



WORKSITE JOURNAL

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At the Athabasca oil sands, **durable skid steers** are something to gush about.



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Attachments fit a variety of machines and needs



The light equipment business is all about getting the job done quickly and cost effectively. That explains the huge popularity of our skid steers, which roll the capabilities of several machines into one multi-purpose machine, and of our Worksite Pro™ attachments. On average, skid steer owners typically own two to three attachments.

At John Deere we offer one of the most extensive lineup of attachments you'll find anywhere. With nearly 100 models, we have an attachment that's up to the task. And because our skid steers use the industry-standard mounting plate, you can swap our attachments among different Deere skid steer models, as well as many other skid steer brands.

But what really makes our attachments so versatile is the ability to interchange them among many other different types of machines. The mounting plate allows buckets, forks, brooms, and other attachments to be attached to the loader end of our Tractor Loader Backhoe (TLB) or to the 244J Compact Wheel Loader with the skid steer quick-coupler option.

Some breakers and all augers are interchangeable among skid steers, compact excavators, the 244J Compact Wheel Loader, and the 110 TLB. Plus buckets for the 27C ZTS and 35C ZTS Compact Excavators are interchangeable with quick-coupler-equipped 110 TLBs.

John Deere was one of the first companies to introduce a skid steer-type coupler option on compact utility tractors. This option is available on the 300CX and 400X Loaders that mount to the 4000 TWENTY Series tractors, making it possible to use a variety of skid steer attachments with these compact tractors.

If you plan to use a wide range of attachments across a wide range of equipment, contact your dealer to verify that the attachments will work. Because tractors have a wide range of hydraulic flow and hydraulic horsepower, not all hydraulically powered attachments will operate correctly.

No matter what types of equipment you own, your dealer can help you find the attachments that best fit your needs.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Sam Norwood". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Sam Norwood
Manager, Commercial Worksite Products

SS

rough

“ John Deere is the only machine that can withstand this kind of punishment. ”

Dave Scragg
Manager, Carmacks Construction

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hnecks

At the Athabasca oil sands, durable skid steers are something to gush about.

Welcome to Canada's Athabasca oil sands, one of the world's largest petroleum resource basins — and quite possibly the worst place on the face of the earth to put a skid steer loader.

"To be realistic, nobody should take any piece of equipment into this environment — but there's a job to do," says Dave Scragg, Manager, Carmacks Construction, Fort McMurray, Alberta, Canada. "And John Deere is the only machine that can withstand this kind of punishment."

Well-oiled machine

Punishment indeed. Imagine working in a light, steady rain. Only instead of rain, an abrasive, sandy, oily material is falling continually from the sky. And it *gets into everything...*

The spillage material is so abrasive, in fact, that in just 36 hours it completely wears down the bucket's cutting edges. That's the kind of environment the John Deere skid steer loaders must endure, shift after shift.

"The oil sands are basically a huge, buried pile of sand with oil residue in it," says Scragg. "A skid steer comes

out of there after a 12-hour shift with a 6-inch coating of this tarry, sandy material.

"We need tremendous parts and service support, because we really are pushing our equipment to extremes. Our experience with our Deere dealers has been excellent — they bend over backwards."*

Located in northeast Alberta near Fort McMurray, the oil-sand plants produce about a million barrels a day. That's enough to supply a quarter of Canada's total energy needs. Oil exports are roughly equivalent to those of a small member of OPEC.

And with oil reserves exceeding 300 billion barrels, the region isn't expected to run dry anytime soon. "It costs more to produce, but it's virtually an unlimited supply," says Scragg. "That's important to the United States, which imports oil from the region. Let's face it, Canada is a more stable region than the Middle East."

A truck-and-shovel method is used to mine the oil sands at the Steepbank mine. The method can access a higher quality of oil sands with less clay.

*Carmacks is serviced by Brandt Tractor and Martin Equipment in Alberta.



