



If it's mainly drawbar power you are after in a tractor, the Magnum 215 is an excellent choice.



The Case IH Puma 210 (pictured) and Magnum 215 are similar tractors with the ability to undertake a wide range of farming tasks. But as with all tractors when it comes to choosing the best one for a particular application, you need to look carefully at the machine's specifications and features.

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Spot the difference before making a perfect match

With the 2007 release of the Case IH Puma range of tractors hot on the heels of the 2006 launch of the Magnum Series, broadacre and row-crop farmers are pretty much spoiled for choice in the mid-range power, multi-purpose end of the tractor market. In particular, the Puma 210 and the Magnum 215 appear to be very similar tractors in terms of power output and general appearance.

Case IH Marketing Manager Stuart Brown says the individual tractors' specifications shows a lot of similarities, but there

are some significant differences. And it is these differences that will determine which tractor is best suited to the required on-farm job.

"It really does get down to on-farm application when choosing between tractors," says Stuart. "A good illustration of this is the Puma 210 and the Magnum 215 because on the face of it, both tractors appear more than capable of tackling the same job.

"But if it's mainly drawbar power and traction you need for pulling seeders or discs, the Magnum 215 is the best choice. The Puma 210 would be the preferred machine when it's predominantly used for 'tag along' applications such as boom-spraying, topdressing, hay-baling or row-crop work.

"And with a significant price differential – the Puma 210 being around \$17,000 less than the Magnum 215 – it literally pays to make sure you have the right match of machine and application," says Stuart.

MAKING THE RIGHT CHOICE

What are the main differences between the two tractors and why are these differences critical in choosing one over the other?

The process involved in answering

these questions is a very helpful exercise when deciding between similar tractors from within the same brand or across the colours.

"As long as you have a clear idea of the predominant application for the tractor, you can quickly identify what specifications and features will be the most important to you in a purchasing decision," Stuart says.

Weight differences

Stuart points out that one of the biggest differences between the 210 and the 215



Stuart Brown, Case IH Marketing Manager.

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is the overall weight of the tractor. With the same tyres (including rear duals) on both machines, the 210 comes in at 8.2 tonnes – 1.3 tonnes lighter than the Magnum 215.

“This weight variation is because of a slightly shorter wheel-base on the 210 and a different and heavier chassis layout on the 215 which allows the engine to be mounted more over the front wheels,” says Stuart. “And bringing the engine further forward on the 215 gives better drawbar pulling power and traction compared to the 210.

“But on the other side of the coin, the 210 has some important advantages due to its lighter weight,” Stuart adds. “Because the transmission and axle is not as big and heavy as those of the 215, our engineers have done a great job of making more underbelly space with the 210. This is an important consideration for row-croppers. A lighter weight also gives the 210 slightly better fuel efficiency as well as less soil compaction.”

Engine Power Management

The 210 and 215 also have similar rated engine power (213 and 215 Hp respectively), but the Puma 210 has the Engine Power Management (EPM) feature which boosts power to 243 Hp if needed.

“For example, when the Puma is operating in variable terrain and crop conditions with a large PTO-driven square baler, EPM will keep the baler running at full rated power and at the same time provide additional power to maintain the ground speed,” Stuart says.

“Both the Puma 210 and Magnum 215 are highly efficient and versatile tractors. With a clear understanding of what the main job will be for your tractor, choosing between them need not be a dilemma.” ■

AWARD WINNER

Case IH Puma tractors have been honoured with a 2008 FinOvation award from US magazine *Farm Industry News*. Chosen by the readers from among hundreds of new products featured in the publication, Puma tractors won in the mid-horsepower tractor category.

According to *Farm Industry News*, Case IH Puma tractors “are considered multi-purpose machines that can go from row-crop to utility work with ease.”

Two new Puma models with a shorter wheelbase were recently introduced. They join the existing Puma lineup – four models ranging from 165 to 213 Hp – that won the FinOvation award.

