

**MacDon™**

# PERFORMANCE

GETTING THE MOST FROM YOUR MACDON MACHINE



**SEEING IS  
BELIEVING.**

MARKETING CLAIMS PROVEN  
TRUE FOR ALBERTA FARMER.

IN THIS ISSUE:  
THREE LESS WINDROWERS,  
WAY MORE PRODUCTIVITY.

**SPECIAL  
ANNIVERSARY  
EDITION.**

LOOK WHO'S 60!  
**FREE** MACDON 60TH  
COMMEMORATIVE  
CALENDAR PULL-OUT.

**INSIDE**



MACDON  
ENGINEERING  
AWARDED FOR  
EXCELLENCE,  
AGAIN.

MURRAY TAKS



1949-2009



## 2009 MARKS MACDON'S 60TH BIRTHDAY.

And, looking back over the last six decades, we're struck by how MacDon's history is, in many ways, the history of harvesting over that time. Not only was MacDon instrumental in pioneering the development and adoption of the self-propelled windrower during the early Fifties, but it was also key in more recent years in the reintroduction and popularization of draper technology for combine heads. These contributions to the progress of farming are something that MacDon is very proud of, and our company owes a great debt to MacDon's founder Joe MacDonald who made it all possible. It was this visionary who saw how agriculture was changing, and the growing need of the world's farmers to increase their productivity to remain viable and profitable. Because he understood that the most important place where productivity needed to improve was at harvest time, when the farmer's crop and profits were most vulnerable, he established a company that would focus on this challenge. It is a focus that has led to many innovations over our sixty years in business, innovations that have helped farmers do more with less and, hopefully, spend more quality time with their families.

For more about MacDon's history please turn to the centre of this issue of Performance where you will find a special commemorative pullout calendar with an accompanying historical timeline of our company.

From our family to yours, thank you for a wonderful 60 years.

**Allan MacDonald**, President and CEO

**Gary MacDonald**, Executive Vice President

**Scott MacDonald**, Vice President

## CONTENTS

- 6** MACDON'S R80 NAMED TOP AGRICULTURAL INNOVATION.
- 7** MACDON.COM NOW SPEAKS PYCCKOM.
- 9** M SERIES WINDROWERS DELIVER MORE THAN EXPECTED FOR ALBERTA FARMER MURRAY TAKS.
- 11** KANSAS FAMILY WINS USE OF MACDON D60.

## MacDon<sup>™</sup> PERFORMANCE

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A man, Denver Pugh, is shown from the waist up, wearing a white t-shirt, blue jeans, a brown belt, and a grey baseball cap. He is smiling and holding a handful of dark, granular grass seed in his hands, presenting it towards the camera. In the background, parts of a large agricultural machine, likely a harvester, are visible, along with a field of dry grass under bright sunlight.

# FOR OREGON GRASS SEED FARMER DENVER PUGH LESS IS MORE.

When Denver Pugh replaced five of his six auger windrowers with two M Series R80 Rotary Disc windrowers, he admits second-guessing himself a few times – especially when the weather heated up and a harvest that normally takes three to three-and-a-half weeks needed to be done much faster. As it turns out, he needn't have worried.

"This year things went really fast," said Pugh who farms 2,800 acres of grass seed and grain near Shedd in Oregon's Willamette Valley. "We went from thinking that we had three-and-a-half weeks but then it got really hot so that we had to cut right away. I was worried that we would not be able to do it with just three machines but they handled it just fine. We were done in just over two weeks – faster than normal."

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**"ON AVERAGE, WE  
WERE RUNNING  
ROUGHLY 10  
TO 10.5 MILES  
AN HOUR."**

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Needless to say, Pugh was impressed with his two new machines, which he assigned the bulk of his harvesting work, relegating his one remaining SP auger windrower to the task of opening fields only. He says that the faster harvesting speed of a rotary disc mower was only part of the reason he was able to harvest the same acreage with half the windrowers he used to use. The other big reason was the much lower maintenance requirements of MacDon's R80 Rotary Disc mowers.

