



*Photo Caption: Dick Hazeldene of Mellool takes delivery of his New Holland TG255 Tractor*

(August 2006) — Mellool farmers Dick and his wife Mavis Hazeldene have been able to double productivity thanks to their latest acquisition – a New Holland TG255 tractor from their local dealer, Swan Hill T & I Centre.

“It used to take me about an hour to spread 30 meters and I’d say it now takes me half that time,” Dick said. “The machine has also helped me to reduce fatigue because I’m getting double the work done in a much more comfortable environment.”

Since taking over the 5000 acre farm at Mellool, near Swan Hill on the NSW- Victorian border 12 months ago, the 255 horsepower specialty tractor has been one of Dick’s best investments.

“I needed a machine that could cope with the level of production and one that had the capacity and comfort for my cropping program,” Dick said. “I did a lot of research and basically, the New Holland won out because of its features, particularly Terraglide™ front suspension and the Deluxe Auto Comfort seat. As I spread and incorporate chicken manure across the farm, the

Terraglide™ allows me to drive the spreader at a much faster speed without compromising the stability of the ride. This operation of spreading chicken manure not only provides the crop with required nutrients but is also beneficial for moisture retention in the soil. “

Marc Smith of Swan Hill T & I Centre enjoys dealing with Dick and his hands on approach. “Dick is able to take care of his service checks from one location. He can easily check engine oil, hydraulic oil, engine coolant and fill the fuel tank from ground level making daily maintenance easy.” said, Marc Smith.

Dick and Mavis run a family based company and have been very involved in the farming industry, establishing the Hazeldene Chicken farm in 1943. Their children are now handling the day to day operations at the Lockwood chicken farm employing over 500 staff, while Dick enjoys facing the challenges of dryland cereal farming at the Mellool farm.