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KEEPING IT SIMPLE.
THE FD70'S RUGGED DESIGN KEEPS CUSTOM HARVESTER SHAWN JOHNSON'S OPERATION GOING AND GOING.



BEYOND BRAND LOYALTY.
HOW THE FD70 MADE BELIEVERS OF THE AULIES.

KEITH AND BILL AULIE

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MacDon[®] PERFORMANCE

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FULL HOUSE.

MACDON COMPLETES THE SET OF ITS 5 SERIES WINDROWERS WITH THE RELEASE OF THE M155 AND M105.

When MacDon's latest top-of-the-line windrower – the M205 – was released last year it immediately won accolades for the many advances it brought to self-propelled windrowing. Everyone loved it for the increased power (particularly for producers running rotary discs), comfort and control it brought to the harvesting operation.

Now MacDon has completed the 5 Series with the release of its M105 and M155 windrowers. Both feature most of the same advances found on the M205, but they are better suited to the harvesting requirements of producers who mainly use draper and auger headers.

For example, the M155 is nearly a carbon copy of the M205 in almost every detail. It too comes with a power upgrade over its predecessor, the M150, in the form of a high powered and fuel efficient 148 HP (110 kW) tier 3 Cummins engine capable of being boosted to 156 HP (116 kW). It too comes with MacDon's award winning Dual Direction® technology which permits the operator to rotate the driver's seat 180° for faster and more stable highway travel (up to 23 MPH/37 km/h). It too features the wide wheel stance and exceptional crop clearance of the M205, giving operators a full 45.7" (1160 mm) of under frame clearance when harvesting extra bushy crops such as canola.

Continued

"This is a windrower designed for producers requiring a full featured machine capable of running draper headers up to 40' (12.2 m) or a 13' (4 m) rotary disc header for hay harvesting," said MacDon Product Manager Richard Kirkby. "It's also ideal for custom cutters who find themselves doing a lot of roading."

For producers with more straight-ahead windrowing needs the M105 (110 HP/81 kW tier 3 Cummins, boostable to 115 HP/86 kW) delivers a robust and capable platform, just with not as many features as the M155 and M205.

Kirkby says that the M105 is perfect for farmers looking to run drapers up to 35' (10.7 m) or harvest hay with one of MacDon A Series Auger Headers. It shares exactly the same cab as the M155 and M205, except for the absence of MacDon's Dual Direction® technology and in cab control of knife speed and header flotation (these can still be adjusted manually).

"THE M105 WAS CREATED TO MEET THE UNIQUE NEEDS OF DRAPER AND AUGER MARKETS AROUND THE WORLD."

"One of the things that operators will really enjoy is our new Ultra Glide™ suspension system which delivers custom tuned shock absorption to all four corners of the cab. People who've ridden in it say that the ride is smooth and incredibly comfortable."

"The M105 was created to meet the unique needs of draper and auger markets around the world," says Kirkby. "Producers still get a state-of-the-art machine without having to purchase features they don't need in their daily operations."

"Operators still get to enjoy MacDon's roomy and climate controlled cab complete with curved windows, an adjustable air-ride seat and finger tip control of header functions. They also benefit from the same time saving features seen on the M155 and M205 such as a movable rail platform that provides easy access to the engine and cooling system cores."

For more information on all of MacDon's 5 Series windrowers, journey to your nearest MacDon dealer or visit macdon.com.

MacDon's M155 can be equipped with an optional Hydraulic Header Reverser (like the M205) which allows the operator to quickly unplug the conditioner and other major header components on augers and drapers without leaving the operator's station.





Three generations of Aulie's (from left to right: Bill, Keith and Jack). In background, champion Clydesdales, one of their many passions.

A TALE OF TWO HEADERS.

A LESS THAN SATISFACTORY EXPERIENCE WITH A COMPETITIVE FLEX HEAD LEADS THE AULIES TO MACDON.

When Bill Aulie and his son Keith purchased a new Case IH 8120 two years ago for their 3,500 acre (1420 hectare) durum, canola and lentil farm near Rouleau, Saskatchewan, the salesmen at his dealership (Young's Equipment of Regina) strongly urged him to purchase a MacDon FD70 FlexDraper® for the front of it.