THE PUMA RANGE

With its dependable power, flexibility and manoeuvrability, farmers looking for a multi-purpose tractor with the capacity to handle a wide range of farming tasks will be impressed with the new Case IH Puma range.

“The Puma range of tractors has been built with multi tasking applications in mind – so whether you have row crop work, large hay tools or heavy loader requirements, the solid, reliable Puma range will provide the horsepower you want and the fuel economy you need,” said Stuart Brown.

“And if the Puma name sounds familiar, it should,” says Stuart. “We have brought back the Puma name as it pays homage to the heritage of the brand. The Puma 1000 revolutionised the industry when it was launched to the world in January 1986. It was the first Steiger built with a steerable front-axle and articulated steering, making manoeuvring in row-crop applications possible. It is these features that have seen the Puma name become synonymous with quality and versatility.

With six models, ranging from 142 Hp to 213 Hp, the Puma’s power is supplied from a proven Case IH engine. The engine also features long service intervals for low lifetime operating cost and economical operation.

“Engine Power Management (EPM) allows the Puma to move through variable crop conditions or steep grades without losing speed or productivity,” says Stuart.

A standard full 18x6 Powershift transmission with optional overdrive maximises power both in field and during transport, to deliver increased productivity and fuel savings. The range’s Constant Engine RPM setting provides further fuel savings by holding engine speed within a desired range. Along with this, a new optional 19th overdrive economy transport gear reduces engine speed in 19th gear for additional improved fuel economy at top road speeds.

Configurable hydraulics adjust to handle heavy three-point loads with precision. Hitch-lift capacity of up to 8650 kg ensures Puma tractors can handle the heavy three-point loads generated by larger implements and allow precise adjustments in the field.

The enlarged, ergonomically designed cab leads to efficient and comfortable operation. Visibility is also outstanding with almost six square metres of cab glass.

THE MAGNUM SERIES

In 2006 Case IH beefed up its Magnum Series tractor line with more power, a high-pressure fuel injection system, new productivity enhancing features, increased operator comfort and fuel-saving innovative transmission options.

The top-of-the-line Magnum 305 boasts a 9.0L engine with 255 PTO Hp, up to 50 per cent torque rise and 37 Hp growth. The 275 also features the 9.0L engine with 225 PTO Hp. The 215 and 245 are powered by a 8.3L, 505 cubic inch engine delivering 175 and 200 PTO Hp respectively.

“The 24-valve, 2000 rpm-rated engines are electronically controlled with a high-pressure, common rail fuel injection system that’s quieter, cleaner and more powerful than previous models. Electronic engines monitor and respond better to changing conditions, improving engine life and reducing overall fuel consumption” Stuart Brown said.

The Magnum engines also feature an efficient cross-flow head design system that intakes air from one side and vents exhaust directly out the other side. Compared to systems that exhaust air on the same side of the air intake, the cross flow head keeps air cooler, provides smooth air flow and better coolant circulation for longer engine life.

Efficient performance

There are three easy-to-operate, economical, full Powershift transmission options:

- A standard 18F/4R speed transmission;
- 19F/4R option with a special 19th gear designed to conserve fuel during transport;
- A 23F/6R transmission with shift-through creeper speeds.

All tractors come standard with AutoShift, which features field and road modes, allowing operators to simply automate and improve transmission performance. An extra road gear (19F/4R) produces a maximum road speed of 40 kph.

When equipped with an optional high-flow hydraulic pump, the Magnum tractors also deliver industry leading hydraulic flow – 219 litres per minute – and industry leading hitch lift capacity on the 275 and 305 models.

“With the optional hitch, you can get up to 8128 kg of lift capacity for high-demand applications, such as planting and tillage with deep rippers and drills,” Stuart adds.

“The Magnum line has large, quiet cabs rated at just 70 dB(A). The cab height has also been raised four inches on previous models for better forward visibility. Our goal with the Magnum Series design was to make the long days seem a bit shorter.”