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Huge shovels load the oil sand into 350-ton trucks, which transport the mix to primary crushers. The oil-sand mix is transported from the crushers to the oil-extraction plant by a 600-meter-long conveyor. Concrete beams support the conveyor, which is suspended as high as 20 meters above the ground in places.

It's the skid steer loader's job to clear spillage out from underneath the conveyor. The spillage piles up so rapidly that in a 12-hour shift, it starts to reach the conveyor even where 20 meters of clearance had existed.

"I've tried many pieces of equipment, but skid steers are the only ones that can get in there," says Scragg. "There's barely enough room, but the Deere skid steers have the agility to get into tight spaces, with the power you need to pick up this material. Deere machines have the best horsepower-to-weight ratio you can find for this job."

John Deere skid steers owe their superb agility to optimal 60/40-weight distribution, low center of gravity, high ground clearance, long wheelbase, and, of course, compact size. And when it comes to power, John Deere diesel engines deliver more torque rise and usable power than other engines. The skid steer's unified design optimizes hydraulics, lift capabilities, and pushing force.

Built to withstand the sand

Of course, superior performance doesn't mean much unless the machines are available when needed. Durability is a key reason Carmacks chose John Deere. Built in the same factory as our highly reliable crawlers and backhoes, John Deere skid steers set the benchmark for reliability and uptime.



“ [The skid steers] are incredibly versatile.



**They have become
an integral part of the
work crews. ”**

Dave Scragg
Manager, Carmacks Construction

“Deere has the most durable machines out there,” Scragg reports. “We’ve tried every brand, but John Deere is the only one that gives us the uptime we need. Our mechanics and operators make it clear that they prefer Deere, and we listen to them.”

Operators like the best-in-class visibility with clear sightlines to the cutting edge, bucket corners, sides, rear corners, and directly behind. “You can see the bucket edge from the seat, even when you’re next to these concrete pillars where it’s really tight,” explains Scragg. “With some other makes, you cannot see the edge of the bucket, and you can do an awful lot of damage.”

With 35 degrees of rollback, big bucket loads arrive where they are supposed to. Plus, their 45-degree dump angle ensures the bucket empties the sticky oil-sand material easily.

Carmacks has used mainly 270s, as well as 250s, 260s, and 280s, at the oil sands. Recently the energy company that contracts Carmacks rented three John Deere 328 Skid Steers to work under the conveyor. After trying other makes, the energy company now rents Deere exclusively because of their reliability and performance.

Over the years, Carmacks has owned more than 40 John Deere skid steers. In addition to the five John Deere skid steers working in the oil-sand region, Carmacks has two working for its bridge division, three for its municipal division in Edmonton, three for its municipal division in Calgary, and two with its highway crews. During the winter, some of the machines are used for snow removal.

In addition to buckets, Carmack owns a number of other attachments, including planers and backhoes. The skid steers are used for hundreds of different jobs. “They’re incredibly versatile,” observes Scragg. “They have become an integral part of the work crews.”



Compact excavator. To the uninitiated, this sounds like a bit of an oxymoron, like “jumbo shrimp.” But don’t be fooled by the diminutive appearance of these machines. Small? Yes. Big on performance? You bet — especially in cramped quarters where larger machines become unwieldy.

And with increased operating speeds and drawbar pull, Deere’s new D-Series compacts deliver even more performance. A host of new features improve operator comfort, uptime, and serviceability, so you’ll squeeze even more production out of tight areas — and at lower operating costs.

Back to the drawing board for more drawbar pull

Replacing the 35C ZTS and 50C ZTS machines, the 35D and 50D are completely new designs. “These machines are new from the ground up, not a carryover or update,” says Mark Wall, John Deere excavator product marketing manager. “We started with a clean sheet.”

The most noticeable improvement is drawbar pull, which has increased 12 percent on the 35D and 34 percent on the 50D. “By increasing drawbar pull, we’ve made the machines more productive when backfilling trenches or traveling around the jobsite,” Wall explains.