Continued



## "IT TOOK ALMOST NOTHING TO SERVICE THE THINGS. IN THE LONG-TERM THAT'S GOING TO BE HUGE SAVINGS FOR US."

First of all, he was servicing three less machines every day, so that saved him significant time right there. But he says that there were also huge benefits going to a rotary disc machine and MacDon's all-hydraulic design.

"It was great not having to maintain sickle bars, hold-downs and guards; not to mention, none of the extra greasing we used to have to do on the older machines. It took almost nothing to service the things. In the long-term that's going to be huge savings for us."

Most importantly, the lower servicing requirements meant that Pugh and his crew were able to get out to the fields and cut

sooner than normal. In total, he says that he gained about two hours cutting a day from lower maintenance alone. And once he was in the field, Pugh says he was able to really fly.

"MacDon's M200 with R80 Rotary Disc has a lot more power than our previous equipment, and a lot more speed. When cutting we did peak out at 12 MPH every now and again, but on average we were running roughly 10 to 10.5 MPH."

But he didn't just save time in the field, but between fields as well thanks to MacDon's patented Dual Direction™ technology, which allows the operator to rotate the operator

station 180 degrees for highway travel. The result is a more stable vehicle for higher road speed travel.

"The transport speed is also a big plus. On the highway the M200 is really smooth at about 22 MPH. There are no jerky motions or header hop. That kind of speed really saves a lot of time going from field to field."

Another thing that impresses Pugh about MacDon's M200 with R80 is its cutting performance. He says that he was surprised by how "gentle" the rotary disc windrower was on his grass seed, and he didn't experience the extra shatter loss one might think may be caused by cutting at much higher speeds.

"Our yields really haven't been any different."

He says that this is partly due to the quality of the windrows that the R80 forms, which are nice and tight, allowing them to stand up to wind and shed water better.





# Harvest yourself a better career.

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**MacDon**<sup>TM</sup>  
*The harvesting specialists.*

"I also like all of the on-the-go adjustments you can make on the R80. There are enough adjustments that you can do while cutting in the field to make it cut better for that particular field. Nearly every field of ours is different, so this is a great feature for us."

As much as Denver likes his new machines they likely weren't a hit with everyone; specifically the members of his crew who ended up with a few weeks less work this year due to three less windrowers in his operation.

"This year I didn't have to hire any extra people or mix and match crews. I was pretty happy with that. The reduced maintenance and personnel needed to operate the M200's is a benefit that far outweighs the cost of upgrading from our old augers."





# MACDON'S R80 NAMED TOP AGRICULTURAL INNOVATION.



Neil Barnett and Richard Kirkby, leaders of MacDon's R80 development team, proudly show off MacDon's fourth AE50 award.

**PULL-OUT**  
MacDon 60th  
Commemorative  
Calendar





# NEW ROTARY DISC PULL-TYPE MOWER BRINGS HOME MACDON'S FOURTH AE50 AWARD.

For the third year running MacDon equipment took home hardware from the Annual International Meeting of the American Society of Agricultural and Biological Engineers, this time for its recently released R80 Rotary Disc Mower. The annual show was held this time at the Rhode Island Convention Center, June 29 – July 2, in Providence, Rhode Island, where engineers from around the world met to view and discuss the latest agricultural science and innovations in agriculture. As always, a highlight of the show was the naming of the top 50 agricultural innovations selected from submissions by many of the world's top agricultural companies, and once again MacDon's engineering prowess shone with the naming of the R80 as one of those 50.

and motor that allows for faster cutting speeds, even under tough harvesting conditions. This robust hydraulic drive system also provides overload protection for header components, reducing the likelihood of work interruptions. Reliability is enhanced thanks to heat-treated cutting and wear components and separate replaceable guards to protect the cutterbar between the discs.

The R80's exclusive Articulated Power Turn (APT) hitch attaches quickly and provides optimum maneuverability while minimizing the side loads put on the back of the tractor. It also allows for a more compact turning radius, permitting an operator to easily open up a field in as little as two passes.

