



✓ Field Test Report

Better Outdoor Products

2006 Quick 36 Super-Duty

by Michael Stogner

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First, a big thanks to Gary and John and all of the fine folks at Better Outdoor Products LLC. It was a pleasure to deal with these fine folks and company. When it comes to buying equipment for my company, I am fortunate in that I live in a larger metro area, so I have several dealers that stock the same brands to choose from. While price is always a factor for me, how the dealer treats me is also an important piece of the buying puzzle. If all the dealers I have to choose from were as pleasant and helpful as Better Outdoor, I'd be in a pickle picking one then!

When Better Outdoor contacted me about delivery of the Quick 36 Super-Duty for the review, I was originally planning on letting them bring the mower to my shop. However, John invited me over for a tour of Better's production facility so there was no way I could pass up on that, especially since it is only a short drive from Greensboro.

They had a brand new 2006 Quick 36 Super Duty serviced and ready for my pickup. What I really liked was even though this mower was being given to me for a short while and only for a test and review, they still treated the handling of it just like I was a customer. They had a complete manual package for me (mower, engine and warranty) and went over every single detail of the mower and its use with me. One of the really neat things is that this mower can be loaded and transported in a pickup without the use of a trailer. I have to tell you that the loading and unloading of this mower using just basic ramps and one person could not be any easier.

The Quick 36 Super Duty is a single

hydrostatic drive mower with a unique three-blade, steel fabricated 36-inch baffled cutting deck that is adjustable from 1 to 4 inches and uses an enclosed Noram Mechanical clutch-brake on the drive deck. For power, it is equipped with a Briggs & Stratton ELS465 (Extended Life Series) 16 hp OHV engine with anti-vibration. It comes standard with platinum plugs and full-pressure lubrication with spin-off filter and key-controlled electric start. For fuel, it has a 3.2-gallon tank. Better Outdoor has also installed what they call their "no-hassle" oil drain. This is a heavy-duty rubber and steel extension that comes out from the rear of the engine and makes oil changes a breeze. After going over this mower and reviewing Better Outdoor's step-by-step manual that includes simple repairs, I have to say that this engine is a good fit for this mower and what the company is trying to give it's customers. It also appears to me that if a minor repair was needed after the one-year commercial warranty has passed, even the novice repair guy would be at ease with the setup and the information Better provides.

The mower, as tested, has a curb weight of only 311 pounds and a nice, compact design that makes maneuvering in tight spaces and around intricate landscaping easy. It has forward speeds of up to 5 mph and reverse at 2 mph. The hand controls for the hydro drive could not be any easier to use. It is a grip-type handle for forward and a nicely placed thumb handle for instant reverse. The hydro drive also has a built-in cooling fan to keep the drive cooler when in use. I had heard

people say that zero-turning on a single hydro had to be either impossible or very hard to do. Well, this is not the case at all. It is easy to do zero-turns by just slowing up on your ground speed and slightly pushing to the left or right, depending on the turn. You can also tell that this mower is designed by someone who has used commercial mowers because it has a very well-placed and easy-to-use hydro release bar right at the back of the frame. Another thing that I liked about the handlebars can be set at two different levels.

The cut the mower gave us was impressive because Better Outdoor chose to use three blades instead of the normal two on a 36-inch deck. In addition, the 16 hp Briggs & Stratton dispersed the clippings evenly, and the mower also produced some nice striping.

Without a doubt, this is a very nicely engineered and well-built walk-behind mower that does more than you might expect. It is maneuverable, yet compact, while providing a great commercial cut that clients expect. This mower is a nice piece of equipment not only for an established operator, but also for those smaller, one-man companies. If you are looking at new walk-behinds then the Quick 36 Super Duty is one you should consider.

Think you've got what it takes to put some new gear through its paces? Can you write a complete sentence and craft a piece like this? Contact Publisher Jim Kendrick at jkendrick@mrpllc.com to get your name on our list of Turf magazine Field Text Experts!