Operating speeds are faster, too, reducing cycle times. Cycle times have improved five percent on the 35D and seven percent on the 50D — so you’ll move more material in less time. Engine displacement has increased, and torque curves on the 35D and 50D are higher. Plus, direct fuel injection improves starting and reduces noise.

And with the new auto-idle feature, you’ll be doing this at lower cost. Typically found only on larger excavators, this feature reduces fuel consumption.

Need to dig deeper — literally — for more productivity? A new long-arm/heavy-counterweight option adds 12 more inches of digging depth and reach, without sacrificing stability.

More comfort by a wide margin

Of course, impressive performance specs mean nothing if the operator is too fatigued to get the most out of the machine. As every equipment owner knows, comfortable operators are productive operators, which is why some of the biggest changes on D-Series machines are to the operator station.

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“ne



xt” cavator

Small yet
productive

D-Series
compacts
are the next
big thing.

The control pattern selector valve — now located under the operator's seat in a lockable compartment — allows you to select from backhoe- or excavator-style controls. The current selection can be viewed easily through a sight glass.



The two-speed propel button can be set to high or low. When set to high, D-Series machines automatically shift from high to low travel speeds when encountering higher drawbar pull or loads.



The speed-selection switch is now located on the right-hand console, providing more room for tired feet. The switch eliminates the need to hold down a pedal during high-speed transport.



A new rotary dial throttle is equipped with an auto-idle function. Release controls and in four seconds the engine rpm drops to idle, saving fuel and reducing noise. Touch a control, and engine rpm returns to the preset level.

**John Deere 325
gallops away from
competitors in
skid steer rodeo**

horse power

The sport of rodeo began almost 150 years ago when cowboys from neighboring ranches decided to get together to compete for bragging rights over who was better at performing everyday ranching chores. John Deere's 300 Series Skid Steers are pretty capable "ranch hands" in their own right, performing a seemingly endless variety of jobs around the worksite.

So why not pit a John Deere skid steer against other major manufacturers in a skid steer rodeo? That's exactly what happened last September at the Construction and Landscape Expo at the Washington County Fairground in Stillwater, Minnesota.

The machine to beat

No cowboys or horses were anywhere to be seen at this rodeo. Instead, equipment operators mounted an iron steed, competing in either the under-1,850-pound or over-1,850-pound lifting-capacity class.

Over 170 operators entered the competition. Contestants could choose the machine they were most comfortable in and enter as often as they liked at no charge. The over-1,850-pound event pitted Deere against its two main competitors, Caterpillar and Bobcat. Two other major manufacturers decided not to enter.

For this competition, Randy Thorstad, skid steer specialist, Scharber & Sons, Rogers, Minnesota, entered Deere's new 325 Skid Steer. Powered by a turbo-charged, five-cylinder diesel, this stallion of a machine is noticeably smoother running than its competition.

And, as participants can tell you, it has more horsepower and torque, so it's faster, too. With 60/40-weight distribution, low center of gravity, and high ground clearance, the 325 is extremely stable. This combination of power and agility proved to be unbeatable.

To ensure a fair fight, Thorstad decided to enter the mid-sized 325 rather than the larger 328 or 332. "The 325 compared closely to the Bobcats and Caterpillars that were there," he explains. "Certainly the 328 and 332 would have been faster, but I wanted to be sure the competition couldn't claim we were comparing apples to oranges."

Level playing field

Like a cowboy rodeo, the skid steer rodeo requires a combination of strength, quickness, and agility. The course was designed with a variety of obstacles to ensure no manufacturer had a distinct advantage, according to the event's sponsors, Caterpillar and *Construction Equipment Guide*, a national magazine for contractors and landscapers, with an edition in the Midwest.