"They called it the ultimate harvesting machine," recalls Aulie, "but I said no thank you, I love the other brand."

Beyond brand loyalty, Aulie says that there were a number of differences between the FD70 and the flex head they were used to that caused both him and Keith concern.

First, the FD70 was 4' (1.2 m) wider (40'/12.2 m as opposed to 36'/11.0 m) and Keith, the one responsible for most of the combine work on the Aulie farm, was concerned that the extra width would make it more difficult to follow. Second, Keith felt he didn't have as good of a view of the knife with the FD70 as he did with the other header, and he thought that might cause issues. Finally, the FD70 didn't have as efficient a system for backing up the canvases and dumping dirt, something the Aulies had

come to rely on with the other brand. So the Aulies outfitted their new combine with a 36' (11.0 m) flex head made by the draper brand that they had trusted for years.

Unfortunately, their new header did not perform as expected.

"When cutting lentils the header would be digging in the dirt and the combine wouldn't be responding. So we ended up playing with the header a lot, tilting it back to keep it out of the dirt. But that meant that we were leaving some pods on the plants because we weren't cutting as low as we wanted."

And because they were eating so much dirt, the Aulies found themselves having to spend time blending loads to reduce soil tag.

"With our previous header we had to do a lot of work trying to maintain the grade. We were constantly having to blend down loads to clean them up."

Their previous header also came up short when trying to maximize their combine's capacity.

Continued

"The 8120 shows you your load percentages. With our previous header we would try to maintain 100% engine load, but we could never get it even close. We were always down in the 50%, 60%, 70% range. Even after we changed all of the little gadgets that the manufacturer told us to we were still having problems. So after one year of fighting with that header and lack of support, we knew we had to try something else. It was an expensive decision to replace the header so soon, but oh man has it paid off!"

The difference in performance between the two headers was both immediate and dramatic. The first thing they noticed was a huge jump in speed. Whereas before they were only able to manage 4 or 5 MPH (6.4 or 8 km/h) harvesting in lentils with their 36' (11.0 m) header, now they were cutting at close to 7 or 8 MPH (11.3 to 12.9 km/h) with the FD70, even though they were cutting 4' (1.2 m) wider with each pass.

Even better, they were finally able to maximize the capacity of their combine.

"The minute we put the FD70 on, the potentiometers were just perfect and we were finally able to attain 100%. Now we just drive the combine to engine capacity and set her there."

Keith also reported a significant reduction in harvesting stress thanks to the fact that he was no longer having to babysit the header to keep it out of the dirt.

"At the end of the first day I asked Keith how did it go, and he said 'really good.' But it was after the second day that he really got excited. 'It's unbelievable Dad,' he said. 'You never even have to look at the knife. I've just done a thousand acres and I haven't touched dirt once.'"

Aulie says that it's also less stress for him because he no longer has his son calling to say "Dad I broke two more sections", or "I've got a great big pile of dirt on the table", or "I've torn the canvas".

"The combine and header communicated so well from day one – not like our previous header which didn't even speak the same language. Now when we hit the field we can count on the FD70 to perform – there's just so much less stress."

"We also now know why the FD70 doesn't have a system for backing up the canvases to dump dirt – it just doesn't need it. We don't have soil tag issues any more."

Bill says that he realizes that their night and day experience with the two headers might be hard for some to believe, that he himself would likely not believe it if he hadn't seen it himself. But now that they have witnessed the impact that the FD70 has had on their operation, they have become very excited about the product that has almost halved their combining time and made harvesting so much more pleasurable.

DRESSING ROOM FARMER.

NHL HOCKEY STAR KEITH AULIE STILL HAS DIRT UNDER HIS FINGERNAILS.

If you are a fan of professional hockey and the NHL, you may have already recognized the name Keith Aulie as one of the rising stars of the Toronto Maple Leafs. Among Keith's many accomplishments are a gold medal won representing Canada at the 2009 World Junior Championships, an appearance in last year's AHL All-Star game (where he finished 3rd in the Hardest Shot competition) and being named recipient of the WHL's Doc Seaman Trophy as the league's top scholastic player (Keith graduated Grade 12 with a stellar 96% average, even after missing 100 days of school due to hockey). Proud father Bill Aulie credits his son's athletic success partly to his farm upbringing.



