



Puma goes the distance for vast vegetable grower

As the grower for Bulmer's Farm Fresh Vegetables, one of the largest horticultural enterprises in Victoria's Lindenow region, Daniel Hammond needs robust, reliable equipment to work the 350-hectare veggie crops.

Started as a family farm in 1948, the Mitchell River Valley business now encompasses six farms, spanning an impressive 900 acres.

"It's a big business to manage," said Daniel. "We spend a lot of time driving to and around the other farms, so we need tractors that can go the distance. We bought the Case IH Puma™ 165 last winter, as it offered great value for money and seemed perfect for our unique needs.

"I couldn't be happier with the fuel economy and performance. I estimate we've cut our daily fuel use by around 20 percent and boosted our output by around 15 percent," he said.

To date, the Puma 165 has done 1100 hours in the field and all the groundwork prior to and after planting lettuce, spinach, broccoli and broccolini. This involves deep soil ripping, discing and tilling.

"We've also just ordered a Puma 140 to do all of our bedforming and prepare the beds for planting. We use a front-mounted mulcher, which will save us a lot of time getting rid of unused product and allow us to be more productive. Being front-mounted means the tractor mulches before we run over the bed, so we get a better, cleaner result."

Also getting a big tick from Bulmer's is the Puma's easy operation. "A lot of people on the farm need to use the tractor. It's so simple to use, anyone can jump in and drive it," Daniel said.

The Puma is an efficient, multipurpose tractor which is the right size and has the right power to handle a variety of tasks.

The new generation of Puma tractors deliver big-iron power, performance and comfort.

It's these features – combined with a multi-control armrest, spacious and quiet cab, AFS (Advanced Farming Solutions) precision and CVT or Full Powershift transmission – that make Puma tractors ready for anything.

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“The Puma 165 and 140 are the perfect size and exactly what we need now and in the future,” Daniel said.

According to Case IH Product Manager – Tractors, John Dreves, Puma tractors offer more usable horsepower, when and where farmers need it.

“Slowing down on hilly terrain, tiptoeing through tough spots in the field, even spending too much time controlling your tractor, can all cost you,” John said.

“The Case IH Puma lineup has plenty of power in a mid-size package, plus features like Power Boost, Power Growth, and the Continuously Variable Transmission (CVT) option – to deliver more power when and where you need it most, while keeping you productive.

“Case IH knows farmers need to cover more ground in less time – so as well as providing maximum productivity during drive time, Puma tractors are designed so that downtime is minimised.

“That’s why we engineered Puma tractors with rugged Case IH components proven to provide years of reliable service. And why we added features like the easy-opening hood, convenient service steps to the cab and a right-hand service access door for easy cleanout and serviceability.

“We also made sure that daily maintenance checks are quick, easy – and at eye level,” John said.

For more information about Puma tractors, talk to your local Case IH dealer or visit www.caseih.com

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