



HIGH-REACH LIFT ARMS PERFECT FOR AG USE

WHEEL LOADER REPLACES TELEHANDLER

Claussen Farms Custom Farming tends over 11,000 acres of farmland in southwestern Ontario — 8,000 acres belong to their 250 customers; 3,000 to their own family farm.

Truly a one-stop farm-contracting company, Claussen Farms provides a complete range of services. “We do everything from planting to harvesting, which includes tillage, spraying, fertilizing, solid manure spreading, crop scouting, and crop monitoring,” explains Sonke Claussen, who co-owns the company with his brother Hauke. “The majority of our clients are livestock farmers — most are in dairy. Crops include winter wheat, winter canola, corn, soybeans, colored beans, and alfalfa.”

To assist them in their wide-ranging operations is a new Kawasaki 65ZV-2 wheel loader. Ordered from Great Lakes New Holland (GLNH) with optional high-reach lift arms, third-function valve, and high flotation tires, the Kawasaki arrived in early April. They expect to use it to load about 40,000 tons a year of solid manure and other organic fertilizer materials.

“Besides loading manure, we use the loader with pallet forks to move seed, fertilizer, and chemicals,” says Sonke. “Eventually we’ll

also use it with our Quadsaw for tree and fence-row clearing, and stoneforks to pick up rocks. It is a very versatile machine for all kind of jobs around a farm.”

The loader has traveled to about 100 different locations, ranging out as far as 60 miles from Brucefield, where Claussen Farms is headquartered. Typically the company floats the loader, and the float goes behind one of the manure spreaders, reducing the number of operators. Usually there are two people — Cory Quesenberry and Peter Bootsma — who use the 65ZV-2 the most. But all 13 full-time employees have had training on the loader and run it. They’ve found the operation of the machine is straight forward and easy to learn.

The 65ZV-2 replaced a telehandler, and Claussen Farms has noticed some key differences: improved visibility, and tighter turns thanks to the articulated steering. But most importantly, **“Overall we gained about 20 percent in loading capacity which resulted in 10 percent more tonnage spread per hour — this is something we had not expected,”** explains Sonke. “All together the wheel loader is a lot stronger and heavier-built machine, and we’re wondering why we didn’t trade sooner.”

The 65ZV-2 is expected to move about 40,000 tons of solid manure and other organic fertilizer this year for Claussen Farms Custom Farming. The Michelin 580/70R26 tires provide a bigger foot print to reduce compaction when the loader is operating in the field.

Claussen Farms decided to buy the 65ZV-2 for several reasons. It was the right size for working in both large and small/tight places. It had more reach than some larger conventional wheel loaders, which was important since they need to dump into 11-foot-high manure wagons. And the wheel loader is built for just the kind of work they are doing, so it should hold up longer and be more reliable. They do not own any other wheel loaders.

The company has worked with GLNH for over 10 years, and had complete confidence in the dealer when they decided to carry the Kawasaki line. “GLNH are great people to work with, and they stand behind their products and services. I know they will do their very best to service us.”

Claussen Farms Custom Farming, Brucefield, Ontario, is serviced by Great Lakes New Holland.