A real rodeo cowboy would've felt right at home at this event, which combined elements of barrel racing, saddle bronc riding, and tie-down roping. Similar to barrel racing, the skid steers raced against the clock while maneuvering through an oval course past a number of obstacles, including two berms that bucked the operator like a horse. The Deere was the only machine that could navigate the berms without having to downshift.

Like the tie-down roping competition, the operator also needed to complete a complicated work task quickly



When the dust settled, the top ten times were all John Deere.

and precisely. First, he had to dump a bucket over a pole without knocking it off. Then he switched from bucket to pallet fork, moved a pallet, and then switched back again before dashing across the finish line.

On the first day, an operator from Missouri navigated the course in just 55 seconds in the 325. "I was pretty confident that that time was going to stick," says Thorstad.

Another operator kept trying to beat this time with a Bobcat machine, but the closest he could come was 1:03. After giving up on the Bobcat, he tried the Deere and completed the course in 57 seconds. The game was on.

"At first, the Bobcat and Caterpillar were getting a few more runs than the 325 because it was a new machine and people didn't know quite what to make of it," recalls Thorstad. "But when they saw what it could do, everyone and their brother wanted to run the Deere."

Deere stampede

On the final day, Chris Klein, owner of C.K. Excavating, Lake Elmo, Minnesota, gave the Deere 325 a go. On his first try, Klein nailed a 48-second time, which would prove to be the winner. By the end of the competition, the operators were climbing over one another to take their shots at the fastest time from behind the controls of the Deere.

When the dust settled, the top ten times were all John Deere. "It was a test on neutral ground where all machines had to run the same course," said Thorstad.

"It wasn't even close. The best times for the Caterpillar and Bobcat did not even break a minute."

For his efforts, Klein won a grapple bucket from *Construction Equipment Guide* and a jacket from John Deere.

On Friday, Klein had tried to beat the best time on the first day in both the Bobcat and the Caterpillar, but they were just too slow. "Deere was clearly the fastest machine out there," claims Klein. "The stability is outstanding, so the machine is exceptionally maneuverable, and the hydraulics are extremely quick. The steering controls have been redesigned so they are very smooth and responsive."

Klein also likes the industry-leading 360-degree visibility. "All-around visibility is much better than with the Cat, and there is more rear visibility than with the Bobcat," he says.

"I've always been very impressed by the Deere's speed and lifting power," he adds. "It's one fast, powerful machine that can really help you be more productive on the worksite."

Klein wasn't the only one who was impressed. After seeing what the 325 could do at the rodeo, one visitor went directly to his local dealer in Brainerd, Minnesota, and purchased one.

To learn more about how a 300 Series Skid Steer can help you lasso more productivity, see us today.



SS

skid star



John Deere skid steer loader plays major role on *Hometime*® show.

“It’s a tough job, but someone’s gotta do it,” laughs Tom “Bucki” Weckwerth. Sounds like something you’d hear from someone who photographs swimsuit calendars or plays golf for a living.

Actually, Weckwerth is referring to his cameo in a recent episode of *Hometime*, the popular home-improvement television show. Weckwerth’s job was running a John Deere 250 Skid Steer Loader, while the rest of the crew toiled away moving gravel, sand, and heavy paving stones, mostly by hand. Working from the comfort of the 250’s deluxe suspension seat, Weckwerth hardly broke a sweat.

During the episode, *Hometime* crew member Judd Nelson kids Weckwerth: “Bucki likes to drive the skid steer because it’s the easiest work.” Nelson’s home in Wayzata, Minnesota, is featured in the show, during which *Hometime* staff install a new paver patio and driveway for Nelson and his wife, Kathy.

“The guys got to give me a bad time about driving all the equipment, but, hey, what do you do?” says Weckwerth. “It’s got to be done, and I’m the guy to do it.”

Truth be told, Weckwerth is the location manager for *Hometime* — the “go-to guy” responsible for making sure everyone knows where and when the next shoot is, keeping tabs on wardrobes, and ensuring proper lighting. Acting and light construction work must also be a part of his job description, as he often finds himself working on the actual project and showing up in an occasional episode.

