

# Landwards Gleanings. #1

From time to time, one of our *Landwards* web “bots” picks up some useful (or if not useful – interesting, or if neither - amusing) articles or publications relating to the world in which we work.

Rather than keep these to themselves here at the Secretariat, Gleaner feels they should be shared. Some you may have seen, others you may not. Look on them as a series of disconnected jottings.

[Claas Harvest Times \(Spring 2006\)](#) (from Claas North America) celebrates 25 years of Claas history in the USA and includes a brief article on the 6,000 hp Green Monster pulling tractor from Germany.

[Serious Machinery \(from AGCO-Challenger\)](#) (November 2005) as well as including articles on some big kit also includes an article on VSA (visual soil assessment) which will be of interest to students and professionals alike.

A couple of brochures detailing how John Deere are meeting US Tier 3 and Tier 4 emission regulations. Specifically;

- a 6 page [brochure](#) discussing how John Deere has met emissions regulations in the past, and what methods they are employing to meet Tier 3/Stage III A regulations and
- a 24 page follow up [brochure](#) detailing the past, present, and future of engine emissions. Engine performance, fuel efficiency, and clean air are discussed for non-road applications.

The use of biofuels is now never far from the news, both bio-ethanol and bio-diesel having their proponents. As far as Gleaner is concerned, the petrol engine is the work of the devil and the jury is still out on the use of bio-ethanol in terms of carbon balance. Bio-diesel is another matter.

This [News Release](#) (May 17<sup>th</sup> 2006) details how New Holland (USA) now warrants their engines for biodiesel mixes up to B20 blends (20% biodiesel/ 80% petroleum-based diesel).

Further info on the use of biodiesel can be found in a [Farmers Weekly](#) article (Citröen C2 user using 100% biodiesel), a statement from Citroën about their (French) warranty for use of blends <30% biodiesel.

The [Forestry Commission](#) now routinely uses 30% mix and is trialling 100% biodiesel.

Check locally to ensure this is the case with warranties where you are.

An interesting comment from the US states that the entire carbon balance effect of the USA's production of corn ethanol is less than the effect of properly inflating US passenger car tyres. Puts things into perspective. I must remind Mrs Gleaner to run faster with the vacuum cleaner and not to use the patio heater between the months of January to December.

Talking of diesel, congratulations to the [JCB Max](#) team for their successful attempt at the Diesel Powered Land Speed Record.