"Physically, Keith is obviously a very good athlete, but what makes him great is his unbelievable work ethic," said Bill. "On the farm it is typical for us to put in 18 to 20 hour days at times to get a job done, and Keith brings that same commitment and intensity to his job as a professional athlete."


And despite making it to the NHL, Bill reports that Keith remains as passionate about farming as he is about hockey. For example, just two days after the Leaf's final game last spring, Keith was back on the farm helping with the seeding. Even during the season, Keith's mind is never far from the farm.

"We both share the same love of farming – I don't know if you can call it work when we enjoy it as much as we do. Like our idea of a holiday is to do something different on the farm."

Photo provided courtesy of Upper Deck.

**PULL-OUT
MACDON
CALENDAR**





*Ignacio Machado Persez,
Paysandu, Uruguay.*

FIRST TANGO.

MACDON'S RELATIONSHIP WITH
SOUTH AMERICAN FARMERS IS JUST
STARTING TO TAKE OFF.

You probably already know that the United States leads world soybean production, weighing in with just over 91 million metric tons harvested in 2009/10. But hands up if you know which country is in second. If you said Brazil you'd be right; at almost 55 million metric tons produced, Brazil comes in second in production, but ranks first in soybean exports. In fact, South America as a whole accounts for 51% of the world's soybeans, (North America is only 36%), with Brazil, Argentina and Paraguay being the top three producers.

So it's only natural that if you manufacture one of the world's best soybean headers – MacDon's FD70 FlexDraper® – that you'd want to introduce your product to the world's largest market.

**“THE FD70 INCREASES
THE COMBINE'S
PERFORMANCE,
EFFICIENCY AND
FUEL ECONOMY.”**

“We first started to sell FD70s into South America in 2008,” said Bruce Nesbit, Export Manager for MacDon. “The conditions in South America are perfect for the FD70. Just the fact that there are so many soybeans being harvested, and the FD70 has distinguished itself so well in this crop already in North America, indicates that there is great potential for this product.”

That potential is driven by what Nesbit says are some distinct advantages the FD70 brings to farmers in countries like Brazil and Argentina – the biggest being the fuel savings the header can bring to the producer. Because producers can move up in width by up to 10' (3 m) when moving from a flexible auger platform to a FlexDraper® and still travel at the same field speed, the fuel savings can be dramatic.

Continued

FIRST TANGO.

“These days, worldwide, there’s more and more of a focus on fuel consumption, and that’s only going to become bigger as prices continue to rise. In Brazil, there are no railroads like here (in Canada). They truck soybeans for thousands of kilometers, up to 3,000 miles (5000 kilometers) to get to port.”

Brazil’s hefty transportation costs means that producers have to be extra diligent reducing costs when harvesting to stay competitive.

“When a farmer moves from an auger to a FlexDraper® there is definitely a fuel savings. Operators commonly say that they can just feel that the machine’s smoother.”

“WORKING WITH THIS HEADER IS LIKE FISHING – YOU WORK RELAXED. THE HEADER DOES NOT GIVE YOU ANY TROUBLE...”

One farmer who has experienced this first hand is Rangel Dallazen of Dallazen Seeds in Palmeira das Missões City, Brazil. Son of one of the company’s owners, Dallazen helps manage an 8,600 acre (3,500 hectare) farm that grows soybeans, corn and wheat.

“The FD70 increases the combine’s performance, efficiency and fuel economy,” said Dallazen. “Compared to other headers it also has perfect feeding, and that means greater threshing efficiency for the combine.”

Dallazen also says he has been impressed by the FD70’s ground hugging cutting action, another of the advantages the FD70 provides farmers.

“Our 35’ (10.7 m) FD70 harvests really well compared to other auger headers in all types of ground – flat, hilly, bumpy, going up hill and going down hill. It even harvests better than our smaller 19’ (5.8 m) and 23’ (7.0 m) auger headers. Because of the way it articulates, the header perfectly copies the ground.”



