

# WHAT OUR USERS ARE SAYING

Every year in September, the Kansas State Fairgrounds in Hutchinson, Kan., are bustling with activity, but Keith Schroeder – physical plant manager for the fairgrounds – is too busy to notice.

With more than 280 acres, the fairgrounds demand attention from Schroeder, his employees and volunteers.

“From April to September, everyone is working at least eight hours day,” he says. “And it’s not uncommon to be working much longer than that.”

He says that even though the team might work long hours, the work is easier with their two Grasshopper 722D FrontMount™ mowers.

“Grasshopper has been an official sponsor of the Kansas State Fair for three years, and we absolutely love using their mowers.”

One reason Schroeder is pleased to use Grasshopper is that the mowers are dependable. They will run at least eight hours daily for six months – more than 1,000 hours on each machine – with little maintenance.

“Grasshoppers are built so well, we really haven’t had major maintenance issues with them; just tightening nuts and bolts here and there.”

As a result, Schroeder avoids downtime due to major drive train and mechanical problems, as well as frustration due to lost productivity, so his staff is able to stay on top of the fairgrounds’ large acreage.

Even though some spaces of the grounds require additional stand-alone equipment, Schroeder says the flexibility of the Grasshoppers helps keep the use of other equipment to a minimum.



“You can go straight from a campground or parking lot to a front lawn, and you’ll get a great finish every time. You wouldn’t be able to do that with other machines comparable in size. We’d need more push mowers for the lawns without the Grasshoppers.”

The mowers’ flexibility also extends to turf renovation and aeration. Each year, the mowing decks are exchanged for AERA-vators to help prep the grounds for over-seeding in the spring.

“The AERA-vator™ really helps us rejuvenate the grounds after the fair in early September,” he says.

Since the physical plant staff is able to run the machines every day, they are able to turn over the mowing every two weeks and maintain the manicured appearance.

“Because of the year-round attention we pay to our grounds, we receive comments every year on how nice the open spaces and lawns look.”

In addition to flexibility, performance is another reason Schroeder prefers Grasshopper.

**“The performance is impressive. The diesel engines are powerful and dependable. We wouldn’t be able to mow all the ground in two weeks if it weren’t for that.”**

Overall, Schroeder is pleased with the arrangement between the Kansas State Fair and Grasshopper, and hopes that it continues for many years to come.

“Grasshopper is on top of its industry and its product. They deliver a quality mower with great performance year after year. As far as I’m concerned, there is no other machine I would trust to do the job.” ~