**"THIS AWARD IS EVERY BIT AS SPECIAL AS OTHER AE50 AWARDS THAT MACDON HAS RECEIVED IN RECENT YEARS. ITS RECEIPT IS A RECOGNITION OF THE CREATIVITY AND ENERGY [OF] MACDON'S ENGINEERS."**

"Entries for the AE50 design competition can be made in either components or complete machine categories, said Richard Kirkby," Product Manager at MacDon. The R80 won in the complete machine category for the way its many unique design features, which include an all-hydraulic drive system and a new patented hitch design, come together to take the rotary disc concept to the next level."

Available in both pull-type and self-propelled models, the R80 Rotary Disc Mower features a high capacity, high efficiency bent axis pump

"This award is every bit as special as other AE50 awards that MacDon has received in recent years," said Kirkby. "Its receipt is a recognition of the creativity and energy MacDon's engineers bring to the job every day in their efforts to make better equipment to meet the current and future needs of farmers."



## MACDON.COM NOW SPEAKS РУССКОМ.

The worldwide demand for quality, high performance harvesting machines has increased dramatically in recent years, and no more so than in Russia where MacDon is witnessing a growing appetite for its SP windrowers, draper combine headers and combine pick-ups. To help ensure that MacDon customers in this market have access to the information and support they need, MacDon has launched a Russian language version of macdon.com, which can be accessed off of the home page. Here, Russian speaking customers and dealers will have access to most of the information available on our English site, including a downloadable Russian version of our all-product brochure.











# PRODUCTIVITY, PRODUCTIVITY, PRODUCTIVITY.

*Productivity is king for the hardworking Taks family; father Murray with sons Ryan and Kevin.*

Murray Taks was skeptical. He did expect a modest improvement in productivity when he replaced his three windrowers with 20' headers with two brand new MacDon-built Westward M150 Self-Propelled Windrowers with 25' D60 headers, but he certainly was unconvinced of the claims MacDon was making.

"I had read the literature on these swathers, about how they were faster in the field and promised productivity increases up to 40%. I laughed at that," recalls Taks. "I said that's a nice promotion, but I want to see it. Let me tell you, I've seen it."

The Taks farm of 6,000 acres lies near Crossfield, Alberta, just over half an hour north of Calgary. Here, in the shadow of the Rockies, Taks says that harvesting conditions for the canola, wheat, barley and other crops he grows are challenging most years due to the wind and precipitation that comes in over the mountains. As such, they typically get a lot of downed and damp crops, which makes for some "fairly tough cutting." So how did he find cutting this year with his new equipment?

"To sum it up – productivity, productivity, productivity," says Taks. "When I bought these machines, I don't think that I really realized what I bought, or just how much of a difference they would make."

*Continued*

M SERIES  
WINDROWERS  
DELIVER MORE  
THAN EXPECTED  
FOR ALBERTA  
FARMER  
MURRAY TAKS.



## PRODUCTIVITY.

This year probably wasn't a good year to compare as we had extremely heavy crops, probably some of the heaviest crops that we've grown. Our canola was as high as 80 bushels an acre, barley as high as 130 and wheat around 100. We had quite green and damp cutting conditions, and we've never had canola down as bad as we did this year, probably about 50% of our crop was down. But in these conditions the equipment worked just excellent."

Taks says that even though he went from three to two machines, his productivity increased between 10% to 20%. "We did more with those two than we could have with our previous three." He chalks the difference up to three key things: increased field speed, increased operator convenience and faster highway travel.

"In canola and wheat they performed extremely well. Our field speeds, where the crop wasn't down, were up as high as eight or nine miles an hour."

And where the crop was down they, of course, had to slow down, but not as much as with previous windrowers. Taks says that this is because of all the new technology MacDon has put in the cab.

