

# Not Even Hurricane Rita Could Stop the MacDon Header

Submitted by Gene Fraser

**B**elow is a testimonial and photos we received from a producer in Louisiana:

To Whom It May Concern:

I am the managing partner of Angelina Plantation in Monterey, Louisiana. Angelina Plantation is a 26,000 acre farm. The partnership farms 10,000 acres and leases out the balance. In 2005 we planted 5,600 acres of rice, 3,000 acres of soybeans, and 1,400 acres of corn and grain sorghum.

I first purchased MacDon headers about five years ago. However, in 2004 we purchased the 30' MacDon headers that we are presently using on our Lexion 585R combines. At that time we thought the MacDon headers were very efficient, but it wasn't until the 2005 harvest season that we realized just how efficient they really were. In September, 2005, Hurricane Rita made her way through Louisiana blowing down the remaining 2,800 acres of unharvested rice. With conventional headers I was looking at slowing harvest down by 60%. Which meant the completion of harvest would have been in mid to late November. But, with the MacDon header's ability to feed the heavy rice crop, that was lying on the ground, into the combine evenly, that allowed the combine to move faster in the field. This now resulted in a 40% reduction in harvest time. We were able to complete harvest by the first week of November before the seasonal rains began. One of the other important features of the MacDon header is that with the belt system there is less grain lost as compared to conventional rigid headers. For us this also meant that the improved efficiency of handling a downed crop resulted in less fuel and labor costs than we would have incurred with a conventional header system.

In 2005, Short Line Sales leased us a 25' MacDon header that we ran on a John Deere 9750 combine. We also used a 24' conventional rigid header on a John Deere 9750 combine. The combine with the MacDon header averaged ground speed of approximately 1.2 to 1.4 MPH with less plugging and grain loss than the rigid header combine. The 9750 with the rigid header only averaged ground speed of approximately 0.9 to 1.1 MPH. With this side-by-side comparison in the field we have come to appreciate the technology, efficiency, and dependability of the MacDon headers.

Sincerely,  
Tommy Ellett  
Angelina Plantation