Dallazen also says that his crews appreciate the FD70’s robust in-field performance, especially its flotation which responds quickly to ground changes and obstacles.

“Working with this header is like fishing – you work relaxed. The header does not give you any trouble, you can just keep on working and working.”

Another South American who has also been very impressed with the difference the FD70 has made for his operation is Ignacio Machado Persez who runs Agroservicios del Litoral Company, a custom cutting service out of Paysandu, Uruguay.

He says that he and his partner Rafael Duran tested the waters two years ago with three FD70s to see if the headers could really boost their productivity, admitting that both of them were initially skeptical that something as wide as 40’ (12.2 m) wouldn’t give them trouble. Proof that the test went well can be found in the fact that Persez and Duran will have no less than seven FD70s at work in their operation by the time this article goes to print.

“In one year we harvest between 11,860 and 12,350 acres (4,800 to 5,000 hectares) per draper header,” said Persez. We alternate wheat crops with soybean crops, so we now



*Rangel Dallazen,
Palmeira das Missões City, Brazil*

have two soybean and two wheat seasons experience with the FD70. Their performance has been good, truly very good.”

“The header’s efficiency is incredible because of its even feeding, regardless of the crop condition. Its cutting action is highly superior to that of a conventional header, and having the ability to make adjustments with the cutterbar angle and reel just makes it that much better.

Persez says that beyond boosting combine efficiency, the FD70s have also provided two other significant benefits – longer work days and a large increase in the amount of beans recovered.

“One of the most important advantages our FD70 gives us is the ability to start to cut one hour earlier in the morning and work one hour later in the evening. We tend to harvest our soybeans with green stems and dry pods sometimes due to the very wet harvesting conditions here in Uruguay. This can be very challenging for a conventional auger header, but not for the FD70.”

“We’ve also noticed that the FD70 is much less damaging to the bean pods, something the farmers we work for really appreciate. We haven’t measured exactly how many more beans we are recovering because of this, but I would estimate it is around 15% to 20%.”

According to Bruce Nesbit, the results Persez’s and Dallazen’s companies are enjoying are being replicated just about everywhere the FD70 is being put to work in South America, a continent that is rapidly becoming an agricultural superpower.

“Last year I was at an agricultural show in Brazil and people were talking about drapers as the thing of the future. This year they’re not the future, they’re the present – everyone seems to know about them and want them.”

But for all of the positive results so far, Nesbit says that MacDon realizes more needs to be done to make sure that the FD70 is doing all it can for South America’s farmers.

“We’re learning as much as we can about each different area – what the challenges are, what their needs are.”

“Operators are used to the plug and play of auger headers. We’re working to make our machines easier to set up and operate in this plug and play environment. We’re also developing better instructional materials in Portuguese and Spanish to ensure that farmers understand how to set up the header correctly for optimal performance.”

“THE HEADER’S EFFICIENCY IS INCREDIBLE BECAUSE OF ITS EVEN FEEDING, REGARDLESS OF THE CROP CONDITION.”

MacDon is also working quickly to further develop both its distribution and service networks throughout the continent, which is important given some of the vast distances involved between dealer and field. Companies like GTS do Brasil in Brazil, Ciabay in Paraguay, Interagrovia and Corporacion de Maquinaria in Uruguay and Suagri and Franco Fabril in Argentina have already taken on the FD70, and that list is only expected to grow in the near future.

“The FD70 concept is skyrocketing even faster than we thought it would,” admits Nesbit.



ONE STEP AHEAD.

Shawn Johnson is fairly particular about his harvesting machinery. After all, as head of Johnson Harvesting, a family owned custom harvesting operation that has been in business for more than five decades, Shawn has learned a thing or two about what works – and what doesn't – with each aspect of a combine. And when it comes to the business end of a combine, the header, he's preferred MacDons above all others since equipping their first 960 Draper Header back in 1997.

"Every time MacDon makes something new they just make it that much better," said Johnson from his family's 5,000 acre (2,000 hectare) home farm near Evansville, Minnesota. "For example, the 962s were better than the 960s. Then we went to the 974 FlexDrapers®, and they were also a significant leap forward."

