

# MISSOURI NEWS SCENE

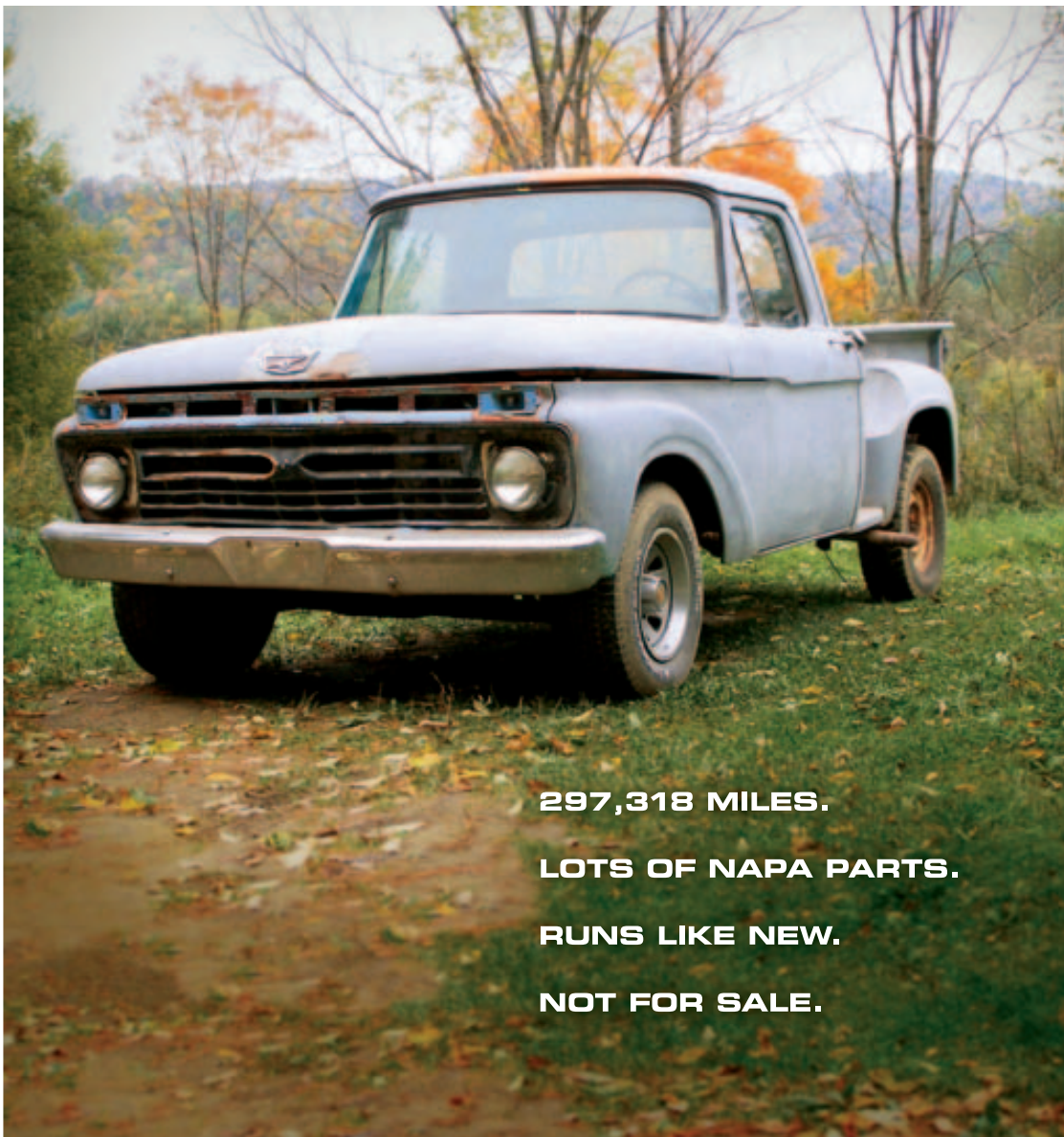
## Farmer Feedback

### How have the weather and high input costs affected your farm operation in '08?



"We had to replant our corn and soybean crops three times due to flooding, but the final crops are coming on strong. We've gone to poultry litter to reduce our fertilizer bill. The 2009 crop season is already weighing on our minds. I'm sure we will see input costs continue to increase, with a few more risks in the future."

— Gary Drake, Marshall



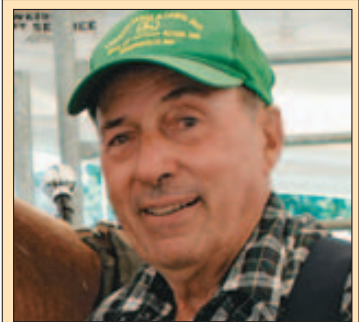
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"It's been a spectacular growing season here, but a little tricky getting the hay put up dry. We expect good demand for high-quality hay, and the price is going to have to stay strong considering the cost of the fertilizer and fuel it takes to get it into the bale. There's a lot of alfalfa shipped into Missouri from out in Kansas and the freight has to be eating those guys up. I think that will contribute to keeping hay prices strong."

— Jim Stine, Clever



"We had good grass early on, but when the rain turned off it really turned off. We were fortunate to have enough early growth that it insulated the ground and helped keep what we do have from burning up. That early forage production will keep us going, and the cattle have done real well. Despite the fact that everyone is concerned about feed prices, interest in bulls has been good. I think we'll see people shopping a lot harder for feed and relying more on their forage."

— Ronnie Scott, Lamar