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2000 Hans Becherer reaches retirement, and Robert W. Lane is elected CEO. Deere acquires Timberjack, a world-leading producer of forestry equipment. A new tractor plant is opened near Pune, India. Credit offices are established in Argentina and Brazil. Deere is granted banking license in Luxembourg, allowing John Deere Credit ability to finance equipment throughout Europe.

2001 A record number of products are introduced to strengthen Deere's global competitive position. John Deere Landscapes is formed through acquisitions of McGinnis Farms and Century Rain Aid.

2002 *Business Ethics* magazine names John Deere one of its 100 Best Corporate Citizens for 2002. *Crain's Chicago Business* announces that John Deere is the most trusted Illinois company, based on a nationwide survey.

2003 Through agreement with The Home Depot, riding mowers are sold in the mass channel for the first time in company history. John Deere-branded Deere's small/diverse supplier programs received a first-ever rating of "highly successful" from the U.S. Department of Defense. Driven by gains in Deere's Commercial & Consumer Equipment and Construction & Forestry Divisions, the company's earnings double for 2003; equipment sales grow 14 percent.

2004 Record full-year earnings of \$1.406 billion are more than twice the level of 2003 earnings. Deere & Company announces plans to build a new tractor factory in Montenegro, Rio Grande do Sul, Brazil. The facility is expected to be in full production by the second half of 2006.

2005 Deere & Company opens a seeding-equipment assembly operation in Orenburg, Russia, and establishes a dealer network. The company additionally announces plans to build a new engineering and information-technology support center near the John Deere joint venture tractor manufacturing facility in Pune, India. John Deere invests in wind energy projects in the rural United States and establishes a new wind energy business unit managed by John Deere Credit.

2006 Growing global market presence helps drive earnings to record \$1.69 billion; Chairman & CEO Robert W. Lane named "CEO of the Year" by *Industry Week* magazine. John Deere Landscapes becomes the number-one wholesale distributor of irrigation, nursery, lighting and landscape materials in the United States. John Deere Tianjin Works, a new transmission factory in Tianjin, China, opens.

2007 Deere & Company stockholders approve a two-for-one stock split, increasing the number of common shares to 1,200 million shares. A new tractor manufacturing facility is acquired in Ningbo, China. Deere & Company completes its acquisition of LESCO, Inc., a leading supplier of lawn care, landscape, golf course and pest control products. John Deere is chosen by *Ethisphere* magazine for its list of the World's 100 Most Ethical Companies.