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Photo Caption: Mark Panigas (right) and his father John find the Axial-Flow 8010 is ideal for harvesting everything from large grains like maize and beans to tiny grass seeds.

**CUSTOMERS SAY CASE IH AXIAL-FLOW COMBINES
DELIVER CAPACITY, VERSATILITY AND PRODUCTIVITY**

(August 2011) – The Case IH Axial-Flow combine harvester was launched 34 years ago and its single rotor design still leads the industry. Customers continue to choose the Axial-Flow thanks to its simplicity, grain quality and crop adaptability, according to Case IH Product



Manager, Hay and Harvest, Geoff Rendell.

“The Axial-Flow combine’s single rotor design means fewer moving parts for better reliability and easy servicing,” explained Geoff. “Its gentle yet thorough grain-on-grain threshing leads to increased grain separation and less damage to the fragile kernels so you end up with a better sample. It has a smooth, uninterrupted crop flow, which reduces horsepower demands, decreases fuel usage and minimises wear on threshing components.

“The Axial-Flow harvests more than 80 different types of grains in many conditions, making it ideal for contractors who need versatility. Our customers have noticed an impressive re-sale value, too, which maximises their investment.”

Case IH customer Tony Street agrees. He runs a contract harvesting, baling and mixed farming business in Canowindra, 70 km south-east of Parkes in New South Wales and runs three Case IH Axial-Flow combine harvesters: an 8010, a 2388 and a 2366.

“They are ideal for contracting work because of their versatility and adaptability – shifting easily between crop types and conditions,” said Tony. “On average we harvest 7,300 hectares per year so we need to be confident our gear can handle any job fast and efficiently. Because the Axial-Flow models have a high re-sale value, they deliver value from the moment we put them to work until we upgrade.”

Victorian farmer Ken Hinkley recently upgraded his two Case IH Axial-Flow 2388 models to two 8120 models, which he says he chose for their value, simplicity and capacity.

“We were initially looking at a smaller model but decided in the end it would be better to have quite a lot of capacity available so we could cut fairly low if we wanted to,” said Ken. “We’ll probably be doing more direct drilling in the future so we wanted combines that would allow us to cut stubble when we need to. The 8120 is one of the biggest combines on the market, which gives us flexibility in that respect.

“We chose these combines because they’re reliable, they have few moving parts, they’re adjustable from the cabin and they have the capacity for a variety of cropping operations.”

Mark Panigas runs a diversified farming business in Queensland’s Atherton Tablelands along with his father, John. They were among the first contractors to put Case IH’s Axial-Flow 8010 to work, harvesting grass seeds.

The move to the 8010 model came when it was time to upgrade the previous model combine, a Case IH 2388.

“We upgrade every five years or 5,000 hours, whatever comes first. Because we wanted to double capacity we moved into the larger 8010 model,” said Mark. “A lot of people were sceptical at first simply because it was such a large machine, but now that they’ve seen its performance capabilities, the scepticism has gone.

“We’ve always been big fans of the Axial-Flow design. In fact, Dad and I were the first people to privately own a Case IH Axial-Flow combine – the 1460 model – which we purchased more than 30 years ago. Since then, we’ve always stuck with the technology due to its superior threshing capabilities and its simple, reliable design.”

The single rotor design makes switching between crops easy. The patented transition cone and impeller system on the front of the rotor smoothly accelerates the crop mat, promoting better material flow with less impact damage.

“We might move between harvesting grain seeds, which are only about half a millimetre in size, to 3mm bean seeds and 8mm corn seeds all in the one paddock and it’s simply a matter of pressing a button to switch between the different crops. This feature makes the Axial-Flow technology a huge benefit to our operation,” said Mark. “The 8010 handles all crops with ease, no matter how large or small, and the single inline rotor prevents splitting, particularly in bean crops.”

When harvesting grass seeds, Mark fits the 8010 with a 6-metre front.

“The grass crop stands about a metre high and it’s fairly dense, which is why we need a smaller front,” said Mark. “It takes a lot longer to harvest grass seeds because they are so light and so small and need more time for effective separation. With grass seeds we only get through around 1.5 hectares per hour whereas, when we harvest maize, we can get through 6 hectares an hour easily.”

The 8010’s self-levelling cleaning system design is also a benefit for Mark’s operation.

“Because we contract harvest we’re moving to different sites all the time and the 8010 automatically adjusts to changing conditions. I estimate that, when we’re working on hillsides, this feature prevents around 20 per cent crop loss.”

As maintenance is so easy with fewer belts and moving parts than other combines, Mark estimates the design helps them reduce their overall maintenance time by about 15 per cent, saving both time and money.

Geoff Rendell says Case IH expects new Axial-Flow deliveries to be greater than in 2010 with a trend to larger model Axial-Flow combines this year, which is signifying a move towards increased size and capacity among growers and contractors alike.

“It’s not just the speed of harvest but the productivity that matters most,” said Geoff.

“Maximising your yield and getting the best grain sample possible will always be the main goals for growers and that’s where the Axial-Flow combines deliver real results. Their reliability and powerful productivity mean growers can get more grain harvested faster, with no compromise on quality.”

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