



Current Report

Cooperative Extension Service • Division of Agriculture • Oklahoma State University

PAMI Reports Aid in Equipment Purchases

OSU
Collection

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PAMI Reports may help you to make a more cost-effective decision the next time a piece of equipment is leased or purchased.

The cost of even the simplest piece of farm equipment today is such that a farmer must be certain that equipment is properly suited to the task and that it will function reliably over its intended life. An implement improperly matched to its task, or one requiring unusually high repairs, can substantially increase production costs.

Fortunately, the farmer has good information available on tractor performance through the Nebraska Tractor Tests Reports. Information on implements, however, is more difficult to find even though they often cost nearly as much as the basic farm power unit itself. Most equipment purchases today are based on the farmer's brand preference combined with personal observations and advice obtained from neighbors and popular farm magazines. PAMI Reports from the Prairie Agricultural Machinery Institute in Canada may offer many farmers the unbiased technical information they want.

Who is PAMI?

The Prairie Agricultural Machinery Institute is a cooperative venture of the Canadian provinces of Alberta, Saskatchewan, and Manitoba. The Institute conducts development, evaluation, extension and research projects to suit the needs of prairie farmers and manufacturers. Objectives are to improve design and aid in selection of agricultural machinery. Although reports do cover some equipment exclusively manufactured in Canada, the vast majority of evaluated equipment is either manufactured or distributed in the United States. Since wheat is a major crop in Canada, much of the equipment evaluated by PAMI is identical to, or very similar to, equipment used by Oklahoma farmers.

What Type of Equipment is Evaluated by PAMI?

Evaluation reports currently available by PAMI include reports for the following pieces and types of equipment:

- * gasoline transfer pumps
- * fertilizer attachments for grain drills
- * balers--both round and square
- * forage harvestors
- * combines--both self-propelled and pull-type
- * special attachments for combines
- * bale wagons
- * bale movers for all types of bales
- * transport wagons and trailers for both crops and machinery
- * chemical sprayers and granular applicators
- * air seeders and grain drills
- * grain augers
- * various types of equipment monitors
- * moisture meters for grain and forages
- * spray markers
- * tillage equipment of all types
- * rock pickers
- * windrowers
- * electric fence controllers
- * tub grinders
- * grain conveying equipment

In addition to machinery evaluations, PAMI also publishes papers on test methods, current farming practices, and operational and management data for equipment.

How Can I Get PAMI Reports?

PAMI Reports are available by writing to the Prairie Agricultural Machinery Institute, P. O. Box 1061, Portage LaPrairie, Manitoba, CANADA RIN3C5.

For the price of postage you may obtain an index of reports currently available. Individual reports on equipment listed in the index are available free for the first twenty-five and at a cost of \$.25 (U.S.) thereafter. The annual subscription rate is \$20 per year.

What Type of Information is Contained by PAMI Reports?

Reports contain two parts. The first part is a brief but comprehensive abstract. The second part gives much more detailed information for those willing to take time to read the body of the report. The abstract contains four major sections. The Summary and Conclusions sections gives a brief description of the machine tested, test conditions, and test results. In the Recommendations section, engineers in charge of the test list recommendations which they feel need consideration by the manufacturer. These may include recommendations concerning the basic design of the machine or operational limitations. In the Manufacturer's Reply, the manufacturer replies to each of the recommendations given. The fourth section deals with Scope of the Tests and describes total acreage covered during the evaluation along with crop information, field conditions, and operating conditions.

The body of the report contains a good deal of information about the basic design and function of the machine. Considerable attention is given to basic operating principles, and Quality of Workmanship. Wherever possible, laboratory calibrations for metering components are done before taking the machine to the field. This evaluation is then compared to manufacturer's published performance data. The Quality of Work section describes how accurately and consistently the machine performed its intended function in the field. As an example, in a recent air seeder evaluation, this section included information on metering accuracy, distribution uniformity, grain

damage, seed placement, plant emergence, seeding depth, soil finishing, penetration, and trash clearance.

Ease of Operation is evaluated in the report. This section is quite comprehensive and includes hitching, adjusting for field operation, and rigging for transport. Attention is given to overall machine safety. For a grain drill recently evaluated by PAMI, the Ease of Operations section gave information in the following areas: hitching, packer wheels, filling grain tanks, visibility, monitoring, cleaning and transporting, and area meters available. Another category Ease of Adjustment, included information on lubrication, hydraulic fan drive, application rate, and depth adjustment.

Other important sections in the report include Rate of Work, Power Requirements, and evaluation of the Operator's Manual. The last two sections are normally Durability Results and a discussion of any Mechanical Problems encountered. Repairs necessary during testing are described in this section. Of course, basic machine specifications along with optional equipment and pricing are also provided.

Summary

Considering the information available in the PAMI Reports, they are one of the best bargains available to the farmer today. If you are considering purchasing or leasing a piece of equipment in the near future, take a few minutes to find out if PAMI Reports are available. It may be well worth your while.