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TELEHANDLER DEMONSTRATION TO DEBUT AT AG EXPO 2007

EAST LANSING, Mich. -- Farmers attending Ag Expo, July 17-19 at Michigan State University (MSU), will have the rare opportunity to see a side-by-side comparison of telehandlers -- a unique piece of equipment rapidly finding a home on many Michigan livestock farms.

Scheduled to run daily at 9 a.m. and 1 p.m., the telehandler demonstrations will give farmers the opportunity to test drive several models and discuss the products with company representatives.

Ag Expo demonstration manager Tim Rogers said that the need for livestock operations to reach higher for several jobs on the farm is growing. The demonstrations will provide farmers an opportunity to see firsthand how these machines can make loader worker easier, faster and safer.

Telehandlers are different from traditional loader tractors because they have a telescopic boom that extends about 30 feet into the air. Rogers said that they are meant to make agricultural loading tasks such as working in silage bunks, loading manure into tall spreaders or stacking hay in barns and trailers easier.

“The telescopic boom gives farmers that extra reach when it matters most,” Rogers said.

Representatives of several telehandler manufacturers will be on hand, including Manitou, JCB, Caterpillar, New Holland and Gehl.

Ag Expo features commercial farm equipment from throughout the Midwest and several Canadian provinces on the 35-acre main exhibition site and the 40-acre field demonstration area.

Ag Expo will also feature a number of educational exhibits from MSU colleges and departments.

The event runs from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. July 17 and 18 and 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. on July 19. Admission to the grounds and parking at Farm Lane and Mt. Hope Road are free. For more information about Ag Expo, call 800-366-7055 or visit www.agexpo.msu.edu.

Ag Expo is sponsored by the MSU College of Agriculture and Natural Resources.

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