

## Editor's Notebook



**Scott Geyer**  
Editor & Publisher

Act to allow reverse engineering for interoperability.

"Now we can legally do reverse engineering, but it costs a lot of money, and it's one software update away from being invalidated by the OEM, who can complete over-the-air software updates," Smith says. "It's not a simple, straightforward interface; it's very convoluted, now with multiple Controller Area Network (CAN) buses and up to 200 controllers on a platform. It's a bit of a whack-a-mole thing when the actual issue is a competition issue, not a technical issue. What we need is a mandate for interoperability for agricultural equipment in Canada. We have it for other industries, just not for agriculture. The standards are there; we just want them utilized."

Smith is optimistic because he's been receiving weekly calls from farmer associations about the issue. The topic has trickled down to producer associations, and they're understanding that the business model the OEMs are creating significantly disadvantages the producer in areas such as interoperability, repairability, technology costs, and the use and security of their data.

"The business plan for the farm and the business plan for the OEM are in contention," Smith says. "This didn't use to be the case, as it was a symbiotic relationship between the manufacturer and the farmer, but now the shareholder seems to have priority. Farmers generally have multiple brands of equipment, and of course, it's always expected and needed to work. With more and more technology coming, the fewer brands that are interoperable, the bigger the challenge. It's hurting everyone."

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**Remanufactured parts, including fuel components, starters, alternators and more, cost up to 30% less than new ones.**

## Deere Remanufacturing Facility Expands

Remanufacturing restores used products to like-new condition by disassembling, cleaning, evaluating and qualifying the raw materials.

On May 5, 2025, Deere & Co. held a groundbreaking ceremony for the new John Deere Reman Core facility in Stafford, Mo.

According to Kevin Schrag, John Deere Reman Manager, the project represents an investment of \$13.5 million and will expand the John Deere Core Center facility by an additional 120,000 sq. ft.

John Deere Reman restores engines, transmissions, axles, hydraulics, engine parts and electronics to original or improved specifications, offering like-new performance at lower cost and with less environmental impact.

Schrag believes expanding the Reman facility is essential for providing space to store and manage the Core and will support business growth and streamline operations by consolidating warehouses and improving material flow.

The new structure provides customers with cost-effective replacement options for major components. Remanufactured parts, including fuel components, starters, alternators and more, are up to 30% less expensive than new ones, yet they maintain the same quality, performance and warranty.

John Deere's dealers rely on Reman components, such as engines and transmissions, to speed up repairs and help technicians assist more customers. Additionally, the Reman supports dedicated, long-term equipment maintenance when qualified technicians aren't available.

Deere's team emphasized the facility's local importance, noting that ongoing investments show its commitment to U.S. and Springfield manufacturing. The John Deere Core Center, launched 13 years ago for Reman business growth, now has over 200 employees. Deere has been active in Springfield's remanufacturing sector for nearly 27 years, starting as a joint venture with Springfield Manufacturing Corporation.

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## Points To Ponder

According to legend and the official story from Nathan's, four immigrants held the first hot dog eating contest at Nathan's Famous stand on Coney Island on July 4, 1916, to prove who was the most patriotic.

To preserve the quality of the U.S. Constitution, on display in the National Archives building in Washington, D.C., its protective cases contain argon gas and are kept at 67 F with a relative humidity of 40%.

A convicted con man once sold a "solar-powered clothes dryer" in national magazines for the bargain price of \$49.95. Of course, buyers probably didn't consider it such a bargain when all they got for their money was a length of clothesline.

The town of Idyllwild, Calif., elected its first, and most unusual, mayor in 2012—a golden retriever named Max. After he passed away the following year, he was succeeded by Maximus Mighty-Dog Mueller, aka Mayor Max II.

A Bangkok restaurant has been serving customers from a "perpetual stew" that has been cooking for more than four decades.

Measured in terms of rainfall, a hurricane releases the force of 10,000 atomic bombs over an area 400 miles wide.

