



The Forester

Payeur's Articulated Forwarder

Landowners often refuse to let large equipment leave its mark on their property, and logging operators have found that the new and smaller machines now on the market are not only more efficient but also very practical.

BY BILL GOVE

For decades, the evolution of commercial logging equipment has been moving toward larger and more powerful woods machines. Motivated, in part, by the need to decrease labor needs, large machines came on the market which could perform a larger variety of chores, often with a single operator. And some of these machines are massive. But times have changed, as they frequently do.

I had the opportunity to travel into Quebec, Canada, and meet an enlightened logger who has taken advantage of this trend. Jean Claude

Boulanger hails from East Angus, Quebec—a small town outside of Sherbrooke. He is an experienced and woods-toughened logger who started out logging many years ago working with horses. Jean Claude graduated up through the ranks of woodsmen, using crawler tractors, then large skidders, and eventually feller-bunchers. Now Jean Claude has taken a big step in the other direction and employs logging units consisting of a rugged wheel tractor combined with a forwarding trailer.

The Boulanger crew consists of three brothers plus two of their sons.

At the time of our visit, they were operating in a large forest tract that had been severely high-graded in the past, and they were now removing some of the remaining low-grade material as pulpwood. Jean Claude and his crew operate somewhat differently from what some in the past



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SPECS

The Forester

Specs are given only for trailer model 15RF, although there are many models. Articulation is provided on models 15RF and 17RF, the most popular models.

TRAILER Model 15RF

Loader model used	1150 M12
Overall length	76 ft. 2 in.
Loading length	11 ft. (8 stakes)
Tires	12; 5L15
Height	5 ft. 2 in. (w/stakes) 7 ft. 5 in. (w/loader)
External wheel width	5 ft. 10 in.
Load capacity	5 ton

LOADER Model 1150 M12

Mast length	12 ft.
Mast rotation	270 degrees
Lifting capacity	1,700 lbs.
Grapple opening (continuous rotation)	32 in.
Total weight (trailer and loader)	2,375 lbs.

KIOTI TRACTOR Model DK 40SE

Horsepower	40 hp
Engine	diesel, 4-cylinder
Transmission	synchronized shuttle, 8 forward, 8 reverse
Brakes	wet disc
Hydraulic pump	12.5 gpm
Front tires	10 x 16.5
Rear tires	13.6 x 24
Weight	4,175 lbs.

Price of the Forester (U.S. \$)

1. Trailer 15RF Loader 1150 M12

Tractor DK 40SE	\$49,500
w/articulation and ratchets	\$52,275

2. Trailer 17RF Loader 1400

Tractor DK 45F	\$55,000
w/articulation and ratchets	\$58,095

Manufacturer/Distributor

Les Distributions Payeur Inc.
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Ascot Corner, Quebec, Canada JOB 1A0
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Fax: 819/820-0490
E-mail: info@payeur.com
www.payeur.com

Manufacturer's Comments:

For many years, woodcutters who needed to work in tight spaces and on narrow, twisting log trails have been obliged to work with equipment that has been unstable or that had a very wide turning radius. We think we have solved that problem with our articulated log loader/trailer. Our team at Payeur Distributions and Conception Metavic has put in many long hours toward giving our clients what they need in this regard, and we are very proud of the results.

would consider as conventional methods. Each of the five men has his own forwarding machine, a wheel tractor and trailer with a hydraulic loader. Each man operates independently, felling and loading his own trees and transporting the logs to the truck road.

Three of the five forwarders in use were made by Les Distributions Payeur Inc. of Ascot Corner, Quebec. The Payeur forwarding unit, known as the Forester, consists of a KIOTI tractor combined with a trailer and loader made by Metavic. The KIOTI tractor is made in Korea, and the Metavic company is a manufacturer closely allied with Payeur. Two of the Forester units on the Boulanger job had the newly developed articulated trailers, and it was this articulation feature in particular that had previously caught our attention and had motivated the trip to Quebec to view the trailer in action.

Payeur

The Payeur company had its beginnings back in 1952 when Louida Payeur began to fabricate farm and logging machinery. In recent years the family-owned company turned its attention toward the design of a machine that could find a place in

the growing trend of logging with forwarders, and the Forester was born. Louida Payeur is still very active in the organization.