So when it came time to equip his nine Case 8120 combines they chose the best and the biggest that MacDon has to offer – FD70s in the 45' (13.7 m) version. Johnson says that he looks for three key attributes in his equipment – simplicity, control and performance – and he finds all three in abundance in his FD70s.

"We follow the harvest north from Oklahoma to the Dakotas and we typically run a crew of between 19 and 21 with differing levels of harvesting experience. With so many employees the concern with new machinery is 'can they handle it?' MacDon headers are easy to learn and operate. Generally, you only have to show someone once and he's got it figured out. The headers are also pretty forgiving. Things don't have to be true or exactly correct to keep going. For example, when the wing hasn't been adjusted correctly it still cuts. The canvasses run even if they have a tear in them."

Johnson says that the header's simplicity even extends to its transport package, which makes it possible for the operator to quickly detach the unit and tow it behind the combine when moving from field to field, eliminating the more time consuming method of using a separate truck and operator.

"The transport package is durable and simple. It doesn't take long to learn how to do it. One guy working alone can put it into transport mode in just five minutes, and with two guys it's even faster."

As for control, Johnson says that operators find the header very easy to operate, getting more work done with less fatigue.

"WE CAN ALWAYS START A GOOD HALF HOUR TO AN HOUR EARLIER IN THE MORNING BECAUSE IT FEEDS IN EVEN..."

"FD70s provide excellent visibility of the canvas and cutterbar compared to other headers we've seen. I also like that you can adjust the cutterbar with the hydraulic header tilt cylinder. If you get into rocky conditions you can roll it back or tip it forward if you are in more lodged conditions."

But what Johnson, and his customers, appreciate most about his FD70s is their in-field performance – both in terms of speed and crop recovery.

"When you look at a harvested field you can tell if it was a MacDon FlexDraper® or something else that did the harvesting. It cuts better, it cuts lower, it recovers more beans. Our customers notice that."

It's also not hard to notice just how much more they can cut in a day with the FlexDrapers. Johnson says that they are typically able to run at the same speed or faster than other custom harvesters using smaller headers.

"Depending on the conditions, we can cut at between 4.5 and 6.5 MPH (7.2 and 10.5 km/h). We were combining in North Dakota, in green straw wheat that was yielding probably in the 40s. With our 45' (13.7 m) header we were going 2.8 to 3.2 MPH (4.5 to 5.1 km/h), and the other combiners near us with 35' (10.7 m) headers were going the same speed, even though we were taking 10' (3 m) more than they were. Of course the guys with the auger heads weren't even going that fast."

Another advantage Johnson's FD70s give him over competitors is the ability to start earlier and cut later in the day, thanks to the header's heads-first crop flow into the combine, even when conditions get damp in the early morning or late evening.

"We can always start a good half hour to an hour earlier in the morning because it feeds in even, and we can always go later at night because of the continuous flow of grain coming in evenly. Even feeding is key for ensuring that threshing and flow through the combine isn't interrupted."

But for all of the benefits his FD70s have brought his operation, Johnson grudgingly admits that they have created more work for him in one area.

"The reason we went to the 45' (13.7 m) headers was to save hours on our combines, but we have just ended up doing more work with the time we have saved. I now find myself continuously trying to find more work, as with these machines we simply can cut more. This means more dollars for our custom operation."

SHAWN JOHNSON SAYS THAT HIS FD70s GIVE HIM AN ADVANTAGE OVER OTHERS.

MACDON OWNERS ARE TALKING...
READ AND WATCH WHAT THEY ARE SAYING BY VISITING
PRODUCERS CORNER AND MACDON TV AT MACDON.COM.



**“OUR M205 MAKES
CUTTING HAY A DREAM.”**

DARRELL GRANDISH, Smoky Lake, AB, owns an M205 Windrower
with an R85 Rotary Disc Header and a D60 Draper Header



**“FLEXDRAPERS ARE THE BEST
FLEX HEADS OUT THERE. PERIOD.”**

JIM DEIBERT, Colby, KS, owns four 40' (12.2 m) FD70 FlexDraper® Headers
mounted on John Deere Combines