## Liberty Quotes

"What a state of society is this in which 'freethinker' is a term of abuse, and in which doubt is regarded as sin?" *William Winwood Reade*

"Wherever the real power in a government lies, there is the danger of oppression. In our governments, the real power lies in the majority of the community, and the invasion of private rights is chiefly to be apprehended, not from acts of government contrary to the sense of its constituents, but from acts in which the government is the mere instrument of the major number of the constituents." *James Madison*

"Here in America, government began as a tool to assure freedom. It gradually turned into a hideously expensive political toy designed to redistribute your wealth and control most aspects of your business and private life." *Mark Skousen*

"Liberty is the right of every man to be honest, to think and to speak without hypocrisy." *Jose Marti*

**Little Ole decided to introduce his mom, Lena, to computers and the magic of the internet.** Little Ole's first move was to access the popular Ask Jeeves website, and he told Lena it could answer any question she had.

Lena was very skeptical until Little Ole said, "It's true, Mom. Tink or something tew ask it."

As Little Ole sat with his fingers poised over the keyboard, Lena thought a minute, then responded, "How is Aunt Olga feeling?"

**Little Ole opened the big family Bible.** He was fascinated as he fingered through its old pages.

Suddenly, something fell out of the Bible. He picked up the object and looked at it. What he saw was an old leaf that had been pressed in between the pages.

"Mama, look what I found," Little Ole called out.

"What have yew got dere?" his mother asked.

With astonishment in Little Ole's voice, he answered, "I tink it's Adam's underwear!"

**Ole was celebrating his 100th birthday, and everybody complimented him on how athletic and well-preserved he appeared.**

"Gentlemen, I vill tell yew da secret ov my success," Ole cackled. "I have been in da open air day after day for some 75 years now."

The guests were impressed and asked how Ole managed to keep up his fitness routine for so long.

"Vell, yew see, Lena and I vere married 75 years ago. On our wedding night, ve made a solemn pledge. Venever ve had a fight, da one who was proved wrong would go outside and take a walk."

**Ole stood over his tee shot for what seemed an eternity.** He waggled, looked up, looked down, waggled again, but didn't start his back-swing.

Finally, his golf partner Sven asked, "What de heck is taking yew so long?"

"Lena is up dere vatching me from de clubhouse," Ole explained. "I want tew make a perfect shot."

"Goodness gracious!" Sven exclaimed. "Yust take your shot. Dere's no vay your gonna be able tew hit her from here!"



**A lobbying campaign involving the Canada West Foundation led to the passing of Bill C-294, amending the Copyright Act to allow reverse engineering for interoperability.**

## Navigating OEM Restrictions In Canadian Agriculture

By Bruce Derksen, Contributing Editor

Many grain farmers buy a harvester but choose not to use the OEM header that comes with it. Instead, they prefer to add a header model from a Prairie shortline manufacturer. However, some OEMs have recently blocked these manufacturers from obtaining the command set code needed to connect their headers to the digital systems of specific combine and swather models, thereby limiting buyers to headers supplied by the OEM.

This monopolistic behavior by large farm equipment companies is meant to deliver greater value to shareholders by locking down equipment and restricting choice. Still, it also pits the OEM company's interests against crop producers.

Similar to the tech industry, anti-competitive activities in the agricultural industry are rising above inconveniences and creating competition and market unfairness.

"Everyone innovates, and that's fine," says Scott Smith, Honey Bee Manufacturing Systems Manager. "But in Canada, we don't build combines; we build implements, and they must attach to the host equipment. If the host decides not to be permissive in allowing this connection, then there go 1,500 agricultural manufacturers in Canada who'll have nothing to do tomorrow. And almost all these businesses are started and owned by innovative farmers."

Honey Bee Manufacturing is feeling the impact. Digital communication between OEM machines and attachments has been severed, even though a standard ISOBUS protocol is in place.

"They're creating a proprietary interface rather than using the standard, even though it looks like the standard, and uses the same hardware," Smith says. "If they don't publish communication protocols in the standard, it's not really the standard; it's proprietary. They're saying for front-mounted equipment, it's our playground, and you're not allowed to play in it."

Previously, it was illegal under Canadian copyright law for engineers to reverse engineer the command set code necessary to link a header to a combine's digital system, even though it's technically possible. Companies and farmers participating in these actions were held civilly and criminally liable.

A lobbying campaign involving the Canada West Foundation led to the passing of Bill C-294, amending the Copyright