Now in its 18th season, *Hometime* is broadcast on public television and The Learning Channel, and in syndication. The show’s aim has always been to help owners achieve professional-looking results on their home-improvement projects by following unique home and yard projects from start to finish.

The episode on the new paver patio and driveway aired for the first time in November. But the shoot almost didn't take place when it continued to rain for seven days straight just before taping. The rain was the worst in ten years.

But, as the old saying goes, the show must go on — not to mention that the Chicago paving company that was hired by the show simply didn't want to cancel. Host Dean Johnson called it the dirtiest, muddiest work the show had done in quite some time.

With optimal weight distribution, low center of gravity, high ground clearance, and long wheelbase, the 250 was more than up to the challenging ground conditions. "It was really muddy, but the machine performed extremely well," Weckwerth recalls.

In preparation for installing the new patio and driveway, the *Hometime* crew ripped out the driveway and walkway, and dug out two egress pits. The crew then went to work installing the base for the patio and driveway. The base needed to be compacted tightly and perfectly contoured. Any imperfections would show when the paving stones were placed unless the base was perfectly flat.

The 250 hauled almost 150 tons of gravel, which formed a 12-inch-thick layer underneath the sand. The loader also hauled sand and pulled a large grading bar, which was used to grade the driveway.

"It worked out great," explained Weckwerth. "We'd fill up the bucket with sand, dump the bucket out nice and even, and then hook the grading bar to the loader with chains. We killed two birds with one stone."

Once an area was graded, Weckwerth used the skid steer to move the pallets out of the truck and over to the patio and driveway. Four crew members hauled and stacked the stones by hand, while two others laid the stones down into a pattern, also by hand. Three different-sized pavers were used to form a repeated pattern that consists of five stones.

Scharber & Sons in Rogers, Minnesota, provided the 250 for this episode, as well as the one for a previous episode (see *Worksite Journal*, Volume 1, Issue 2, page 14). "The machine allowed Bucki to unload the pavers without breaking down the pallets," says Randy Thorstad, skid steer specialist, Scharber & Sons. "I don't know of another machine in the 250's class that could have lifted those pallets."

With impressive lift capability and pushing force, the 250 was the perfect machine for moving the pallets, which weighed as much as 2,800 pounds each. "The tipping load and lifting capacity are very impressive on this machine compared to competitor models," says Weckwerth. "The machine worked out great for us, saving us a lot of work we would have had to do by hand or with a smaller machine."

The project represented the first time Weckwerth ran a John Deere skid steer. "I liked it a lot," he says. "Smooth running. Good lift capability. It worked out great for the tasks we used it for." The fact that a part-time equipment operator like Weckwerth was able to get up to speed so quickly is a testament to just how easy John Deere's skid steers are to use.

“ The machine worked out great for us, saving us a lot of work we would have had to do by hand or with a smaller machine. ”

Tom "Bucki" Weckwerth
Location Manager, *Hometime*



The operating station tilts forward 50 degrees, reducing service time by providing easy access to the control valve and front-side engine components.

As with all John Deere machines, creature comforts abound. An adjustable seat, 12-volt outlet, and cup holder all come standard.

And like their predecessors, D-Series compacts are designed to maximize uptime and minimize operating costs. Extended service intervals — 500 hours for engine oil change, 500 hours for greasing, and 2,000 hours for hydraulic oil change — save time and money.

With just two covers to open, service checks are faster than ever. Maintenance and repair are faster, too, thanks to the new tilt cab, which provides easy access to components.

Not that these machines will require much repair. Enhancements like a reinforced boom-cylinder guard make D-Series compacts even more reliable. The larger diameter of the drive sprocket and track idler increase durability, while decreasing the likelihood of a thrown track. The rubber tracks have been improved, too, with a harder rubber and reshaped core to resist cracking.

