINDROWING TO AUSTRALIA

MacDon and Australian farmers owe a lot to Trevor Greenslade, for he is the man who was most responsible for converting Australian farmers to windrowing more than 30 years ago.

“In 1975 there would probably have been less than 10 farmers in the whole of the country who were windrowing their crops,” said Greenslade, who is now a Director of MacDon Australia Pty. Ltd.

“Compare that with today where most of the canola crop and much of the barley in the coastal areas of Victoria, South Australia and Western Australia is windrowed to protect it from wind damage. Windrowing is also important for reducing moisture content.”

Greenslade remembers that when he first decided that he would like to buy a pull-type windrower, he had trouble doing so. “None of the manufacturers I approached would bring them to Australia because they said there was no market for them here, so I had to travel to the United States and Canada to try to source them. I was fortunate enough to meet Joe MacDonald, then the owner of MacDon Industries Ltd., who agreed to ship me three Prairie Mac units.”

Greenslade says that those three units worked so well that other farmers wanted to purchase similar machines. That led him to establish his own company,

TCB Imports, to bring them into Australia. But dealers were not initially interested in the new technology and Greenslade found himself spending much of the next 10 years traveling around the country educating Australian farmers about the benefits of windrowing. Once windrowing became an accepted practice with several farmers actually doing it, it became easier to convince dealers to take on selling windrowers. The results for Australian agriculture were dramatic.

“Probably the main reaction I received from farmers in the early years was that windrowing removed much of the tension from barley harvesting. Normally the time just before harvest was a very stressful period for them with the whole of their year’s income slowly maturing on the stalk. Often a severe windstorm would come just before the crop was ripe enough to harvest and shake most of the heads onto the ground, leaving farmers with little cash for the year’s work. Windrowing let them go to bed and sleep knowing their crop was safe.”

“It would be safe to say the old Prairie Mac windrowers changed the method of harvesting of barley in Australia, especially on the Yorke and Eyre Peninsulas. They’ve probably saved millions of dollars worth of crops from wind damage over the years.”



"We originally had two drapers and two augers for our two CR960s, but now are doing all of our harvesting with just two MacDon 974 FlexDrapers. The 974s allow us to do everything we need to with them. Before we bought the 974 we demonstrated it side-by-side with one of our flex headers in hailed peas. The 36' 974 was cutting them better and at a higher speed than our 30' flex head. We weren't getting it all with our flex header, but we were with the FlexDraper because it was cutting closer. That really impressed us. Like everyone else, we are always trying to maximize our acres per hour. In most cases our combine has greater capacity than we can feed it so moving up to 36' was important to us. Overall, we estimate that the 974 cuts our harvesting time by about 25% in peas and lentils. We also like that we now have two less headers to store and maintain, and it's nice to be able to switch crops without switching headers. Some of our neighbours have been by to look at the 974 and they have been impressed with what they've seen. One of my neighbours went out and bought a FlexDraper for himself and I can report that he is thrilled with it."



"MacDon's 974 FlexDraper® Cuts Our Harvesting Time By About 25% In Peas And Lentils."

SANDY CAMPBELL
Pense, Saskatchewan

Owner of two MacDon 36' 974 FlexDrapers
mounted on New Holland CR960 combines

MacDon™

www.macdon.com



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