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10. A Solid Reputation 12. Backhoe, Loader, or Both? 15. Get Connected





What the Worksite Journal is all about.

Welcome to John Deere's Worksite Journal magazine. You've received the inaugural issue of this new quarterly publication courtesy of your John Deere Worksite dealer. Chock full of interesting articles about John Deere Worksite skid steers, compact excavators, backhoes, and attachments, we hope you find it to be both interesting and informative.

Not familiar with John Deere Series-II Skid Steers? Our cover story gives a good overview of our five-model line-up and the industry-leading features that separate them from others.

On pages eight and nine, take a photographic tour of the John Deere Dubuque Works — the Iowa birthplace of the Series-II Skid Steers.

Articles on our zero-tail-swing compact excavators and owners' assessments of our compact 110 Tractor Loader Backhoe round-out this first issue.

But enough about us. We want the Worksite Journal to address your needs and interests. So e-mail us at WorksiteJournal@JohnDeere.com and pass along your story leads and ideas. If you happen to own a John Deere 200 Series Skid Steer, C-Series Compact Excavator, or 110 Tractor Loader Backhoe, tell us how and where you use it. If we use your story lead in an upcoming issue of Worksite Journal, we'll send you a free jacket.

Please enjoy our first issue!

Sam Norwood
Manager, Commercial Worksite Products



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With the intro of Series II, John Deere makes the best skid steers even better.

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Steer Factor

Renowned for its world-class backhoes and crawlers, the John Deere Dubuque Works is now producing one heck of a skid steer.

Spanning one of the walls at the John Deere Dubuque Works in foot-high letters is a quote from John Deere: "I will never put my name on a product that does not have in it the best that is in me."

Not that workers at the Dubuque factory need these words for inspiration. They live, breathe, and exemplify the four basic values that the John Deere Company has embodied over its entire 167-year history: Quality, Innovation, Integrity, and Commitment.

Add to that list Pride. John Deere employees take immense pride in the quality they build into each piece of equipment. "I've talked with countless people who come in here on tours and they always talk about the pride people have in the product," says Joe Kremer, program manager for skid steers. "That's something you can really leverage in the marketplace because people know our folks are designing and building products with tremendous attention to detail and workmanship."

New Home for Skid Steers

Experience is another thing John Deere is leveraging when it relocated the skid-steer division to northeastern Iowa in 2002. In operation for over 50 years, the Dubuque Works is Deere's core construction equipment manufacturing facility, where the world's best backhoes and crawlers are built.

"Bringing skid steers into this environment allowed us to draw upon our existing processes and knowledge base to develop a world-class product," says Kremer. "Our workforce here is highly skilled and extremely knowledgeable — and now they're building our skid steers." Of the 70 assemblers on the skid steer line, 12 have almost 40 years of experience.

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”

*Joe Kremer,
program manager,
skid steers*



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Larry Foster,
product marketing manager,
skid steers



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“Quality is our number-one priority,” adds Pat Melloy, business unit manager at Dubuque Works. “There’s an expectation that each product coming out of Dubuque will be the same quality level as our world-class backhoes and crawlers.”

From an engineering and manufacturing standpoint, the skid-steer line is a good fit for the facility. But it also made good business sense to move the skid-steer line from Loudon, Tennessee. The Dubuque plant was being underutilized, so the move allowed Deere to consolidate operations and improve efficiency.

More than 100 Improvements to Series II

The more things change, the more Deere quality stays the same. The Dubuque-built Series-II Skid Steers have made great strides in quality — over 100 improvements have been made in the last two years. This focus on continuous improvement to the skid-steer line demonstrates John Deere’s relentless commitment to quality and innovation.

“If we come up with an idea that would enhance performance, productivity, comfort, or reliability, we won’t wait until a certain point of the year to roll it in,” says Larry Foster, product marketing manager, skid steers. “We’ll roll it in immediately.”

Nothing is overlooked in ensuring the Series-II Skid Steers are the best they can possibly be. Enhancements include a more comfortable arm-rest, cushioned boom cylinders, fewer hydraulic connections, new machine tie downs, improved bucket corner visibility, better bucket breakout force, a slew of new attachments, a new air-conditioning option, and a new steering system, to list only a few.

Good Things Come in Small Packages

Why are skid steers so popular? A key reason is versatility. “With a full line of Worksite Pro™ attachments available, there’s virtually nothing they can’t do,” says Foster. “Use it like a backhoe to dig trenches, put a cold planer on it and mill pavement, or put vibratory rollers on it to compact soil. There are also augers, breakers, bale spears, brooms, power rakes, pallet forks, grapples, trenchers, tillers — the list goes on and on.”

A skid steer gives you a single machine that you can keep finding new uses for, simply by adding attachments. Machine utilization is high, but the machines don’t cost a lot of money, so your return on investment is quick.

Plus, the machines are easy to transport — you don’t need a commercial license to move one. They’re easy to bring to one job for a couple of hours, then load up and move to another. You can’t do this with bigger equipment because of the high trucking costs.