Articulation

Logger Jean Claude Boulanger was outgoing and sociable during our visit in March. At first he tried his best to avoid being in front of the camera lens, but eventually, with an emphatic "moi ?" he consented to pose next to a machine. He readily agreed to have one of the men demonstrate the articulated trailer in action. The articulation movement is in the swivel action of the trailer's four-wheel axle. The axle has the ability to swivel 25 degrees in either direction, a total of 50 degrees, by means of a 1 inch x 18 inch cylinder mounted on each side of the trailer and controlled from the operator's seat.

One can easily imagine the advantages of this type of articulation on woods machinery. Sharp turns are much easier to negotiate, and the trailer can be easily backed into some tight locations. There was still snow on the ground at the time, but the operator easily backed the trailer around in a tight arc and into the snow, manipulating the turn from a narrow tractor trail. Approaching



Jean Claude employs forwarding units consisting of a rugged wheel tractor combined with trailer and loader.

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The weight-balancing hitch designed for use on the Forester is an exclusive feature.

some trees he was about to cut, he wound the machine in a tight circle to place the tractor in a position where he could reach the fallen trees with the loader grapple. As Jean Claude stated, “making turns like that in selective cutting was much more difficult with the larger machines we used to use.”

Whenever possible, the Boulanger crew used a cutting method frequently seen with a forwarder when harvesting small wood. The trailer would be placed near the tree to be cut, and after being felled, the tree would be gripped with the loader grapple and held off of the ground while the logger cut

the wood to length. The Forester can also be supplied with an optional winch which has a 6,500 pound capacity, and can come in handy for trees that the machine cannot reach. The winch is located under cover with only the pulley visible on top of the headboard.

The narrow width of the Forester was also an advantage on the narrow forest trails. The two articulated models used by the Boulanger crews, the 15RF and the 17RF, have an external wheel width of 5 feet 10 inches and 6 feet 8 inches, respectively. The only differences in the trailer equipped with the articulation feature when compared with the standard trailer are that the trailer frame has to be a little narrower and the stakes have to have an altered configuration to allow space for the tires when the axle swivels.

I was hoping to see a trailer loaded to capacity, but it didn't work out that way. The hardwood they were cutting was short and crooked

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and didn't set that well in the trailer, but the haul was a short one. The 15RF trailer has a conservative capacity rating of 5 tons, and the 17RF is 6 tons.

Other Features

As the Forester maneuvered through the snow, I was shown an interesting optional feature (on the articulated model), which is very helpful to use when the trailer is mired in soft ground. The rear trailer wheel on each side has a ratchet around the inside of the rim, originally designed and installed there to prevent roll-back of the trailer. But now, with the articulation axle, should the trailer become stuck, the operator can lock the ratchets and then "walk" the trailer forward by alternately pushing each side forward with the articulation cylinders. Since the axle will swivel on a forward turn of up to 25 degrees and the wheels will not turn backwards because of being secured by the

ratchets, the forward push of the articulation cylinders will gain about 1 1/2 inches with each "step," first one side and then the other. The tractor pull then takes over when firmer footing is obtained.

The company claims that the weight-balancing hitch designed for use on the Forester is an exclusive feature. By decreasing the space between the tractor and the trailer, the load weight is transferred forward and distributed more evenly on all eight wheels of the tractor and trailer. Traction is improved, the load is more maneuverable, and wear on the differential is decreased. This custom-designed draw bar also has a swivel feature in the attachment which acts as a safety factor. Should the trailer tip over, and it happens, the tractor will remain upright.

The KIOTI tractor used as part of the Forester is a rugged, four-wheel drive, diesel-powered machine that has been well accepted by loggers in Canada and the U.S.

With the larger of the Forester forwarders, the 40-or 45-hp KIOTI tractor is used. During my visit to the Payeur shops near Sherbrooke, Quebec, I saw a number of KIOTI tractors being retrofitted for use in the woods. The company personnel spoke highly of the KIOTI

Among the optional additions available for use on the Forester are a tilting platform and a dump body that will fit onto the trailer frame. Also available are a backhoe and a post-hole digger that can be attached to the loader arm.

I was impressed with Payeur's articulated Forester. The machine employs some concepts that offer the logger many advantages. ■

Bill Gove is retired from a forestry career with private industry and with state government as a wood utilization specialist and lives in Williamstown, Vermont. He is a regular contributor and is the author of several books on the history of railroading and logging.

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