

**THE NEW JOHN DEERE 7260 IMPLEMENT COTTON PICKER**

**Daniel J. Johannsen  
John Deere Des Moines Works  
Ankeny, Iowa**

**Abstract**

The new 7260 two-row implement cotton picker from John Deere uses John Deere's proven Pro-12 picking units and JET-AIR-TROL air system and puts them on a newly developed implement frame. The result is a brand-new, unique harvesting solution. The requirements of the tractor for use with the 7260 are minimal, requiring only 80 horsepower, one SCV, and a category 2 hitch with 540 RPM PTO. Easy use of operation was a top consideration during the development of the 7260. The machine is easy to attach and remove from the tractor, requiring connection of the driveshaft, the SVC lines, the lift arms, and an electrical cord which is provided with an easy disconnect connector. The 7260 is controlled using a joystick mounted in the operator station of the tractor. Easy cleaning and maintenance was another top consideration during development. A tether controls the picking units during lubrication with picker grease. And, the units are easy to roll apart on the lift frame, providing ample clearance between them for cleaning.