Performance is what differentiates the Series-II Skid Steers from the competition. “They all look the same, but they truly perform differently,” explains Foster. “When customers compare them side-by-side with our competitors, all the differences are apparent.”

One key difference is the Series II’s outstanding stability. Given the diminutive size of a skid steer, this has an enormous impact on productivity. With optimal 60/40 weight distribution and low center of gravity, combined with the long wheelbase and vertical-lift design, Series-II Skid Steers possess stability that is best-in-class.

Their 360-degree visibility is also best. Superior bucket corner, side, and rear visibility add up to greater productivity. It helps an operator work more safely, too, with no more guessing while steering through close quarters and around obstacles.

Engine horsepower, bucket breakout force, axle torque — when it comes to power, the Series-II Skid Steers come out on top of nearly every category. This powerful combination contributes to the Series-II Skid Steers’ unparalleled lift capability and pushing force. These nimble machines handle heavier loads with faster cycle times, and that means unrivaled productivity.

Open Wide and Be Awed

Serviceability is also unmatched. With extra-long service intervals, Series-II Skid Steers are designed for minimal maintenance. And with wide-open

Nearly 100 Worksite Pro™ attachments help expand utilization and profitability.



Model Breakdown

Model	Horsepower	Bucket breakout force	SAE operating capacity
240-II	51 net 53 gross	5,500 lb.	1,500 lb. 2,000 lb. w/ counterweight*
250-II	61 net 64.4 gross	5,500 lb.	1,750 lb. 2,100 lb. w/ counterweight*
260-II	69 net 72.4 gross	7,500 lb.	2,400 lb. 2,600 lb. w/ counterweight*
270-II	77 net 82 gross	10,500 lb.	2,800 lb. 3,000 lb. w/ counterweight*
280-II	85 net 90 gross	11,600 lb.	3,200 lb. 3,500 lb. w/ counterweight*

* Optional equipment

access, they’re easy to service. “When we roll up the cab, open the doors, and remove the side panels, everybody’s jaws drop,” says Foster. “You can put your hands on everything.”

Due to their popularity and availability, skid steers are run by operators of all skill levels. That’s why safety was a critical concern in the design of these machines. With the triple-interlock system, the machine won’t run unless the operator is securely fastened in the seat. When the seatbelt is unfastened, a brake is automatically engaged.

Steps are wide and designed to prevent slipping, making it much easier to get in and out of the machine. An in-cab activated boom lock allows the operator to secure a raised boom before exiting the cab. ROPS, combined with the machines’ superb stability and visibility, also ensure superior operator protection.

With five different models from the compact 240 to the powerful 280, there’s sure to be one that’s a perfect fit for your needs. Plus, each Series-II Skid Steer is backed by industry-leading parts, service, and support.

To learn more about these highly versatile, multi-purpose machines, see us today.

Building a World-Class Skid Steer

gallery

Want to build a world-class skid steer? All you need is superb engineering, an experienced UAW workforce, a topnotch facility, and ISO-certified manufacturing processes. “Whether designing new products or updating current models, we have a tremendous wealth of expertise to draw upon in engineering, evaluation, testing, confirmation, and validation,” says Skid Steer Product Marketing Manager, Larry Foster. “We also have very experienced, proud people who know how to build construction equipment. And now they’re building the world’s best skid steer.”

From sheets of steel to finished product, world-class processes and materials are used throughout. “We bring in an independent audit staff for evaluation on a regular basis,” says Joe Kremer, program manager for skid steers. “We take their recommendations and try to improve what we feel are already top-of-the-line procedures.”

To learn more about the way John Deere skid steers are built, take a photo tour of the Dubuque Works factory floor.

a. Virtual steer-ality. New designs are tested in a virtual reality lab that allows engineers to test things from an operator’s perspective before the new model is even built.

b. Lasers cut most of the frame and boom components. Parts are then shot blasted to remove oil, pressed if necessary, color-coded as boom or frame parts, and then sent to the robotic welders.

c. A robot welds the floor pan, bumper, sub-assembly, and sides together to create the frame. The welding processes applied to skid steers are as precise and reliable as those used to produce crawlers and backhoes in the same facility.

d. The fluid motion of robotic painters is almost human-like. Frames and booms are coated in a matter of minutes, including primer and base coat. The total cycle time, including drying, is one of the most efficient in the industry.

e. On the assembly line, all machines are sequenced by computer and have a build sheet that lists the specific options. Here, assemblers install an engine — an efficient process that takes only a matter of minutes.

f. The envy of stock-car pit crews everywhere, this assembler can tighten four lug nuts at a time, rotate the tool a quarter turn, and tighten the other four.

g. No machine leaves the factory floor before being subjected to rigorous testing on the dyno machine. Each skid steer is run on rollers at loads that simulate field conditions. Heating up the oil and stressing each machine ensures that it delivers the proper torque and power.