And with a manual quick-coupler, you can use any existing Worksite Pro™ bucket and many other Worksite Pro attachments — including breakers, rakes, augers, and trenchers — suitable to almost any task imaginable. The buckets are also interchangeable with quick-coupler-equipped 110 Tractor Loader Backhoes for increased utilization. Call us today to learn more about these multi-purpose machines.

« Continued from page 9

Just because the machine is compact doesn't mean your operator should feel cramped. The optional cab on the D-Series machines is wider for more comfort. The door on the cab is wider, too, for easier entry and exit. The door can be locked in the open position to let in the breeze, although the cab comes standard with factory-installed air conditioning.

The wider cab means a larger expanse of glass up-front for better visibility. Plus, the new system's monitor is better positioned near the front pillar of the cab, where operators can see it without taking their eyes' off the work ahead. The easy-to-read monitor delivers vital operating information; two new trip meters can be set to provide reminders when service is needed.

Comfort is also enhanced by repositioned pilot controls, which are set further apart to accommodate larger operators. There's more legroom, too, as the speed selector switch has been moved from the floor to the right-hand console. Travel pedals are now foldable, freeing up even more floor space.

D Series vs. C Series

	35D	35C ZTS	50D	50C ZTS
Net Engine Horsepower	30	32	40	41.5
Operating Weight	7,672 lb.	7,760 lb.	10,252 lb.	10,252 lb.
Max. Digging Reach	17 ft. 1 in.	17 ft. 1 in.	19 ft. 8 in.	19 ft. 0 in.
Max. Digging Depth	10 ft. 4 in.	10 ft. 4 in.	12 ft. 0 in.	11 ft. 10 in.
Max. Auxiliary Flow	17.9 gpm	17.9 gpm	22.5 gpm	22.5 gpm

	35D w/Long Arm and Counterweight Option	35C ZTS	50D w/Long Arm and Counterweight Option	50C ZTS
Operating Weight	8,242 lb.	7,760 lb.	10,792 lb.	10,252 lb.
Max. Digging Reach	18 ft. 2 in.	17 ft. 1 in.	20 ft. 6 in.	19 ft. 0 in.
Max. Digging Depth	11 ft. 4 in.	10 ft. 4 in.	12 ft. 9 in.	11 ft. 10 in.



Get Connected » Snow/Utility Blades

Look to this column every month to learn all about Worksite Pro™ attachments. Crafted with the same precision and attention to detail you've come to expect from John Deere, Worksite Pro attachments are the most durable, advanced attachments you can find. Each tool is designed to optimize performance, so you'll be more productive for less cost. In this issue, we discuss snow/utility blades.

Available in four widths ranging from seven to ten feet, Worksite Pro Utility Blades fit any John Deere skid steer loader and the 244J 4WD loader — as well as many competitors' brands. The versatile utility blades can be used for both snow removal and light dirt work for added productivity.

Each blade features standard hydraulic angling of up to 30 degrees, left or right. Standard auxiliary hydraulics control the blade angle.

Two adjustable skid shoes and a four-spring blade trip come standard. The blade trip can be locked out to do light dirt work, material leveling, or backfilling.

A heavy-duty bolt-on, replaceable cutting edge is also standard. The cutting edge is a half-inch thick and six inches tall.

Optional rubber cutting edges are available if you need to protect decorative surfaces. An optional bolt-on extension is also available to add eight inches in height to the 28-inch-tall blade.



PRODUCTIVITY

“Busybody”

Want a skid steer that's capable of handling everybody's business? Check out John Deere's new 300 Series. Their universal Quik-Tatch™ makes it easy to get attached to the right tool. All five skid steers deliver plenty of power to operate hydraulic-thirsty attachments — plus the breakout and pushing force to dig in where others just spin. Want to know more? Check out the new 300 Series Skid Steers and nearly 100 Worksite Pro™ attachments at your John Deere dealer today. And put more work within reach.



www.deere.com