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**"THE TECHNOLOGY THAT THEY PUT INTO THESE MACHINES IS JUST INCREDIBLE. THE IN-CAB CONTROLS AND CONVENIENCE IS OUTSTANDING."**

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"The technology that they put into these machines is just incredible. The in-cab controls and convenience is outstanding. We'll get into fields where the crop is literally lying flat, wet and green on the ground. And in that same field within 200 yards we'll be in a standing crop for 300 yards, and then back into downed crop. The ability to change immediately from the cab header settings such as header tilt and float, fore and aft reel position and knife speeds is a big feature for us."



*Murray Taks says that MacDon's D60 Draper Header's performance in canola far exceeded his expectations.*

Another big feature for the Taks family is the Dual Direction™ technology in the M Series tractors. Dual Direction allows the operator to easily rotate the operator's station from a cab forward position for cutting, to an engine forward position for road travel. This places the turning wheels in front for faster, more stable, highway travel.

"When we bought them I didn't think that Dual Direction was important, but it has turned into a very, very big feature for us. On our farm most of our land is close, but

"The cab quietness and visibility is phenomenal. You're not straining all day, there is just no operator fatigue. We had people fighting to get into these swathers. My dad, Peter, is 83 years old and he couldn't wait to get into one. He actually did quite a bit of harvesting for us this year."

"Personally, I could sit in that son-of-a-gun all day. Now, we've got a lot of very nice equipment, but these swathers are right at the top of the heap."

He says that even his neighbors have taken notice of his new machines, and many of them are "jealous." One, in fact, recently purchased a competitor's machine (against Tak's advice) but quickly grew dissatisfied with it when he saw how well the new MacDon equipment was working next door.

"Once he saw how my MacDon machines were performing against his, he asked me to help him find a MacDon unit and he traded his new machine off for the MacDon right away."

Taks says that he expects more of his neighbors to follow suit next year.

some fields are further away. In the past we would think twice of leaving one field to go to another four, five or 10 miles down the road if we thought the field wasn't ready. But with Dual Direction it just isn't an issue because we know that we will be there fast."

But beyond productivity, Taks says that his new M Series tractors had another big surprise for him, and that was just how comfortable and fun they are to operate.



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Here's your chance to show your MacDon pride. Simply shoot a short video of you with your MacDon equipment, telling us why you've chosen MacDon for your farm. If you can show the equipment in action, that's even better. You can upload your video to MacDon TV, found at [macdon.com](http://macdon.com), where full instructions are available. Please keep your video under three minutes.

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## KANSAS FAMILY WINS USE OF MACDON D60.

Doug Caldwell and his wife Annette of Abilene, Kansas, were the happy winners of the Great Combine Give-Away contest last summer, which gave them 50 hours of use of a specially decorated John Deere 9770 STS combine mounted with a 35-foot MacDon D60 draper header. The Caldwell's took delivery of the "Smarter Harvest Buffalo Combine" in time to use it for harvesting their hard red winter wheat, grain sorghum, corn and soybeans. More than 1,200 entries were received for the contest from visitors to farm equipment shows throughout 2008 including the Commodity Classic in Nashville, Tennessee, Husker Harvest Days in Grand Island, Nebraska, and the 3i Show. The specially decorated combine appeared at each show.

If you would like to see the Smarter Harvest Buffalo Combine in action visit MacDon TV at [macdon.com](http://macdon.com).







**R80 Rotary Disc**



**A30-D Mower Conditioner**

## ***Introducing two new ways to say fast.***

Discover just how much quicker your harvesting will be with one of two high-performance pull-type hay and forage harvesting solutions from MacDon. Whether you choose MacDon's award winning R80 Rotary Disc mower or all-new A30-D Mower Conditioner, you'll benefit from MacDon's patented Articulated Power Turn (APT) hitch, which attaches quickly and is so maneuverable that an operator can easily open up a field in as little as two passes.

# **MacDon™**

MacDon's APT hitch is standard on both the R80 and A30-D pull-type mower conditioners.

<b>R80 Sizes:</b>	<b>A30-D Sizes:</b>
13 ft. (4 m)	16 ft. (4.9 m)
16 ft. (4.9 m)	18 ft. (5.5 m)



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